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**D.A. BROWN: CITY TRAFFIC AGENT ARRAIGNED ON CHARGES OF RECKLESSLY  
ENDANGERING HER CHILDREN BY HAVING ILLEGAL GUN IN HOME**

*7-Year-Old Son Brings Weapon To School and Shows It To Classmates*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 35-year-old City traffic agent whose seven-year-old son brought an illegal .38-caliber revolver to his elementary school yesterday has been arraigned on charges of recklessly endangering the lives of her two sons – the 7-year-old and a 14-year-old – by knowingly allowing the weapon inside her home. The 14-year-old son, to whom the gun belonged, has also been arrested in the case. He has been charged as a juvenile and his case is being handled in Family Court.

District Attorney Brown said, “Illegal firearms are a serious threat to public safety. By knowingly having such a weapon in the home, the defendant is accused of creating a scenario that could have had deadly consequences not just for her own children but innocent others who may have come in contact with the weapon.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Andrea E. Clarke, 35, of Ozone Park, Queens, who is employed by the New York City Police Department as a traffic enforcement agent. She was arraigned today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Suzanne Melendez on charges of second-degree reckless endangerment and endangering the welfare of a child. Clarke, who faces up to one year in jail if convicted, was ordered held on \$15,000 bail and to return to court on Wednesday, May 30, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant admitted to knowing that an unapprehended individual came to her home on May 23, 2007, with an unloaded .38-caliber revolver and gave the weapon to her 14-year-old son who kept it under his mattress. The following day, it is charged, the defendant’s 7-year-old son took the weapon to his school, P.S. 63 in Ozone Park, and showed the revolver to several classmates. The handgun – which had its serial numbers scratched off – was later confiscated by the student’s second-grade teacher when she was alerted to its presence in the classroom.

The investigation was handled by detectives assigned to the NYPD’s 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct Detective Squad.

The case is being prosecuted by the District Attorney’s Criminal Court Bureau under the supervision of Joan I. Ritter, Bureau Chief, and Kimberly A. Affronti, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Assistant District Attorney for Trial James Clark Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert Masters.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**