

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 22, 2016

## **Guilty plea in 2015 Rape of Female taxi driver**

A Middle Island man, who brutally beat and raped a female taxi driver pleaded guilty yesterday March 21<sup>st</sup> to Rape in the First Degree during a court conference in Riverhead, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

On December 1, 2015 a female taxi driver picked up a male passenger at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson. During the trip, the man, Francis Barrios, beat and strangled the female causing her to crash the taxi. The defendant then pulled the driver into the back seat and raped her.

Barrios, who is a prior violent felony offender in Suffolk County for Attempted Rape in the First Degree, is a parole violator and registered sex offender, pleaded guilty to Rape in the First Degree in satisfaction of the indictment and is expected to be sentenced by Acting Supreme Court Justice Barbara Kahn to 24 years incarceration and 20 years post release supervision. Sentencing is calendared to take place in Riverhead County Court on April 20, 2016.

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A criminal charge is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.