



# Orange County District Attorney

## *Press Release*

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TONY RACKAUCKAS, District Attorney  
401 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan Kang Schroeder  
Public Affairs Counsel

Office: 714-347-8408

Cell: 714-292-2718

August 16, 2006

### **WOMAN TO BE ARRAIGNED FOR MURDERING AN 18-YEAR-OLD MAN IN A HUNTINGTON BEACH HOTEL**

WESTMINSTER – A woman will be in court tomorrow to face murder charges for stabbing and killing an 18-year-old man in a Huntington Beach hotel. Samantha Elizabeth Rothwell, 20, of Valencia, is charged with murder and an enhancement for using a knife. She is scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow, August 17, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in Westminster at West Justice Center. If convicted, she faces life in prison. The prosecution is asking for \$5 million bail, as the defendant poses a flight risk.

On August 15, 2006, Rothwell is accused of being at the Hotel Huntington Beach with a group of friends and acquaintances. The group had spent the previous day partying and had returned to the hotel, where they were standing outside on a patio smoking. Rothwell is accused of becoming angry with Walter Rivas, 18, and returning to the hotel room to get a knife from her purse. She is accused of returning to the balcony and murdering Rivas by stabbing.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Sonia Balleste of the Homicide Unit is prosecuting this case.

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