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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS CITY COUNCIL MEMBER PLEADS GUILTY
TO SEXUALLY ABUSING WOMAN AT CAMPAIGN OFFICE

Resigns From Office; Apologizes To Victim; And Agrees To Seek Alcohol Treatment

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that City Councilmember Dennis P. Gallagher has pleaded guilty to forcibly touching and sexually abusing a 52-year-old woman whom he met at a neighborhood bar last July and then brought to his Middle Village campaign office. In addition, he has resigned from the City Council, apologized to his victim and agreed to enroll in an alcohol treatment program.

District Attorney Brown said, "With today's guilty plea justice has been served – and the victim in this case has been spared the trauma and humiliation of having to publicly testify at subsequent court proceedings. The defendant's admitted actions are particularly troubling because they involve a public official who had a special responsibility to uphold and obey the law. His behavior constituted not only a serious violation of law, but a breach of the trust that we have placed in, and have a right to expect of, our elected public officials."

The District Attorney said that Gallagher, 43, of Middle Village, appeared today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Robert M. Raciti and pleaded guilty to the crimes of forcible touching and third-degree sexual abuse. In pleading guilty, Gallagher stated that:

"On Sunday, July 8, 2007, while I was intoxicated, I intentionally and forcibly touched intimate parts of the complainant and subjected her to sexual contact without her consent. My conduct was wrong and I apologize to the complainant. I intend to continue treatment for my alcohol abuse and also announce my resignation as a member of the New York City Council, effective close of business on Friday, April 18, 2008."

Gallagher, who was first elected to the City Council in 2001, was conditionally discharged upon condition, among others, that he enroll in and successfully complete an alcohol treatment program.

Marjory D. Fisher, Chief of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case with assistance from Kenneth M. Appelbaum, the Bureau's Deputy Chief, and Assistant District Attorney Jared R. Rosenblatt, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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