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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS CITY COUNCILMEMBER CHARGED WITH RAPE**

*Sexual Assault Allegedly Took Place At Campaign Office; Faces Up To 25 Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Queens grand jury has charged City Councilmember Dennis P. Gallagher with raping and sexually assaulting a 52-year-old grandmother whom he is alleged to have met at a neighborhood bar and then brought to his Middle Village campaign office.

District Attorney Brown said, "The allegations are very troubling—particularly because they involve the actions of a public official who has a special responsibility to uphold and obey the law. If proven, the charges constitute not only a serious violation of law, but a breach of the trust that we have placed in, and have a right to expect of, our elected public officials. It also is a reminder of the fact that no one is above the law."

The District Attorney said that Gallagher, 43, of Middle Village, surrendered this morning to detectives assigned to the Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad. He is expected to be arraigned later today in Queens County Supreme Court on a ten-count indictment, charging him with first- and third-degree rape, first- and third-degree criminal sexual act and second- and third-degree assault. Gallagher, who was first elected to the City Council in 2001 and will be required to leave office in 2009 under the City's term limits law, faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant met the victim on the afternoon of Sunday, July 8, 2007, at Danny Boy's Irish Pub and Restaurant, a neighborhood bar on Dry Harbor Road in Middle Village. Afterwards, he allegedly offered to give the victim a ride home but instead brought her to his campaign office which is located above his Middle Village District Office at 78-25 Metropolitan Avenue where he raped and sexually assaulted her.

The investigation was conducted by detectives of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall and Sergeant Carmen Martinez.

The case was presented to the grand jury and will be prosecuted by Marjory D. Fisher, Chief of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, Kenneth M. Appelbaum, the Bureau's Deputy Chief, and Assistant District Attorney Jared R. Rosenblatt.

It should be noted that an indictment 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 on [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)