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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS DAYCARE WORKER CHARGED
WITH SEXUALLY ABUSING 4-YEAR-OLD BOY

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 37-year-old South Ozone Park daycare worker has been charged with sexually abusing a 4-year-old child numerous times over a six-week period earlier this year.

District Attorney Brown said, “It is alleged that during the early morning hours and the children’s nap time at the daycare center, the defendant – who has been working as a teacher’s aide at the center for some four years – would separate the four-year-old child from the other children and take him into a bathroom where she would sexually abuse him. The charges are very disturbing. The child, I’m afraid, will never recover from the emotional trauma inflicted upon him by an individual into whose care he was entrusted by his parents.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Khemwatie Bedessie, 37, of 115-32 125th Street in Queens, a teacher’s aide at Veda’s Learning Center, a licensed private daycare center located at 104-87 128th Street in South Ozone Park, for the past four years. She is presently being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on charges of one count of Rape in the First Degree, six counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, and one count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. If convicted, she faces up to 25 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Ivan A. Borbon and Thomas J. Sommerville of the New York City Police Department’s Queens Special Victims Squad (at the Queens Child Advocacy Center) under the supervision of Lieutenant Patrick Baricelli, Squad Commander, and Sergeant Guisella Rodriguez.

The Queens Child Advocacy Center is located at 112-25 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, Queens, and is a unique collaboration of governmental and nonprofit organizations working together under one roof to lessen the trauma of abused children and to ensure that each child is given the immediate, sensitive response he/she needs. The teams include staff and representatives from Safe Horizon, the District Attorney’s Office, the New York City Administration for Children’s Services, the New York City Police Department and various medical providers.

Assistant District Attorney Dianna L. Megias of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Chiefs, 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.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely accusations and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty

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