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**HOMELESS MAN CHARGED WITH BRUTAL ASSAULT
OF QUEENS MOTHER IN KEW GARDENS HILLS**

Defendant Captured in South Carolina; Faces Up To 25 Years In Prison If Convicted

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 21-year-old homeless man has been charged with brutally assaulting a 52-year-old woman moments after she dropped off her son at a school Monday, April 30, 2018, in Kew Gardens Hills, Queens. The defendant was taken into custody by police in South Carolina and was returned to New York City.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant brutally attacked a Queens mother so viciously that she was unrecognizable when she was found unconscious at the bottom of a building’s stairwell. No one should have to worry about fending off a sexual attack on the streets of our county at any time of the day or night. Despite the defendant’s efforts to escape justice, he was fortunately apprehended and will now stand accountable for this horrific crime.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Ronald Williams, 21, whose last known address was a shelter in Queens. The defendant was arraigned this morning before Queens Criminal Court Judge Jeffrey A. Gershuny on a criminal complaint charging him with first-degree assault, first-degree sexual abuse and first-degree unlawful imprisonment. Judge Gershuny held the defendant without bail and ordered him to return to court on June 8, 2018. If convicted, Williams faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, on April 30, 2018, shortly after 8:00 a.m., the defendant brutally attacked a 52-year-old woman near 72nd Road and Kissena Boulevard. The mother, who’d just dropped off her child at a nearby school, was dragged to an apartment building’s outdoor stairwell and sexually assaulted and beaten. The victim was taken to a hospital and is still being treated for her injuries, which include a fractured vertebrae in her neck and a fractured orbital bone. The woman needed four staples in her head as a result of an injury which is consistent with blunt force trauma.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Salvatore Molino of the New York City Police Department’s Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Sergeant Douglas Biscardi.

Assistant District Attorney Laura Dorfman, of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Kenneth M. Appelbaum, Bureau Chief, and Eric C. Rosenbaum and Debra Lynn Pomodore, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Brad A. Leventhal.

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 on www.queensda.org