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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN INDICTED ON HATE CRIME CHARGES
IN VIOLENT MUGGINGS OF TWO ELDERLY WOMEN**

Defendant Also Charged in Mugging of Third Queens Woman; Faces Up To 90 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 44-year-old Long Island City man has been indicted on charges of burglary, assault and robbery as hate crimes in the March 2007 muggings of two elderly women in Jamaica Estates. The defendant is also charged in two other incidents in which a 51-year-old woman was allegedly assaulted and robbed and a Queens building was burglarized.

District Attorney Brown said, "In just over nine weeks, the defendant is alleged to have beaten and robbed three women – one of whom was 101 years of age. Remarkably, the injuries sustained by all three victims were not more serious. The savagery and violence of the attacks have no place in a civilized society. The charges will be vigorously prosecuted."

The District Attorney noted that under the provisions of New York State's Hate Crimes Act of 2000 enhanced charges can be filed when a defendant is alleged to have selected his or her victim because of their disability and/or age which is defined as being 60 years of age or older.

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Jack Rhodes, 44, whose last known address was 34-25 Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City. He appeared today before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice James P. Griffin for arraignment on a 35-count indictment variously charging him with Burglary in the First Degree as a Hate Crime, Robbery in the First and Second Degrees as a Hate Crime, Assault in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime, Burglary in the First and Second Degrees, Robbery in the First and Second Degrees, Assault in the Second Degree, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent Person. The defendant, who faces determinate sentences aggregating between 39 years and 90 years in prison if convicted, remains held without bail and was ordered to return to court on August 15, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the indictment, as 51-year-old Angela Khan was entering her residence on 182nd Street in Jamaica on the evening of December 30, 2006, the defendant confronted her and followed her inside, where he punched and kicked her while robbing her of cash, a credit card and her driver's license. As a result of the alleged assault, Ms. Khan suffered substantial injuries and pain – including a fractured nose, two black eyes and lacerations to her face that required six stitches.

The District Attorney said, it is further charged, that when 101-year-old Rose Morat, who uses a walker, was exiting the elevator in the vestibule of her Highland Avenue building at approximately 12:30 p.m. on March 4, 2007, the defendant approached her and offered to open the front door for her. The defendant then allegedly repeatedly punched Ms. Morat on the left side of her face, causing her to fall to the ground, while he demanded money from her. The defendant then allegedly grabbed her pocketbook, which contained approximately \$33 and her house keys. Ms. Morat was taken to a local Queens hospital and was treated for a fractured cheekbone, bruises to the left eyes and swelling to her face.

Approximately a half-hour later, 85-year-old Solange Elizee, who also uses a walker, was on the elevator of her 170th Street building when the defendant allegedly got on the elevator with her. As Ms. Elizee exited the elevator and entered her apartment, the defendant allegedly blocked the apartment door from closing and forced his way inside. Once inside, the defendant allegedly repeatedly punched Ms. Elizee in the face, knocking her to the floor. The defendant then allegedly removed two yellow metal rings from her hand and took her pocketbook which contained

approximately \$32. Ms. Elizee was taken to a local Queens hospital and treated for lacerations to her lip, abrasions and bruising to her forearm, face and buttocks.

Finally, it is alleged that earlier that same day the defendant entered a Devonshire Road building between 11:30 a.m. and twelve noon without permission and was confronted by the building's super who ordered him to leave.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Dianna L. Megias, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and 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 an indictment is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org

35-COUNT INDICTMENT

16 counts pertaining to Rose Morat, 101

2 counts of Burglary in the First Degree as a Hate Crime (Class B felony)
2 counts of Robbery in the First Degree as a Hate Crime (Class B felony)
4 counts of Assault in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime (Class D felony)
2 counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime (Class E felony)
1 count of Burglary in the First Degree (Class B felony)
1 count of Robbery in the First Degree (Class B felony)
2 counts of Assault in the Second Degree (Class D felony)
1 count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree (Class E felony)
1 counts of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person (Class A misdemeanor)

13 counts pertaining to Solange Elizee, 85

2 counts of Burglary in the First Degree as a Hate Crime (Class B felony)
2 counts of Robbery in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime (Class C felony)
2 counts of Assault in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime (Class D felony)
2 counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime (Class E felony)
1 count of Burglary in the First Degree (Class B felony)
1 count of Robbery in the Second Degree (Class C felony)
1 count of Assault in the Second Degree (Class D felony)
1 count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree (Class E felony)
1 counts of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person (Class A misdemeanor)

5 counts pertaining to Angela Khan, 51

1 count of Burglary in the First Degree (Class B felony)
1 count of Robbery in the First Degree (Class B felony)
2 counts of Assault in the Second Degree (Class D felony)
1 count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree (Class E felony)

1 count pertaining to the Devonshire Road building

1 count of Burglary in the Second Degree (Class C felony)

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