

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

January 2, 2015

**Babylon man convicted of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide to be sentenced  
Monday**

Michael Grasing, the 34 year old drunk driver convicted in November of aggravated vehicular homicide for causing the death in 2012 of 18-year old Brittany Walsh in a violent crash in Lindenhurst, will be sentenced in Riverhead on Monday (1/5/14), Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

Grasing's blood-alcohol content was four times the legal limit when he plowed his Nissan Maxima into the rear of Walsh's sport utility vehicle, causing it to flip and roll end-over-end down Montauk Highway. The teenager was pinned beneath the wreckage and pronounced dead at the scene.

Noting witnesses who told investigators that Grasing was traveling in excess of 85 miles per hour and failed to brake before or after the crash, District Attorney Spota said the teenager "never had a chance" to avoid the "extremely intoxicated" driver as she drove home from her job at a local department store.

After a 5 and one-half week trial, the jury convicted Grasing on November 26 of the most serious DWI charge in New York State, Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, a class "B" felony, punishable by up to 25 years in prison. He was also convicted of manslaughter in the second degree, leaving the scene of a fatal accident, aggravated driving while intoxicated, failure to stay in his designated lane and speeding.

The jury found Grasing not guilty of murder in the second degree.

"The jury found that as a result of Grasing's extreme intoxication he veered from his lane of traffic and crashed into her as he hurtled down the highway," DA Spota said. "The defendant continued down Montauk Highway and - at times - he drove on the sidewalk, and narrowly missed a crowd standing in front of a refreshment stand. His car was finally rendered immobile when he hit a utility pole."

Grasing's blood alcohol content of .32 was from his blood drawn ninety minutes after the crash.

State Supreme Court Justice Mark Cohen (fourth floor of the courthouse) will call Monday's court calendar at 9:30 am.



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