



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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CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH ASSAULT
AND ROBBERY OF TWO ELDERLY WOMEN**

Defendant Also Charged in Mugging of Third Queens Woman; Faces Up To 25 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 44-year-old Long Island City man has been charged with assault and robbery as hate crimes in the muggings of two elderly women in Jamaica Estates last month. The defendant also is being charged in two other incidents in which a 51-year-old woman was allegedly assaulted and robbed and a Queens building was allegedly burglarized.

Queens District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is alleged to have beaten and robbed three women – two of whom are elderly and require the use of walkers to go about their daily lives. Remarkably, the injuries sustained by all three victims were not more serious. The savagery and violence of the defendant's alleged cowardly actions have no place in a civilized society and the charges against him will be vigorously prosecuted."

The District Attorney noted that under the provisions of New York State's Hate Crimes Act of 2000, enhanced charges can be filed when a defendant selects his or her victim because of their disability and/or age which is defined as being 60 years of age or older.

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Jack Rhodes, 44, whose last known address was 34-25 Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City. Rhodes is presently awaiting arraignment this afternoon in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on three criminal complaints charging him with two counts of Burglary in the First Degree as a Hate Crime, two count of Robbery in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, two counts of Assault in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, two counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime, one count of Burglary in the First Degree, one count of Burglary in the Second Degree, one count of Robbery in the Second Degree, one count of Assault in the Second Degree, one count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent Person. If convicted, the defendant faces a determinate sentence of between 12 years and 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, as 51-year-old Angela Khan was entering her residence on 182nd Street in Jamaica at approximately 7:30 a.m. on December 30, 2007, the defendant confronted her and followed her inside, where he punched and kicked her while robbing her of cash, a credit card and her driver's license. As a result of the alleged assault, Ms. Khan suffered substantial injuries and pain – including a fractured nose, two black eyes and lacerations to her face that required six stitches.

The District Attorney said, it is further alleged, that when 101-year-old Rose Morat, who uses a walker, was exiting the elevator on the ground floor of her Highland Avenue building at approximately 12:30 p.m. on March 4, 2007, the defendant approached her and offered to open the front door for her. The defendant then allegedly repeatedly punched Ms. Morat on the left side of her face, causing her to fall to the ground, while he demanded money from her. The defendant then allegedly grabbed her pocketbook, which contained approximately \$33 and her house keys. Ms. Morat was taken to a local Queens hospital and was treated for a fractured cheekbone, bruises to the left eyes and swelling to her face.

Approximately a half-hour later, 85-year-old Solange Elizee, who also uses a walker, was on the elevator of her 170th Street building when the defendant allegedly got on the elevator with her. As Ms. Elizee exited the elevator and entered her apartment, the defendant allegedly blocked the apartment door from closing and forced his way inside. Once inside, the defendant allegedly repeatedly punched Ms. Elizee in the face, knocking her to the floor. The defendant then allegedly removed two yellow metal rings from her hand and took her pocketbook which contained approximately \$32. Ms. Elizee was taken to a local Queens hospital and treated for lacerations to her lip, abrasions and bruising to her forearm, face and buttocks.

Finally, it is alleged that the defendant entered a Devonshire Road building sometime between 11:30 a.m. and twelve noon without permission and was told to leave by the building's super, Peter Minaqui.

The defendant was arrested by detectives assigned to the NYPD's Queens Robbery Squad.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Dianna L. Megias, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaun and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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

COMPLAINT #1 (victims Rose Morat and Solange Elizee)

- 2 counts of Burglary in the First Degree as a Hate Crime (Class B felony)
- 2 counts of Robbery in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime (Class C felony)
- 2 counts of Assault in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime (Class D felony)
- 2 counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime (Class E felony)
- 2 counts of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person (Class A misdemeanor)

COMPLAINT #2 (victim Angela Khan)

- 1 count of Burglary in the First Degree (Class B felony)
- 1 count of Robbery in the Second Degree (Class C felony)
- 1 count of Assault in the Second Degree (Class D felony)
- 1 count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree (Class E felony)

COMPLAINT #3 (Devonshire Road building)

- 1 count of Burglary in the Second Degree (Class C felony)

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