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**D.A. BROWN: SHEA STADIUM SPECTATOR PLEADS GUILTY
TO INTERFERING WITH METS GAME AND IS SENTENCED TO 15 DAYS IN JAIL**

Shined Light into Eyes of Players on Field; Banned from Shea Stadium for Three Years

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 40-year-old Bronx man arrested ten days ago at Shea Stadium for temporarily blinding players on the field by flashing a high-powered flashlight into their eyes has pleaded guilty to interfering with a sporting event and has been sentenced to 15 days in jail.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted to using a high-intensity flashlight – more commonly used for tactical and self-defense purposes – to disrupt a Mets-Braves baseball game at Shea Stadium two weeks ago. In a game in which the ball can travel upwards of 110 miles per hour, the defendant's actions were dangerous to both spectators and players."

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Frank Martinez, 40, of 614 Lincoln Avenue in the Bronx. Appearing today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Gene Lopez, Martinez pleaded guilty to interference with a professional sporting event and was sentenced to 15 days in jail and ordered to stay away from Shea Stadium for three years.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that, sometime around 10:15 p.m. on April 20, 2007, while Braves pitcher Tim Hudson was pitching to the Mets pinch hitter Endy Chavez in the eighth inning at Shea Stadium, the defendant purposely shined a powerful light into eyes of Hudson and Braves shortstop Edgar Renteria from his seat behind home plate. Second base umpire Paul Emmel called time out and alerted security that the defendant's actions were causing temporary blindness to the two Atlanta players and himself. The defendant was escorted from his seat and taken to Shea Stadium's security office, where a small, streamline, high intensity flashlight was found in his backpack.

District Attorney Brown noted that the New York City Council passed the interference with a professional sporting event law in 2003 after fashion designer Calvin Klein stepped out onto the basketball court at Madison Square Garden in March 2003 to speak with player Latrell Sprewell while a Knicks game was in progress. John McCarthy, 38, of Clifton, New Jersey, was the first person charged under the law when he ran onto the field during a Mets game at Shea Stadium on May 4, 2004, carrying a sign that read "Howard Stern: Here's Johnny." McCarthy pleaded guilty in August 2004 and was sentenced to eight weekends in jail, fined \$2,000 and ordered to serve three years' probation, during which he was prohibited from going to Shea Stadium.

Assistant District Attorney Kristen A. Kane, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni.

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