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**D.A. BROWN: JACKSON HEIGHTS RESIDENT CHARGED**  
**IN SERIES OF APARTMENT BREAK-INS IN NORTHERN QUEENS**

*Faces up to 44 Years in Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 36-year-old Jackson Heights man has been charged with four residential break-ins over the last eight months and stealing thousands of dollars in cash, laptop computers, a GPS system and other electronic equipment. The burglaries allegedly occurred in the Jamaica Estates, Jackson Heights, Corona and College Point sections of Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of being a one-man crime wave and brazenly breaking into people's homes by drilling through door locks or climbing through windows – in most cases when the homeowners left for work. Once inside the apartments, he would allegedly steal small but expensive electronic items and then flee. His ultimate undoing, however, was when he allegedly left his fingerprints on a glass money jar at one of the locations."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Antonio Diaz, 36, of 94-26 34<sup>th</sup> Road in Jackson Heights. He has been charged in four separate complaints with two counts of second-degree burglary, two counts of second-degree attempted burglary, two counts of third-degree grand larceny, one count of fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property and two counts of fourth-degree criminal mischief. If convicted, he faces up to forty-four years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to one complaint, on the afternoon of July 30, 2006, the defendant climbed up the side of a Jackson Heights apartment building located on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and attempted to enter a second-floor apartment through a side window. When the tenant allegedly saw him and screamed, the defendant fled the scene. A second complaint charges that, on the afternoon of September 25, 2006, the defendant entered a Jamaica Estates apartment house located on 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue and drilled through the lock on a first-floor apartment. Once inside the apartment, the defendant allegedly stole a Dell laptop computer, a Magellan Global Positioning System, a PSP Playstation video game console, an iPod music player and \$1,040 in cash before fleeing.

The District Attorney said that a third complaint charges that three days later, on September 28, 2006, the defendant entered a College Point apartment house on 120<sup>th</sup> Street with a tool bag and drilled through the front door lock of one of the apartments. Once inside, he allegedly stole a Dell laptop computer, a Nikon digital camera, \$2,000 in cash and a green duffel bag. Finally, according to a fourth complaint, the defendant allegedly entered a Corona apartment building on 97<sup>th</sup> Street carrying a dark-colored duffel bag on March 1, 2007. Once inside the building, he allegedly drilled through the key lock of an apartment door before leaving five minutes later.

District Attorney Brown noted that other break-ins are being investigated.

The defendant was arrested last night by Detective Brian McGuire of the New York City Police Department's 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Assisting in the investigation were detectives assigned to the NYPD's 107<sup>th</sup>, 109<sup>th</sup> and 115<sup>th</sup> Precincts. The defendant was arraigned today in Queens Criminal Court before Judge Joseph Zayas who set bail at \$450,000 and a return date of April 18, 2007.

Assistant District Attorney Patty Theodorou of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of James W. Evangelou, Bureau Chief, and Robert J. Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely accusations and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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