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**D.A. BROWN: NEW YORK CITY CORRECTION OFFICER**  
**CHARGED IN THEFT OF SISTER-IN-LAW'S IDENTITY**

*Allegedly Opened Jewelry Account in Her Name*

\_\_\_\_\_ Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a New York City correction officer has been charged with stealing his sister-in-law's identity to open a charge account at a jewelry store and with writing himself a check off of one of her personal accounts.

District Attorney Brown said, "Identity theft is a growing problem and it is disheartening to have a member of the law enforcement community allegedly engaging in this serious crime. "

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Paulin Montauban, 39, of 434 Beach 58<sup>th</sup> Street in Far Rockaway, Queens. The defendant, who was arrested today at Rikers Island where he is assigned to work, is presently waiting to be arraigned in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on the charges of second-degree forgery, second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument, first-degree falsifying business records, second-degree identity theft, petit larceny, fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property and third-degree unlawful possession of personal identifying information. Montauban, who has been suspended from his post pending the outcome of this case, faces up to seven years in prison if convicted.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, the investigation began when the victim, Rajinder Montauban, found a bank statement from her checking account in September 2007 containing a cancelled check for \$180 made out to the defendant, allegedly in the defendant's handwriting with the victim's name signed on the check. In addition, it is charged that in April 2008, the victim received a statement from Zales jewelers for \$577.36 for a watch purchased on an account that had been opened in her name, using her Social Security number, but using a Florida address formerly used by the defendant.

The case was investigated by detectives assigned to the New York City Police Department's 101<sup>st</sup> Precinct Detective Squad.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Neil F. Gitin, of the District Attorney's Economic and Environmental Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Peter A. Crusco, Executive Assistant District Attorney, Investigations Division, and Linda M. Cantoni, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney.

It should be noted that a criminal 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).**