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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS PHYSICIAN CHARGED WITH SELLING  
DRUG PRESCRIPTIONS FOLLOWING UNDERCOVER STING**

*Allegedly Sold Controlled Substance Prescriptions for \$180 Each*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Little Neck psychiatrist has been charged with selling drug prescriptions for highly addictive medications to an undercover police officer for cash.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused to have flagrantly disregarded the law by using his medical practice as a front to enable individuals to obtain highly addictive drugs for cash. With no consideration for the health of the buyer or the medical necessity of the drugs, the defendant is alleged to have acted more like a street corner drug dealer armed with a prescription pad than a medical practitioner."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Dr. Nehemia Zedek, 67, who was arrested yesterday at his medical office/residence located at 43-16 Westmoreland Street in Little Neck. He was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Robert Raciti on charges of Criminal Sale of a Prescription for a Controlled Substance, a Class C felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison. The defendant was released without bail and ordered to return to court on October 4, 2006.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the undercover police officer, posing as junkie, visited Dr. Zedek's office on various occasions between January 13, 2006 and June 22, 2006. During the visits, Dr. Zedek allegedly sold prescriptions for the anti-anxiety drugs Alprazolam (Xanax) and Lorazepan (Ativan) and the painkiller Hydrocodone (Vicodin) – three highly powerful and highly addictive medications – to the officer. For example, Dr. Zedek allegedly sold the officer 60 Xanax pills for \$180 on at least three occasions, and on another occasion sold two prescriptions – one for 90 Xanax pills and the other for 90 Vicodin pills – for a total of \$360.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Raymond Paltoo of the New York City Police Department's Queens Narcotics Division under the command of Inspector Robert Napolitano, and under the overall supervision of Assistant Deputy Chief Edmund Hartnett, Executive Officer, Narcotics Division, and Chief Anthony Izzo, Commanding Officer, Organized Crime Control Bureau.

Assistant District Attorney Paul E. Cardon, of the District Attorney's Narcotics Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision, of Wilbert J. Lemelle, Bureau Chief, and Karen J. Friedman, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Mark L. Katz, Supervisor, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that a criminal 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 at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**