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**D.A. BROWN: BROOKLYN MAN SENTENCED
TO 17 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR 2002 SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Brooklyn man has been sentenced to 17 years to life in prison for sexually assaulting a 35-year-old woman in a Queens stairwell four years ago. The defendant was identified and prosecuted based on a DNA sample that he had been required to provide following his conviction on a 1999 robbery charge.

District Attorney Brown said, "This case underscores yet again the crucial importance of DNA evidence which is irrefutable proof of guilt or innocence. The defendant almost assuredly would have escaped punishment for his crime if not for the DNA evidence that he had left at the scene which was positively matched to the DNA sample that he had previously submitted in an unrelated criminal case. As a result, justice delayed did not become justice denied for the victim of the vicious sexual assault in this case."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Layshawn Mitchell, 38, of 500 Mother Gaston Boulevard in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. The defendant pleaded guilty on June 6, 2006, to first-degree attempted sodomy before Queens Supreme Court Justice Randall T. Eng who imposed yesterday's indeterminate sentence of 17 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant admitted that he threatened his female victim on the afternoon of September 13, 2002, by forcing her to enter a building, located at 160-10 89th Avenue in Jamaica, Queens, and then directed her to the 12th floor stairwell where he sodomized her.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Dianna Megias, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel S. Saunders.

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