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Release # 116-2006
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006

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**DA BROWN: SCOUTMASTER PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUALLY ABUSING TWO 13-
YEAR-OLD BOY SCOUTS**

Will Be Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that the scoutmaster of a Great Neck Boy Scout troop has pleaded guilty to sexually abusing and taking sexually explicit photographs of two 13-year-old members of his troop on numerous occasions over the past several years. The incidents took place in the Little Neck, Queens church where the troop held its weekly meetings and at the defendant's residence. He is expected to be sentenced to 20 years in prison.

District Attorney Richard A. Brown said, "The defendant has admitted his guilt, waived his right to appeal and has been held accountable for his crime. His young victims were placed in his care and protection and he abused their trust and destroyed their innocence. As a convicted felon, his long term of imprisonment and registration as a sex offender will be just punishment for the terrible crimes that he committed."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Ronald E. Occhipinti, 46, of 58-14 East Hampton Boulevard in Bayside, Queens, who was employed by a Long Island burglar alarm system company while serving as the scoutmaster of Troop 183 in Great Neck. The defendant pleaded guilty earlier today to Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First and Second Degree before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Pauline A. Mullings who indicated that she would sentence the defendant to a determinate term of 20 years in prison to run concurrent to seven years on June 12, 2006.

District Attorney Brown said the defendant admitted in court that on various occasions between September 1, 2003, and August 6, 2005, he brought one victim to his residence and the other victim to a church before boy scout or leadership meetings -- almost every week over an eleven month period -- and performed sexual acts on both victims. He also admitted that he had the children remove their clothes and pose in lewd and obscene positions, which he then photographed.

District Attorney Brown expressed his appreciation to Detective James A. Held and the NYPD Child Sexual Exploitation Unit for their assistance in the investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Frank DeGaetano, Supervisor of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting both cases 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.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release is posted on www.queensda.org.