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**FORMER NYPD DETECTIVE CHARGED WITH QUEENS BANK ROBBERY**

*Faces Up to Seven Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a retired New York City Police detective has been charged with the robbery of a St. Albans bank last month.

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Athelson Kelson, 59, of Queens. Kelson is being held pending arraignment later today in Queens Criminal Court on a complaint charging him with third-degree robbery, a Class D felony punishable by up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Kelson approached a teller at the Chase Bank branch located at 205-32 Linden Boulevard on the afternoon of July 10, 2008, and handed her a note, which read, in sum and substance: "Do not press the alarm, give me all the large bills in your drawer, I have a gun, I do not want to hurt anyone, no dye, no bait money, you have ten seconds." The defendant then allegedly repeated, "Do not press the alarm." It is alleged that the teller gave the defendant six hundred dollars in cash and that the defendant then fled on foot. The note was recovered from the teller.

The investigation was conducted by the New York City Police Department's Major Case Squad.

The case is being prosecuted by the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau, which is under the supervision of James W. Evangelou, Bureau Chief, and Robert J. Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

It should be noted that a 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 at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).