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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RAPING TWO WOMEN
Posed As Investigator To Lure Victims to Motels; Faces 15 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Far Rockaway man who posed as a law enforcement officer to lure two women to a Queens motel last month has pleaded guilty to raping them.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant gained the trust of his victims by posing as a police officer in order to disarm them of any natural suspicions of strangers before revealing his true intent and preying on them. This case is a reminder for people to make certain that anyone calling themselves a law enforcement officer – especially if they are not wearing a uniform – shows official identification."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Eric McCoy, 37, of 147 Beach 26 Street in Far Rockaway. The defendant pleaded guilty today to two counts of first-degree rape before Queens Criminal Court Judge Pauline Mullings who indicated that she would sentence the defendant to a determinate term of 15 years in prison at sentencing on March 19, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that on the afternoon of December 4, 2006, he approached a 27-year-old woman as she exited a bus in the vicinity of Rockaway and Sutphin Boulevards, produced an I.D. card and identified himself as an investigator. As he questioned her, the defendant took the victim's bag and planted a packet of what appeared to be marijuana in the bag. When he pulled out the packet, the defendant placed the victim against a wall and spoke into a black walkie-talkie – giving her the impression that he was talking to other officers. When she began to panic, the defendant told the victim that he would take out his gun and shoot her if she moved and informed her that she was in serious trouble and subject to arrest. At this point, the defendant told her that he was taking her in for questioning at a surveillance room where other officers were stationed. They then took a livery cab to the Airport Motor Inn, located at 153-99 Rockaway Boulevard, where he beat her with a belt and forced her to have sex with him under the threat of being arrested. The defendant subsequently escorted the victim out of the motel and told her to walk home before he got into a cab.

The defendant also admitted that, on January 2, 2007, he approached a 17-year-old girl at the corner of Main Street and Union Turnpike and, once again, displayed an I.D. card and identified himself as an investigator. Stating that he had a gun, he told the teenager that she needed to accompany him for questioning. The defendant then proceeded to take his victim to the Kew Motor Inn, located at 139-01 Grand Central Parkway in Jamaica, where he proceeded to question her. As part of his ruse, he spoke into a walkie talkie, wrote notes during his questioning of her, searched her backpack and temporarily took her I.D. and cell phone. The defendant then informed her that she was in serious trouble and that if she did not cooperate with him she would be arrested and be unable to make bail, she would not see her parents anymore, and that he could shoot her at any time. As in the earlier motel incident, the defendant forced the victim to have sex with him under the threat of being arrested.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Sal Molino, James O'Boyle, Antoinette Esposito and James Lomonaco of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad (at the Queens Child Advocacy Center) under the command of Lieutenant Arthur Hall.

Assistant District Attorney Frank P. DeGaetano, Supervisor in the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief and Assistant District Attorneys Kenneth M. Appelbaum 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.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org