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**D.A. BROWN: AIDE TO FORMER FLUSHING ASSEMBLYMAN CHARGED WITH
ELECTION FRAUD**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an aide to former New York State Assemblyman Jimmy Meng – the first Asian-American member of the New York State Legislature – has been charged with voter registration fraud.

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Simon Ting, 42, of 140-14 28th Road in Flushing. Ting, who resigned as an administrative aide when Assemblyman Meng term expired on December 31, 2006, is charged with first-degree offering a false instrument for filing and procuring fraudulent documents in order to vote. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said his office commenced an investigation following a referral from the New York City Board of Elections regarding questionable registration forms filed with the Queens Board of Elections for the 22nd Assembly District.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, detectives assigned to his Detective Bureau identified thirty-six voter registration filings made by the defendant between May 28, 2004, and August 20, 2004, which indicated that the individuals registering to vote resided within the 22nd Assembly District. In fact, according to the complaint, the individuals either did not live within the district or only worked there. In many cases, the forms allegedly had the original address or phone number whited-out or had been filled out in the defendant's own handwriting. The inserted addresses noted on the forms included 137-27 Geranium Avenue - the defendant's home address at the time – and 135-29 Roosevelt Avenue – the site of Chung Hwa Books, which is owned by Assemblyman Meng. Both addresses allegedly allowed the defendant the opportunity to receive any mailings on their behalf. In most cases, it is alleged, the individuals had signed the registration forms after attending a banquet for a primary candidate or after being approached on the street.

The District Attorney noted that all 36 registrations were placed on a "watch list" before the primary election and that none of the people voted or attempted to vote and that the registrations were subsequently cancelled by the Board of Elections. The investigation did not uncover any evidence that anyone other than the defendant participated in the scheme.

The defendant was arraigned yesterday afternoon before Queens Criminal Court Judge Alex Zigman, who ordered the defendant released without bail and set a return date of February 13, 2007

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Douglas T. Lee and Sergeant Frank Torres of the District Attorney's Detective Bureau under the supervision of Lieutenant Robert J. Burke and the overall supervision of Lawrence J. Festa, Chief Investigator, and Albert D. Velardi, Deputy Chief Investigator. Also assisting in the investigation was Steven H. Richman, Counsel to the Board of Elections, and Barbara Conacchio, Chief Clerk of the Queens Board of Elections.

Assistant District Attorney James M. Liander, Chief of the District Attorney's Integrity Bureau is prosecuting the case under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely accusations and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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