

# Teen driver pleads guilty in deadly crash

## 15-year-old Surrey passenger Sanjeeve Sharma killed in 2009

by Sheila Reynolds

**THE TEEN DRIVER** charged in connection with a crash that killed

another Surrey teenager, Sanjeeve Sharma, pleaded guilty in court Monday morning. The driver, who was

16 at the time of the alleged offence and therefore cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, was

charged with dangerous driving causing death. Clean cut with a goatee and wearing a dark suit, the now 18-year-old

stared straight ahead as his lawyer, Russ Chamberlain, entered the guilty plea in Surrey Provincial Court.

Sanjeeve Sharma, 15, died in June 2009 when the car he was in slammed into an SUV near 128 Street and 82 Avenue

in Newton. Initial police reports indicated speed and alcohol were factors.

Several of Sanjeeve's family members, wearing T-shirts reading "Glory is Forever" and "Only the Good Die Young" and carrying a sign with photos of the deceased young man,



Sanjeeve Sharma

attended court to hear the plea.

Though pleased they don't have to endure a trial, Sanjeeve's father isn't convinced the guilty plea means the driver has taken responsibility.

"It's legal advice," said Sanjay Sharma. "It's not him."

He also doubts the accused will face any jail time because he is a young offender.

"It doesn't matter," said Sanjay. "Sanjeeve will always be with us."

Sentencing will take place at a later date.

## Gala planned

### Black Press

**THE SOUTH** Asian Family Association (SAFA) will host its second Mothers and Daughters evening Nov. 19 at Grand Taj Banquet Hall, 8388 128 St.

Featuring a keynote speech by Dr. Arvinder Kang – with tips and methods of reducing stress – tickets include dinner, appetizers, a mother-daughter fashion show and entertainment including a Bollywood dance class. A dance and giddha contest is to take place during a set by Luv Randhawa.

The gala is part of SAFA's Womens' Empowerment Series. Last year, more than 600 women and girls attended. SAFA's mandate is to promote cross-cultural harmony and education, and promote positive South Asian images and role models

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For more information, visit [safa.ca](http://safa.ca) or call 778-688-3996.