



**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
QUEENS COUNTY  
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD  
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568  
718-286-6000**

Release #153-2006  
[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2006

**CONTACT:** KEVIN RYAN  
NICOLE NAVAS  
MERIS CAMPBELL  
(718) 286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: CORONA DRIVER CHARGED IN DWI HIT AND RUN  
IN WHICH PEDESTRIAN SERIOUSLY INJURED**

*Defendant Allegedly Observed Finishing Twelve-Ounce Beer When Stopped By Police*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 33-year-old motorist who was purportedly driving with a suspended license has been charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol after running down and seriously injuring a 62-year-old pedestrian earlier this morning. When he was later pulled over, he was allegedly observed by a police officer finishing a twelve-ounce Coors Light beer.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of getting behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol and without a valid driver's license and being involved in a traffic accident in which a pedestrian was seriously injured. The defendant now faces felony assault and drunk driving charges."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Antonio Rosas, 33, of 96-18 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Corona, Queens, a construction worker. The defendant is being held pending arraignment later today in Queens Criminal Court on the charges of Assault in the First Degree, Vehicular Assault in the Second Degree (Vasean's Law), Felony Leaving The Scene Without Reporting, Operating A Motor Vehicle While Under The Influence Of Alcohol or Drugs, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the Third Degree, Driving By Unlicensed Operator, Driving Without Insurance, Driving On Roadways Laned For Traffic, Crossing At Other Than Crosswalks, Operation of Vehicles With Safety Seats and Safety Belts and Equipment of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, just after midnight on June 28, 2006, the defendant was observed driving a 1991 Chevrolet van without headlights, without a seatbelt and weaving unsafely over a double yellow line before striking a pedestrian, Edgardo Pizarro, 62, at the intersection of 97<sup>th</sup> Street and Roosevelt Avenue. The force of the impact allegedly caused the victim to be propelled over the defendant's vehicle, causing him to sustain severe head injuries. The victim, who remains unconscious, was immediately transported to a local hospital.

The complaint further charges that the defendant fled the scene in his vehicle and that when pulled over by police he was observed finishing a twelve-ounce Coors Light beer in front of the police officer. It is further charged that the defendant could not produce a valid driver's license when asked to do so and was observed to have a strong odor of alcohol on his breath, bloodshot eyes, slurred speech and was unsteady on his feet when asked to step out of his vehicle.

Finally, the complaint charges that an intoxilyzer test administered to the defendant resulted in a blood alcohol content reading of .272 percent – more than three times the legal limit of .08 percent in New York. In addition, it is charged that the defendant had his driver's license suspended six times on one date.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant was arrested by police officers of the New York City Police Department's Patrol Borough Queens North Task Force.

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

#

**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**