

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Home invasion defendant pleads not guilty to murder charges; his accomplice scheduled for arraignment at 2 PM in Riverhead courthouse

A second suspect, the codefendant of 22 year old Paul Batterson Jr. who was arraigned this morning in Riverhead for murdering a man during a home invasion in Eastport, **will be arraigned this afternoon at 2.**

The defendant, accompanied by a defense attorney, surrendered this morning at the courthouse. Judge Richard Ambro will unseal the indictment.

Batterson was remanded to the county jail at his arraignment in Riverhead this morning, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

He pleaded not guilty to a four count indictment charging him with two counts of murder in the second degree and two counts of assault in the first degree.

District Attorney Spota said Batterson and his accomplice broke into a house on East Moriches Boulevard in Eastport early on the morning of December 8.

The victim, identified in the indictment as Francisco Pirir-Canel, was shot in the face by Batterson, police said. Another man, one of seven occupants living at 142 East Moriches Boulevard, was shot in the hand. Pirir-Canel was 45 years year old and worked as a landscaper, police said.

District Attorney Spota said a shotgun, believed to be the murder weapon, was recovered from Battersons' parents' house, where the defendant lived, during the execution of a search warrant.

Batterson will return to court on February 28.