

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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DA and Suffolk police commissioner ask for public's assistance

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota today said that crime lab tests of Michael Grasing's blood show the 31-year-old Babylon resident had a blood-alcohol level of .30, nearly four times the legal limit of .08, approximately ninety minutes after the fatal crash Sunday night on Montauk Highway that killed 18-year-old Brittany Walsh of Lindenhurst.

District Attorney Spota and acting Suffolk County Police Commissioner Edward Webber at a press conference in Hauppauge asked for the public's help; specifically witnesses who were on Montauk Highway Sunday evening who saw Grasing driving westbound, swerving in and out of traffic at a high rate of speed, minutes before the crash.

The defendant "was observed by a driver exiting a Wendy's parking lot driving westbound on Montauk Highway at a high rate of speed," DA Spota explained, "his silver Nissan Maxima swerving from lane to lane, in and out of traffic, going through two solid red lights, and fully mounting the curb and driving on the sidewalk. Grasing drove back onto the roadway of Montauk Highway and into the east bound lanes several times...at speeds ranging from 85 to 100 miles per hour according to three eyewitnesses." Grasing crashed into the rear of the victim's vehicle with such force her car overturned and struck a utility pole. She died at the scene.

District Attorney Spota said "one eyewitness overhead other motorists yelling to the defendant at a red light that he should stop driving or he's going to kill someone."

Commissioner Webber and the district attorney asked that motorists who warned Grasing to stop driving, or witnessed such remarks, are urged to call the Suffolk

County Police Department at 631-854-8152. The district attorney added “anyone who witnessed any of the events that evening – before, during or after the crash – is urged to contact police.”

Grasing, 31, of 36 Tappan Ave. Babylon, was arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated. Grasing will be arraigned today after 2:00 pm at First District Court in Central Islip.

SCDA COMMUNICATIONS

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Defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.