

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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## Press Advisory

**For Monday, October 20, 2014**

The Riverhead trial of Michael Grasing, charged with murder in the second degree for speeding with a blood alcohol level of .30, almost four times the legal limit when he crashed into a Lindenhurst teenager's car, killing her, will begin Monday, October 20, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

Grasing, of Babylon, was driving between 85 and 100 miles per hour, swerving from lane to lane in the westbound lanes of Montauk Highway according to eyewitnesses, when he rear-ended Brittney Walsh's car on June 24, 2012. The impact caused the victim's vehicle to flip multiple times before striking a utility pole. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The victim graduated from high school two days before she died, and was on her way home from her job at a local department store when the crash occurred.

The defendant's blood alcohol content of .30 was from blood drawn ninety minutes after the fatal crash.

In addition to murder in the second degree, Grasing, 33, is charged with aggravated vehicular homicide, second degree manslaughter, leaving the scene of an accident with a fatality as a felony, first-degree reckless endangerment, reckless driving, aggravated driving while intoxicated with a blood alcohol level of

.18 or more, driving while intoxicated, failure to stop at a traffic signal, failure to stay in a designated lane and speeding.

The top charge of murder in the second degree is punishable by a maximum of 25 years to life in prison.

“The purposeful, deliberate culpable conduct by this defendant merits the charge of murder.” DA Spota said.

“The evidence proves he possessed an utter disregard for the value of human life.”

The trial before Acting State Supreme Court Justice Mark Cohen (fourth floor of the courthouse) will start at approximately 1:30 Monday afternoon.

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Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

