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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH RAPE OF TWO WOMEN
Allegedly Posed As Investigator To Lure Victims to Motels; Faces Up to Life In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Far Rockway man has been charged with masquerading as a law enforcement officer during the past month and approaching three young women – two of whom he brought to Queens motels and is alleged to have raped.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is accused of gaining his victims’ trust of the police 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. He is being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on charges of predatory sexual assault, first-degree rape, criminal sexual act, coercion and first-degree criminal impersonation. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, at approximately 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 2006, the defendant 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 allegedly 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 allegedly 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 allegedly 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 allegedly 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 allegedly told her to walk home before he got into a cab.

The District Attorney said it is further alleged that a month later, on the morning of January 2, 2007, the defendant approached a 15-year-old girl on the corner of Beach 25th Street and Seagirt Avenue and, once again flashing an identification card, told her that he was investigating an assault. He then is alleged to have proceeded to question her in an officious manner, speak into a walkie talkie and tell her to stand in front of 25-17 Seagirt Avenue for the purposes of identification in a criminal investigation before telling her to wait inside a nearby laundromat in order to avoid arrest. It is further alleged that once inside the laundromat, the victim approached a woman who called police.

Two hours later, it is alleged, the defendant 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 him as an investigator. Stating that he had a gun, he allegedly told the teenager that she needed to accompany him for questioning. The defendant then allegedly 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 allegedly 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 is alleged to have 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, he is alleged to have forced the victim to have sex with him under the threat of being arrested.

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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.

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 on www.queensda.org