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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018

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FIVE NEW YORK CITY MEN FACE VARIOUS CHARGES
FOR SELLING STOLEN MOTORCYCLES AND ILLICIT DRUGS

*Defendants Allegedly Sold Bikes Worth Over \$39,000 and 3,513 Glassines of Heroin and Fentanyl;
Defendants Face Between 3.5 to 24 Years in Prison If Convicted*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that five men from Queens and Brooklyn have been variously charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance and criminal possession of stolen property following an investigation where the defendants are alleged to have variously sold ten stolen motorcycles, as well as heroin and fentanyl to an undercover detective between May 2018 through August 2018.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendants in this case are variously charged with selling highly addictive hard drugs and stolen motorcycles. Fortunately, as a result of a long-term investigation by the New York City Police Department’s Auto Crime Division and my office’s Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, these individuals are now out of business and facing lengthy terms of incarceration for their alleged crimes. This case should serve as a warning to drug dealers and anyone else who barter in stolen goods in Queens County that law enforcement is coming for you.”

The District Attorney identified the main defendant as David Vasquez, 29, of Harman Street in Brooklyn. Also charged are Johnnie Townsend, 37, of Rogers Avenue in Brooklyn, Christopher Alvarez, 29, of Harman Street in Brooklyn, Jose Abreu, 37, of Ozone Park, Queens and Seon Jordan, 33 of Willoughby Ave. in Brooklyn.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the complaints, Vasquez arranged meetings in the Queens neighborhoods of Ridgewood, Elmhurst and Flushing to sell various stolen motorcycles to a buyer who, unbeknownst to him, was an undercover detective. It is alleged that defendants Vasquez and Townsend sold six motorcycles – three Hondas, two Yamahas and a Triumph – to the undercover detective on four different occasions between May 7, 2018, and July 10, 2018 for a total of \$6,600. Vasquez is additionally charged with selling four other stolen motorcycles – three Hondas and a 2015 Yamaha FZ7 – to the undercover detective between May 1, 2018, and August 21, 2018 for a total of \$4,400.

District Attorney Brown noted that, according to the complaints, none of the motorcycles were sold with its keys or title of ownership. In each instance, the motorcycle’s ignition wires had been clipped and then re-taped, a common method that motorcycle thieves use to hot-wire and start the engine of a motorcycle without a key. The ten stolen motorcycles were worth in excess of \$39,000.

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In two additional complaints, the defendants Vasquez and Abreu are charged with selling 511 glassine envelopes containing a heroin and methamphetamine mixture on May 1, 2018, and 1,000 glassine envelopes containing fentanyl on July 18, 2018, to the undercover detective. Vasquez is further charged, along with defendant Alvarez, with selling 2,002 glassine envelopes containing a mixture of heroin and fentanyl to the undercover detective for \$12,000, on August 22, 2018.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives David Gonzalez, of the New York Police Department's Auto Crime Division, Brooklyn North Team, under the supervision of Sergeant Jack Sinatra and Deputy Inspector Robert LaPollo, and under the overall supervision of Chief Christopher McCormack.

The investigation also received assistance from Hugh Brickley, Senior Investigator, Criminal Investigations Financial Fraud and Consumer Protection of the New York State Department of Financial Services.

Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth A. Speck previously worked on the case and Assistant District Attorney John L. Mason, of the District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, is currently prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief, Catherine C. Kane and Mary M. Lowenburg, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and 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 criminal complaints are merely accusations 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.

ADDENDUM

David Vasquez is charged with ten counts of third-degree criminal possession of stolen property, two counts of first-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance and two counts of second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. Vasquez, who faces up to 24 years in prison if convicted, was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Jerry Iannece who set bail at \$250,000 and ordered him to return to court on November 26, 2018. Vasquez is represented by Martha Lineberger, Esq.

Johnnie Townsend is charged with six counts of third-degree criminal possession of stolen property. He was arraigned before Queens Criminal Court Judge Toni Cimino on August 30, 2018. The defendant was granted supervised release and his next court date is November 29, 2018. Townsend faces up to 3.5 to 7 years in prison if convicted. Townsend is represented by Barry Deonarine, Esq.

Jose Abreu is charged with two counts of second-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. He was arraigned before Queens Criminal Court Judge Toni Cimino on August 30, 2018. Bail was set at \$500,000. The defendant's next court date is December 18, 2018. Abreu faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted and if a court finds him to be a persistent felon and up to 14 years in prison if convicted and not found to be a persistent felon. Abreu is represented by Enrico

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Christopher Alvarez is charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. The defendant was arraigned before Queens Criminal Court Judge Toni Cimino on August 30, 2018. Bail was set at \$50,000 and the next court date is November 8, 2018. Alvarez faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Alvarez is represented by Dave Strong, Esq.

Seon Jordan is charged with one count of third-degree criminal possession of stolen property. He was arraigned before Queens Criminal Court Judge Ernest Hart on September 10, 2018, released on his own recognizance and his next court date is December 20, 2018. Jordan faces up to 3.5 - 7 years in prison if convicted. Jordan is represented by Martha Kim, Esq.

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