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**GLASGOW MAN CHARGED WITH RECKLESSLY ENDANGERING  
DELTA FLIGHT BY OPENING EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR ON AIRCRAFT**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 60-year-old man from Glasgow, Scotland, en route to Las Vegas with a layover at John F. Kennedy Airport has been charged with recklessly endangering the lives of passengers by opening an emergency exit door while the aircraft was idling on a JFK taxiway.

District Attorney Brown said, "The flight was delayed for several hours at Kennedy Airport last night due to inclement weather conditions. Apparently, the defendant wanted to get off the plane so he opened the emergency exit door. Fortunately, members of the flight crew were able to stop him before he could fully open the door and deploy the emergency chute."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Robert McDonald, 60, of 40 Blackwood Crescent in Glasgow, Scotland. McDonald was arraigned late this afternoon before Queens Criminal Court Judge Mary O'Donohue on charges of second-degree reckless endangerment and second-degree criminal tampering. McDonald, who faces up to a year in jail if convicted, was released on his own recognizance and ordered to return to court on May 18, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, McDonald was aboard Delta Flight 149 at approximately 7:45 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2009, when he opened an emergency door and activated an emergency indicator light in the cockpit. As a result of his alleged actions, the defendant caused a substantial interruption and delay in the flight and the possible replacement of the plane's emergency chute. McDonald, who was traveling with his wife, had arrived at JFK earlier in the day from Edinburgh, Scotland.

The defendant was arrested by officers of the Port Authority Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Catherine C. Kane, Chief of the District Attorney's Airport Investigations Unit, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Rackets Bureau, and Mark L. Katz, 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 the defendants are 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).