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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**D.A. BROWN: FORMER NYPD POLICE OFFICER CHARGED  
WITH RAPE AND BURGLARY IN 1996 ATTACK ON YOUNG WOMAN**  
*Apprehended as Result of DNA "Cold Hit; Faces up to 25 Years in Prison"*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a former New York City Police Officer has been charged – based on DNA evidence – with the 1996 rape, sexual abuse and burglary of a 21-year-old woman in her Howard Beach, Queens, home.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant was apprehended and is being prosecuted based on a "cold hit" in which DNA evidence from the young female victim was positively matched to the defendant's DNA profile in the New York City DNA Databank. Earlier this month, the City's DNA laboratory at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner positively matched DNA obtained from the victim's rape kit to the defendant's DNA which had been placed into the City's DNA Databank after he provided a DNA sample in February 2006 in connection with an unrelated prosecution. The case underscores yet again the crucial importance of DNA evidence which is irrefutable scientific proof of guilt or innocence. The use of DNA is an important law enforcement tool that protects the innocent and punishes the guilty."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Ronald Murgo Jr., 38, of 35-09 Crescent Street in Woodside, Queens. Murgo, a former police officer assigned to the 67<sup>th</sup> Precinct in Brooklyn prior to his termination in 1995, now works as a construction worker. He has been charged with first-degree rape, first-degree sexual abuse and first- and second-degree burglary. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, the defendant broke into the residence of a then 21-year-old Howard Beach resident at approximately 3:00 a.m. on November 6, 1996, through a first-floor back window. The defendant then allegedly jumped on the victim's bed and tied his victim's hands with her own bra, placed a pillow over her head and told her to be quiet before sexually abusing and raping her. The defendant then allegedly stole jewelry and removed cash from the victim's wallet before fleeing out the front door.

According to the District Attorney, the victim immediately called 911. She was treated at a local Queens hospital and interviewed by detectives who submitted a rape kit for DNA testing. Under the John Doe Indictment Project – a 2003 citywide initiative that uses DNA profiles of unidentified sex criminals to indict them even before they are apprehended to prevent their escape from prosecution due to the expiration of the statute of limitations – a Queens County Grand Jury indicted the defendant as John Doe in February 2006.

According to the District Attorney, the defendant was arrested this morning by detectives of the NYPD's Queens Special Victims Squad and was arraigned earlier today before Queens Supreme Court Justice James P. Griffin who set bail in the amount of \$350,000 and a return date of October 19, 2006.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Stephen Aquaviva and Richard Santengelo of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer, and with the assistance of Detective Kevin Koenderman of District Attorney Brown's Detective Bureau under the supervision of Lawrence J Festa, Bureau Chief, and Albert D. Velardi, Deputy Bureau Chief.

Special Assistant District Attorney Karen Migdal of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. 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.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: E-version of press release posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)