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**D.A. BROWN: STATE WORKER PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING
PORNOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN ON OFFICE COMPUTER**

Faces Up To Eight Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) engineer has pleaded guilty to possessing images of underage children involved in sexual activity on a government computer that he used at a DOT field office in Bayside, Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted possessing files that depict sexual acts between adults and young children – less than 15 years of age – on his office computer. This case should serve as a clear and unmistakable warning that law enforcement is prepared to apprehend and prosecute sexual predators who betray and defile youngsters."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Vinod G. Patel, 37, of 2020 Lincoln Avenue in East Meadow, Long Island, whose duties at DOT involved the general administration of contracts for construction projects. He pleaded guilty earlier today to two counts of Possessing a Sexual Performance by a Child before Queens Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Chin-Brandt who indicated that she would sentence the defendant to one and one-third to four years in prison on each count to run consecutively at sentencing on December 18, 2006.

According to District Attorney Brown, on March 2, 2006, a DOT employee discovered child pornography on a computer used by the defendant at the DOT field office at 219-03 Northern Boulevard in Bayside and alerted authorities. The photo depicted a child in a sexual act with an adult male.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant admitted today in court that he possessed files on his office computer depicting young children less than fifteen years of age engaging in sexual acts. A search warrant signed by Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Pauline Mullings on March 3, 2006, allowed authorities to examine the defendant's computer. On the defendant's computer was a folder marked "VPS" which contained the pictures.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Waldo Gonzalez, of the New York City Police Department's Computer Crime Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant John Otero and Inspector Jeremiah Quinlan and the overall supervision of Chief of Detectives George F. Brown.

Assistant District Attorney Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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