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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 32 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR MIDDLE-OF-THE-NIGHT HOME INVASION AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
OF FLUSHING WOMAN**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Astoria man who broke into a Flushing woman's residence in May 2005 and sexually assaulted and robbed her has been sentenced to 32 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has been convicted of sexually assaulting and robbing a Flushing resident in her own home in the middle of the night and thereafter brazenly returning a week later to do so again. Fortunately, he was stopped by police who were called by the victim's husband. The significant prison term imposed today will ensure that the defendant is held accountable for his senseless and brutal attack."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Jean Theard, 32, of 20-65 19th Street in Astoria. The defendant was convicted following a non-jury trial in July of first-degree rape, first-degree criminal sexual act, first-degree burglary, second-degree robbery, possession of burglary tools and second-degree attempted burglary. Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter, who presided at trial, sentenced the defendant to an indeterminate term of 32 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the trial testimony, just after midnight on May 7, 2006, the defendant forcibly broke into a Flushing house and confronted a 53-year-old female tenant as she exited the bathroom. The defendant then pointed what appeared to be a gun at her and robbed her of \$200 in cash. During the approximate two hours that he stayed in the house, the defendant forcibly raped the victim multiple times. After he fled, the victim recovered a screwdriver from the floor that the defendant had left behind. Six days later, the defendant returned to the house just before midnight and tried again to gain entry by forcing open a door. When the victim's husband heard noises, he called the police who responded and arrested the defendant. Police recovered a screwdriver and an imitation pistol that the defendant had thrown to the ground.

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

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