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**D.A. BROWN: "JOHN DOE" CHARGED AS QUEENS SERIAL RAPIST
FOLLOWING ARREST FOR MINOR TRAFFIC VIOLATION**

*Prosecution Result of Innovative John Doe Indictment Project
That Closes Statute of Limitations Loophole for Sexual Predators*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Queens Village man arrested for driving with a suspended license has been charged with sexually assaulting five Laurelton Gardens women – ranging in age from 43 to 75 – over the last ten years.

District Attorney Richard A. Brown said that, "The charges are based, in part, on DNA evidence collected at three of the crime scenes and a 'John Doe' indictment filed only a month before the statute of limitations was set to expire in the 1995 burglary and rape of a 43-year-old woman at knife point. The indictment resulted from an investigation conducted as part of the so-called 'John Doe Indictment Project' begun by the City's five District Attorneys in 2004 to overcome a loophole in the law that had been impeding the prosecution of unidentified sexual predators due to the expiration of the statute of limitations. The 'John Doe Indictment Project' allows prosecutors to indict an unidentified DNA profile obtained from evidence collected from victims or at the scene of a crime. If a suspect whose DNA matches the profile is ever caught, he can be prosecuted even if the statute of limitations had expired."

District Attorney Brown added, "As a result of the John Doe Indictment Project, justice delayed is no longer justice denied for the victims of sex crimes. In today's case, the defendant was arrested earlier this week for a minor traffic infraction – his first brush with the criminal justice system. In providing fingerprints as part of the booking process, it was determined that his prints matched those of an individual wanted for questioning in a series of rapes extending back nearly a decade. The prints also matched those recovered from a crime scene in which DNA evidence was also collected and presented to a Queens County grand jury, which voted a 'John Doe' indictment based on the unidentified DNA profile."

District Attorney Brown continued, "The fact patterns involved in these cases is a frightening chronicle of sexual violence by a dangerous predator. Hopefully, the women who were brutally victimized and have had to live with the knowledge that their rapist was still at large and possibly preying on other women can rest a little easier in knowing that justice will be served and that the defendant will be vigorously prosecuted for these heinous crimes."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Jauan Griffith, 27, presently of 185-01 Hillside Avenue in Queens Village. He previously lived in the Laurelton Gardens area, where the alleged rapes occurred. He is being held pending arraignment later today in Queens Criminal Court, and Supreme Court at a later date, on a multitude of crimes – including Rape in the First Degree, Sexual Abuse in the First degree, Robbery in the First Degree, Burglary in the First and Second Degrees and Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree. If convicted he faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said, according to the "John Doe" indictment, it is charged that the defendant, armed with a knife, broke into the residence of a 43-year-old woman at approximately 3:20 a.m. on July 27, 1995 and raped and robbed her. The indictment further alleges that, at approximately 3:55 a.m. on March 4, 2004, the defendant burglarized the residence of a 51-year-old woman during which time he raped her. Finally, on July 4, 2004 at approximately 3:10 a.m., it is alleged that the defendant raped and burglarized a 58-year-old woman.

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The District Attorney said, according to the two complaints being filed in Queens Criminal Court, it is alleged that the defendant sexually assaulted and burglarized the residence of a 75-year-old woman at approximately 1:30 a.m. on March 21, 1997, and raped a 43-year-old woman in her home at approximately 3:30 a.m. on August 30, 1997.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Richard Santangelo of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer and Detective Kevin Koenderman of the District Attorney's Detective Bureau under the supervision of Lawrence J. Festa, Chief, and Albert D. Velardi, Deputy Chief.

Assistant District Attorney Karen B. Migdal, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Daniel A. Saunders.

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

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Note to Editors: An e-version of this press release is posted on the QDA website at www.queensda.org.