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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING NYPD OFFICERS
BY CRASHING INTO THEIR VEHICLES WITH STOLEN MTA POLICE VEHICLE**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Jamaica, Queens, man has been charged with, among other crimes, injuring three NYPD officers by ramming their vehicles with an unmarked MTA police vehicle that had been reported stolen two days earlier.

District Attorney Brown said, "This case underscores yet again the dangers faced by New York City police officers. There is nothing 'routine' or 'predictable' about a traffic stop. Every stop has the potential for danger. In this instance, the defendant was armed with a formidable weapon – a car – which he allegedly used to injure three of New York's Finest."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Larry D. Barton, 47, of 116-30 Sutphin Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens. Barton, a construction worker, was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Ira Margulis on charges of assault on a peace or a police officer, second- and third-degree assault, first-degree reckless endangerment, third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, second-degree attempted assault, third-degree criminal mischief, fourth-degree grand larceny, fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, driving by an unlicensed operator, third-degree unauthorized use of a vehicle, second-degree obstructing governmental administration and resisting arrest. Barton, who faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$100,000 bail and to return to court on March 4, 2008.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Barton was observed by three plainclothes NYPD detectives at approximately 2:10 p.m. on February 18, 2008, getting into the driver's seat of a 2001 Dodge Durango parked at the intersection of 107th Avenue and 164th Street in Jamaica, Queens. A second defendant – Sonia P. McClean, 52, no known address – allegedly got into the front passenger seat. The Durango was an unmarked MTA police vehicle that had been reported stolen on February 16, 2008, from a car wash on Jamaica Avenue and 187th Place. The three detectives – who were sitting in an unmarked NYPD Ford Explorer and displaying their shields around their necks – drove up to the Durango in such a manner that both vehicles were faced nose to nose. It is alleged that when police repeatedly asked the defendants to step from the vehicle, McClean did as directed but Barton refused and instead started up the Durango and drove forward, pushing the NYPD Explorer backwards into the middle of the intersection. At that point, two of the detectives – Detectives Michael Busso and Michael Pesale – exited their vehicle and, displaying their shields, approached Barton who allegedly drove toward them at a high rate of speed and attempted to hit them head on. Barton then repeatedly rammed the Durango into the Explorer, causing the air bag to deploy and resulting in the driver – Detective William Heiser – to suffer bruising and substantial pain to his chest, ribs, lungs and left hand, as well as shortness of breath.

(MORE)

The District Attorney said that it is further charged that at approximately 2:25 p.m., uniformed police officers Peter Boneta and Vicky Tobin were sitting in their patrol car at a traffic light at 157th Street and Linden Boulevard when Barton drove the Durango into the front passenger side of their vehicle, causing Officer Boneta to suffer bruising and substantial pain to his right leg and Officer Tobin to sustain bruising and substantial pain to her right shoulder.

Finally, said District Attorney Brown, it is alleged that in attempting to place Barton under arrest, the defendant flailed his arms and legs in an effort to avoid being handcuffed.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant McClean was separately charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance – a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail – after police allegedly recovered one glass pipe containing cocaine along with one metal pusher containing cocaine. McClean, who was also arraigned last night in Queens Criminal Court, was ordered held on \$2,500 bail and to appear in court on Friday, February 22, 2008.

All three officers were transported to a local Queens hospital, where they were treated for their injuries.

The case against Barton is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert J. Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney James W. Evangelou, Bureau Chief, and the case against McClean is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kimberly A. Affronti, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Criminal Court Bureau, under the supervision of Joan I. Ritter. Both cases are being prosecuted 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 criminal charges are merely accusations 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