



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

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CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
NICOLE NAVAS
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718)286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER
OF POLICE OFFICER IN NEAR-FATAL THROAT SLASHING**

Faces Up To 25 Years To Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a St. Albans man has been convicted in the near-fatal throat slashing of an on-duty police officer in Jamaica, Queens, last year.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has been convicted of attempting to murder a New York City Police Officer who was simply doing his job. Fortunately, the knife missed the officer's carotid artery by a fraction of an inch. This case is another example of the dangers that our police officers face in their continuing efforts to fight crime."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Radcliffe Meeks, 33, of 184-28 North Conduit Avenue in Saint Albans, Queens, who was convicted earlier today of Attempted Murder in the First Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree and Menacing in the Third Degree.

Following three hours of deliberation today, a jury returned a verdict of guilty on all charges. Queens Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Aloise who presided at the two-week trial set sentencing for April 3, 2006, at which time the defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, at the intersection of Dunkirk Street and Elmira Avenue on the evening of March 22, 2005, Police Officer Robert Burns and his partner were arresting the defendant – in response to a 911 call from a homeowner who reported that a man had threatened to shoot him – when Meeks pulled out a carpet knife and slashed Officer Burns' throat and hand. The defendant continued to struggle with Officer Burns and was only disarmed when his partner, Officer Shannon Pearl, fired a shot, striking the defendant in the right elbow. Officers Burns and Pearl are assigned to the New York City Police Department's 113th Precinct Street Narcotics Unit.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Andrea M. Eckhardt of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crime Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys James W. Evangelou, Bureau Chief, and Robert J. Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials John H. Larsen.

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Note to Editors: E-version posted at www.queensda.org.