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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

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**QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH SEX TRAFFICKING**  
**FOR PIMPING OUT TEENAGE GIRL**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 21-year-old Jamaica, Queens, man has been arraigned on a multi-count indictment charging him with sex trafficking, compelling prostitution, criminal sexual act and other crimes for allegedly recruiting a 15-year-old girl into prostitution. At 16, the teen was coerced into having sex with him and strangers for money this past June.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant in this case is accused of profiting from prostitution by forcing a young teenage girl into having sex dates with men for cash. Once again, I want to emphasize that prostitution is not a victimless crime and that sex trafficking is an incessant act of brutality and degradation that scars its victims for life. The defendant now faces a lengthy term of incarceration for his alleged actions.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Tyquan Henderson, 21, of 156<sup>th</sup> Street in Jamaica, Queens. Henderson was arraigned yesterday afternoon before Queens Supreme Court Justice Ira Margulis on a 13-count indictment charging him with compelling prostitution, sex trafficking, second-degree promoting prostitution, third-degree rape, third-degree criminal sexual act and endangering the welfare of a child. Henderson, who faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted, was held on \$500,000 bail (with a bail sufficiency hearing) and ordered to return to court on August 22, 2018.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the investigation, the then-15-year-old victim met Henderson through a friend in May 2018. It is alleged that the young victim, who’d just turned 16, reunited with Henderson and that they engaged in sexual intercourse and oral sex. During this time, Henderson allegedly also told the victim to call him “Daddy” and forced her to engage in sexual intercourse and/or oral sex with men in exchange for money. Additionally, it is alleged that Henderson verbally threatened her with harm if she didn’t make enough money for him. He allegedly wanted her to make \$500 a night prostituting herself.

District Attorney Brown said that the case came to light when the victim went to a friend’s house on June 24, 2018, and her friend’s mother called the police.

The investigation was conducted by Detective James Ruffle, of the New York City Police Department’s Vice Enforcement Division’s Human Trafficking Team, under the supervision of Sergeant Faoud Zahirudin, Lieutenant Christopher Sharpe, and Captain Thomas Milano, and under the overall supervision of Inspector James P. Klein.

Assistant District Attorneys Jessica L. Melton, Chief of the District Attorney’s Human Trafficking Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Kathryn Schultz, of the District Attorney’s Special Proceedings Bureau, are prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Anthony M. Communiello, Chief of the District Attorney’s Special Proceedings Bureau, and Assistant District Attorneys Oscar W. Ruiz and Nicoletta Caferra, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney of Investigations Wilbert J. LeMelle.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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