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SOUTH OZONE PARK MAN CHARGED IN KNIFEPOINT RAPE
OF 45-YEAR-OLD WOMAN IN MASSAGE PARLOR
Defendant Faces Up to 25 Years in Prison if Convicted

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz today announced that a South Ozone Park man has been arraigned in criminal court and charged with the rape of a 45-year-old masseuse inside the “Vivi Massage Spa,” where she was working on Monday, February 17, 2020.

District Attorney Katz said, “Thankfully the video surveillance that captured this defendant was crucial in locating his whereabouts. This alleged culprit has now been apprehended and will be prosecuted for raping this unsuspecting woman.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Luchiano Crooks, 26, of 131st Street in South Ozone Park, Queens. Crooks was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge David Kirschner on a complaint charging him with rape in the first-degree, robbery in the first-degree and criminal sex act in the first-degree. Judge Kirschner set bail at \$100,000 bond/\$50,000 cash/\$500,000 partially secured bail. The defendant’s return date is tomorrow, February 21, 2020. If convicted, Crooks faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Katz said that, according to the complaint, on February 17, 2020, at approximately 4:50 p.m., the defendant entered the “Vivi Massage Spa” at 134-10 Jamaica Ave., in Kew Gardens, Queens and asked for a massage. He was told to go to room #2 by the staff. When the victim, a 45-year-old female masseuse entered room #2, the defendant allegedly displayed a knife and demanded money. The victim turned over \$100 in cash to him and then Crooks allegedly raped her at knife point before fleeing the scene.

The investigation was conducted by members of the New York City Police Department’s Queens Special Victims Squad with lead Detective Philmore Angol.

Assistant District Attorney Kasey Parente, of District Attorney Katz’s Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Eric C. Rosenbaum, Bureau Chief and Debra Lynn Pomodore, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org