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**D.A. BROWN: NEW YORK CITY LIVERY DRIVER CHARGED
WITH STEALING CREDIT CARD IDENTITY OF DOZENS OF PASSENGERS**
Allegedly Used Information to Pay For His Own EZ Pass Account

District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a New York City livery driver has been charged with stealing the credit card account information of scores of passengers which he then used to pay for his EZ Pass account.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of taking dozens of passengers for a ride by stealing their credit card information to pay for his EZ Pass. Unfortunately for him, his alleged EZ Pass fraud led to an easy arrest. This case should serve as a warning that everyone should check their credit accounts each month for accuracy and to check the national credit agencies at least once a year to protect themselves from fraudulent activity as identity theft is a growing area of concern locally and nationally."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Jagmeet Singh, 23, of 2110 Barnes Avenue in the Bronx and 148-32 87th Avenue in Jamaica, Queens. The defendant, who is presently awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens, is charged in a 104-count complaint with one count of fourth-degree grand larceny, one count of fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, two counts of first-degree scheme to defraud, three counts of second-degree identity fraud, one count of fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, 48 counts of first-degree falsifying business records and 48 counts of petit larceny. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that a joint investigation was commenced by detectives from the New York City Police Department's Identity Theft Squad and investigators from MTA Bridges and Tunnels following a complaint from the EZ Pass Customer Service Center that forty-eight separate transactions had been made using either American Express, Visa or MasterCard credit accounts and that all 48 transactions, totaling \$2,286.75, had been declined as fraudulent by the credit card companies and had been charged back to the EZ Customer Service Center.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the complaint, Singh was working for Henry Limousine, at 50-19 49th Street in Woodside, between September 29, 2007, and March 26, 2008, and that each of the 48 transactions were conducted after the defendant drove the respective cardholders. It is further alleged that at the time of his arrest today the defendant made statements admitting that he made an extra impression of a passenger's credit card and then used the account information for four or five EZ Pass accounts he maintained.

The investigation was conducted by MTA Bridges and Tunnels Investigator Jose Vasquez, and assisted by Investigators Richard Cummins and Norman Horowitz, under the supervision of George Lake, Director, Special Investigations Division, and under the overall supervision of Donald Look, Chief of Internal Security, David Moretti, Acting President, MTA Bridges and Tunnels, and Elliot Sander, MTA Executive Director, and by Detective Armando Coutinho, of the New York City Police Department's Identity Theft Squad, under the supervision of Lieutenant Marash Vucinaj, and under the overall supervision of Chief of Detectives George F. Brown.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Neil F. Gitin, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Gregory Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under 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.