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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS TEACHER CHARGED
WITH ASSAULTING 12-YEAR-OLD STUDENT**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a teacher at a Richmond Hill elementary school has been charged with assaulting a 12-year-old student last week by punching him in the head with a closed fist and throwing him against a table.

District Attorney Brown said, "Under no circumstances is it ever appropriate for a teacher to hurl objects at students. Such behavior poses a threat to the safety of all those in the classroom."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Scott M. Antwork, 58, of 213-02 73rd Avenue in Oakland Gardens, Queens, and a teacher at P.S. 54, located at 86-02 127th Street in Richmond Hill. The defendant, who is presently awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens, is charged with third-degree assault, endangering the welfare of a child and second-degree harassment. If convicted, the defendant faces up to one year in jail.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, while working as a teacher at P.S. 54 on the afternoon of Friday, June 20, 2008, Antwork punched 12-year-old Edgar Lopez in the head with a closed fist, placed him in a choke hold, and then grabbed the student's right arm and pushed him into a table. It is alleged that as a result of Antwork's actions, Lopez suffered a laceration to his chin and neck, as well as bruising and swelling to his right arm and leg.

Antwork was arrested by police officers assigned to the New York City Police Department's 102nd Precinct.

The District Attorney's Criminal Court Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Joan I. Ritter, Bureau Chief, and Kimberly A. Affronti, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for the Trial Division, James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys 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: An e-version of this press release is posted on the QDA website at www.queensda.org.