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**D.A. BROWN: FORMER PSA TREASURER OF QUEENS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
CHARGED WITH MISHANDLING \$10,800 IN FUNDS**

*Allegedly Embezzled Money To Pay Cable, Phone and Con Ed Bills Among Others*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that the former treasurer of the Parent Staff Association of the Lexington School for the Deaf – a nonprofit charitable organization in Jackson Heights that has operated as the main hard-of-hearing school in the metropolitan area since 1864 – has been charged with mishandling more than \$10,800 in PSA funds.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is accused of using the school association’s funds as her own private piggy bank. Her alleged conduct is a betrayal of the trust of the parents who elected her to serve as their fiduciary representative.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Denise Horner, 40, of 56-43B 175<sup>th</sup> Place in Fresh Meadows, who served as PSA treasurer of the Lexington School from October 2005 to April 2006. Horner is being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on a charge of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, the defendant allegedly stole \$10,809.12 from the PSA’s bank account during a six-month period. It is charged that in carrying out her scheme, the defendant made ten cash withdrawals – totaling \$7,790 – from the account. In other instances, payments were made from the PSA account to allegedly pay the defendant’s Time Warner Cable account (\$1,110.60), Con Ed bills (\$995.44), credit card bill (\$616.69), Target account (\$230.43) and T-Mobile account (\$65.96).

The District Attorney noted that the thefts are alleged to have occurred between October 27, 2005 and April 11, 2006, during which time the defendant handled financial activities of the PSA, including depositing and withdrawing money from the PSA bank account. Department of Education regulations forbid personal use of PSA funds or use of such funds for purposes not approved by the PSA membership in accordance with their by-laws.

District Attorney Brown expressed his appreciation to the Lexington School for the Deaf, located at 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 75<sup>th</sup> Street in Jackson Heights, for referring the matter to his office and for its assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Assistant District Attorney David Chen and Forensic Accountant Emery W. Nemeth, of the District Attorney’s Economic Crimes Bureau.

Assistant District Attorney Chen is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely accusations and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**