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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BRONX MAN INDICTED BY GRAND JURY ON HATE CRIME CHARGES**  
**FOR SLASHING MAN AFTER HURLING HOMOPHOBIC AND RACIAL SLURS**

*Defendant Faces Up to 15 Years in Prison if Convicted*

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced today that Ramon Castro, 55, has been indicted by a Queens grand jury and arraigned in Supreme Court on hate crime charges for allegedly slashing a man in the face after using racial and homophobic slurs near a subway station in Flushing, Queens on July 6, 2021.

District Attorney Katz said, "In Queens, we value our diversity. Attacking others because of their ethnicity or who they love is never acceptable. It will not be tolerated here. We will now seek to bring this defendant to justice for his alleged hate crimes."

Castro, of Plimpton Avenue in the Bronx, was arraigned this afternoon before Queens Supreme Court Justice Toni Cimino on a seven-count indictment charging him with assault in the first and second degree as a hate crime, assault in the first and second degree, criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree, aggravated harassment in the second degree and criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree. Justice Cimino ordered the defendant to return to Court on November 22, 2021. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 15 years in prison.

District Attorney Katz said that, at approximately 3 a.m. on July 6, 2021, the defendant allegedly yelled "I hate Latinos and f---t people" at a man who was standing near a subway station at the intersection of 77<sup>th</sup> Street and Roosevelt Avenue in Flushing, Queens. The defendant allegedly attacked the victim, cutting the 34-year-old man on the left cheek with a sharp object. Following the unprovoked attack, the defendant ran from the scene.

The victim was taken to a local hospital, where numerous stitches were required to close a wound on his face.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Daniel Zhang of the New York Police Department's Hate Crimes Task Force.

Assistant District Attorney Michael Brovner, Bureau Chief of the Hate Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Trial Division Pishoy Yacoub.

*Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.*

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