

# Charged with murder

Alleged shooter of slain NYPD officer pleads not guilty

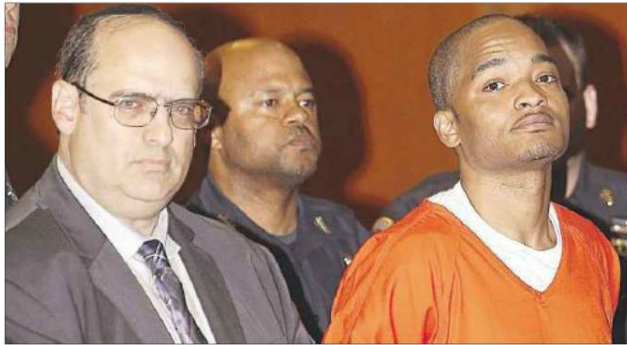
BY NICOLE FULLER  
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The father of slain NYPD officer and Massapequa resident Brian Moore stared down his son's alleged killer yesterday at the man's arraignment on murder charges inside a Queens courtroom packed with more than 100 police officers.

Demetrius Blackwell, 35, of Queens Village, was charged in an indictment with one count each of aggravated murder, first- and second-degree murder, attempted aggravated murder, first- and second-degree attempted murder and weapons and drug possession charges in the May 2 shooting death of Moore.

Moore, 25, and his partner, Eric Jansen, were attempting to question Blackwell in Queens Village when he opened fire, police said.

He pleaded not guilty in court Thursday as the slain



Demetrius Blackwell appears in Queens criminal court Thursday. He has been indicted on first-degree murder and other charges in last month's killing of NYPD Officer Brian Moore.



Brian Moore



Pat Lynch yesterday

officer's father, retired NYPD Sgt. Raymond Moore, kept his eyes fixed on the ex-convict as scores of NYPD officers looked on.

Blackwell "should be put in a cage," Moore said as he left Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens with Brian's mother Irene after

the hearing. "And what he did to Brian, I wish New York had a death penalty because I'd love to pull the switch on him."

Queens Supreme Court Justice Joseph Zayas ordered Blackwell held without bail. He faces life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said there will be "no plea bargain in a case such as this."

Blackwell was emotionless in the courtroom — a sea of blue, with some officers wearing T-shirts in remembrance of Moore.

David Bart, Blackwell's attorney, said he would likely pursue a defense based on mental disease or defect.

Bart said Blackwell has epilepsy, seizures with "possible evidence of bipolar disorder" and "evidence of prior psychosis." He said his client had brain surgery several years ago that "changed him dramatically."

"Just because I'm pursuing mental disease or defect doesn't mean I'm not also looking at making sure they have the right guy, making sure they can prove the elements of the crime," Bart told reporters.

Brown said Bart would have to prove Blackwell suffered from a mental disease or defect at the time of the shooting and lacked the capacity to understand his actions were wrong.

"I have no reason to believe that the defendant can meet that burden and certainly we will vigorously oppose that," Brown said.

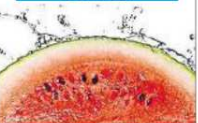
WEATHER

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Chance t-storms

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## Groups call for protecting NY rent laws

BY IVAN PEREIRA  
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As Albany goes down to the wire to renew the state's rent stabilization laws, housing advocates and elected officials pushed for more protections for tenants during a rally Thursday.

Representatives from Stabilizing NYC, a coalition of 14 fair housing groups, said too many New Yorkers are forced out of their homes because of shady tactics by their landlords.

"The loss of affordable housing is not a coincidence or a natural phenomenon; it is a result of perverse incentives for those who see our homes as profit generators," Kelly Glenn of the Urban Justice Center said.

The state's rent stabilization laws expire Monday, and legislators are expected to debate their



Elected officials and community groups rallied Thursday in support of preserving tenants' rights.

future throughout the weekend. Although it's likely Albany will renew the laws, those representing owners and tenants want them altered.

Landlords say they need less regulation to deal with rising property taxes and other high costs. Housing groups, however, want to close loopholes that cause the apartments to be put back at market rate.

Stabilizing NYC said there has been a rise in speculators who

buy rent-stabilized units and drive up rents by issuing illegal fees, doing unnecessary work, or filing claims for renovations despite no work being done.

There are about 986,000 rent-stabilized units in the city, however New York lost 55,000 between 2002 and 2011, according to NYU's Furman Center.

The coalition said it will work with the City Council to enforce current harassment protection laws.

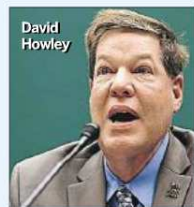
## 9/11 survivors push to save health program

Retired New York City police Officer David Howley put it bluntly at a House hearing Thursday on extending the 9/11 World Trade Center Health Program before it expires at the end of September. "If you end this program, people are going to die."

Howley was one of dozens of ailing first responders and survivors who came to Washington to urge lawmakers to reauthorize the Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which became law in 2011.

They received a warm reception and welcoming assurances — from both Democratic and Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on health — that the program would not be shut down.

"The bill needs to be passed," said Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), chairman of the full committee.



David Howley

He promised "to make sure it gets to the floor" of the House for a vote.

The reauthorization bill aims to make permanent the two programs for the surviving victims of 9/11: A medical program, which was the subject of the hearing, that expires at the end of September, and a compensation program, under House Judiciary Committee oversight, that expires at the end of September 2016.

Through March, the compensation fund had made 4,415 awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$4.13 million and totaling \$1.06 billion. (TOM BRUNE)