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**D.A. BROWN: CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON OFFICE COMPUTER  
LANDS STATE WORKER IN PRISON FOR EIGHT YEARS**

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

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant will now spend a lengthy time behind bars in which to comprehend that photos that depict sexual acts between adults and young children are in reality images of actual children who have been victimized and sexually exploited for no other purpose than to satisfy the prurient desires of sexual predators."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Vinod G. Patel, 49, 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 on September 21, 2006, to two counts of Possessing a Sexual Performance by a Child before Queens Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Chin-Brandt who imposed today's indeterminate sentence of one and one-third to four years in prison on each count to run consecutively. Patel was also ordered to register as a sex offender.

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. A search warrant signed by Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Pauline Mullings was obtained the following day which allowed authorities to examine the defendant's computer. On the defendant's computer was a folder marked "VPS" which contained the pictures. Patel resigned his position as a DOT civil engineer on March 4, 2006 as a result of the investigation.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that he possessed files on his office computer depicting young children less than fifteen years of age engaging in sexual acts.

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, prosecuted 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](http://www.queensda.org).



**Vinod G. Patel, 49,**