



**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
QUEENS COUNTY  
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD  
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568  
718-286-6000**

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[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

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**CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE**  
(718) 286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: SPECTATOR ARRESTED AT SHEA STADIUM**  
**FOR INTERFERING WITH METS GAME**

*Allegedly Shined Light into Eyes of Opposing Players on Field*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 40-year-old Bronx man sitting behind home plate at last night's New York Mets-Atlanta Braves game at Shea Stadium has been charged with temporarily blinding Atlanta's pitcher and shortstop as they were on the field in the eighth inning by flashing a high-powered flashlight into their eyes. The defendant's alleged actions recklessly endangered the lives of players and spectators and caused a temporary delay to the game.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant allegedly used a high-intensity flashlight that is more commonly used for tactical and self-defense purposes to interfere with the play of last night's game at Shea Stadium. In a game in which the ball can travel upwards of 110 miles per hour, the defendant's alleged actions were dangerous to both spectators and players. This was definitely not the defendant's most shining moment."

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Frank Martinez, 40, of 614 Lincoln Avenue in the Bronx. He was charged with interference with a professional sporting event and second-degree reckless endangerment. If convicted, he faces up to a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, sometime around 10:15 p.m. on April 20, 2007, while Braves pitcher Tim Hudson was pitching to the Mets pinch hitter Endy Chavez in the eighth inning at Shea Stadium, the defendant purposely shined a powerful light into eyes of Hudson and Braves shortstop Edgar Renteria from his seat behind home plate. Second base umpire Paul Emmel called time out and alerted security that the defendant's alleged actions were causing temporary blindness to the two Atlanta players and himself. The defendant was escorted from his seat and taken to Shea Stadium's security office. A small, streamline flashlight was allegedly found in the defendant's backpack.

District Attorney Brown noted that the New York City Council passed the interference with a professional sporting event law in 2003 after fashion designer Calvin Klein stepped out onto the basketball court at Madison Square Garden in March 2003 to speak with player Latrell Sprewell while a Knicks game was in progress. John McCarthy, 38, of Clifton, New Jersey, was the first person charged under the law when he ran onto the field during a Mets game at Shea Stadium on May 4, 2004, carrying a sign that read "Howard Stern: Here's Johnny." McCarthy pleaded guilty in August 2004 and was sentenced to eight weekends in jail, fined \$2,000 and ordered to serve three years' probation, during which he was prohibited from going to Shea Stadium.

Martinez was removed from his seat last night by Security Supervisor George Innes and Security Officer Michael Guidice, Sr. He was arrested by Police Officer Robert Bonilla, of the New York City Police Department's 108<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Martinez is expected to be arraigned tonight in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens.

Assistant District Attorney Kristen A. Kane, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, 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).**