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**D.A. BROWN: HOMELESS MAN CHARGED WITH RAPE
OF QUEENS WOMAN AND ATTEMPTED RAPE OF TEENAGER**

Faces Up to 25 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 43-year-old homeless man has been charged with the attempted rape of a Queens teenager and the forcible rape of another woman. The incidents occurred earlier this week within 15 minutes of each other.

District Attorney Brown said, "It is alleged that the defendant was wandering through the streets of Laurelton during the early morning hours of last Tuesday, looking for vulnerable women on whom to prey. The offenses are crimes of violence that posed a serious threat to public safety and which warrant vigorous prosecution."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as James Clark Brown, 43, no known address. The defendant has been charged with two counts of Rape in the First Degree, one count of Attempted Rape in the First Degree, two counts of Sodomy in the First Degree and one count of Robbery in the First Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to complaints filed in Queens Criminal Court, at 6:30 a.m. on June 13, 2006, the defendant approached his first victim, a 19-year-old girl, in front of 218-10 Merrick Boulevard and stated that he had a gun. The defendant then allegedly ordered her to follow him and indicated that he intended to have sexual intercourse with her. The defendant allegedly further stated that if she screamed or tried to run away he would kill her. At this point, the victim told the defendant that she wanted to tie her shoe. When the defendant let go of her hand, the victim ran away and called the police.

The District Attorney said it is further charged that approximately fifteen minutes later the defendant approached a 34-year-old woman and again told her he had a gun and that he would hurt her if she screamed or ran away. The defendant then allegedly walked her to a detached garage in the rear of 136-39 220th Street where he sodomized and raped her. The defendant then allegedly smoked some crack cocaine and raped his victim a second time before demanding money from her.

According to the District Attorney, the defendant was arrested yesterday by detectives of the NYPD's Queens Special Victims Squad and was arraigned today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Joseph Zayas who remanded the defendant and set a return date of July 7, 2006.

The investigation was conducted by Police Officer James Ropenus and Detective James O'Boyle of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer.

Assistant District Attorney Karen B. Migdal, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Daniel A. Saunders.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: An e-version of this press release is posted on the QDA website at www.queensda.org.