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D.A. BROWN: ADMITTED STREET GANG MEMBER INDICTED
ON CHARGES OF KIDNAPPING AND PROSTITUTING 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL

Faces Up to 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today the filing of a multi-count indictment charging an admitted “Blood” gang member with kidnapping and promoting the prostitution of a 15-year-old Bronx runaway throughout the metropolitan area over a three-month period.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is accused of participating in a modern-day version of slavery by holding a teenage runaway captive and coercing her through physical and psychological intimidation to prostitute herself for his own financial gain. Few activities are as brutal and dehumanizing as prostitution. The defendant’s alleged actions as the victim’s pimp and captor not only destroyed the innocence and hopes of this child, who was once enrolled in a gifted student program, but put her at risk of contracting a myriad of serious and fatal diseases, including HIV/AIDS.”

District Attorney Brown continued, “The problem of child prostitution and the sexual exploitation of children is serious – and it is growing. During 2004 alone, 150 girls under the age of 17 were arrested in New York City for prostitution – 53 of them in Queens. We find ourselves prosecuting at least two new cases each month against individuals who are engaged in promoting underage prostitution. Since the year 2000 my office has prosecuted 63 pimps for prostituting young girls under the age of 19, including 35 pimps for prostituting girls under the age of 16. Such sexual exploitation of children cannot be tolerated.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Troy “Drip” Siddons, 20, of 174-15 127th Avenue in South Jamaica, Queens. The defendant has been charged in an eight-count indictment with Kidnapping in the First Degree, Promoting Prostitution in the Second and Third Degrees, Assault in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second and Third Degrees, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Menacing in the Second Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that according to the charges the defendant forced the 15-year-old victim to work for him as a prostitute between November 14, 2005 and January 31, 2006, at private residences throughout New York City and New Jersey, at various New York City hotels – including the Executive Motor Inn, located at 151-67 North Conduit Avenue in Springfield Gardens, Queens – and at a “track” (a known prostitution location frequented by prostitutes and their customers) at 150th Street and Rockaway Boulevard.

The indictment further alleges that the defendant instructed the victim to offer sexual services in exchange for cash. In some instances, it is alleged that the defendant arranged for her to have sexual intercourse with male customers and to charge \$200 per hour. After such encounters, the victim allegedly would have to give half of the proceeds from her prostitution-related activities to the defendant.

Finally, it is alleged that in order to hold the victim against her will, the defendant would punch, hit and choke her and threaten her with .357 handgun, which he displayed on a table beside her in order to provoke fear in her.

On February 2, 2006, the NYPD’s Queens Vice Enforcement Squad executed a court-authorized search warrant at the defendant’s residence and recovered a loaded .357 black handgun from a clothing hamper and two live rounds of ammunition, specifically for .38 caliber and .380 revolvers. Also recovered were “Blood” gang beads and business cards offering “all entertainment”

including “massage therapy, private parties, private dancing, social gathering and much more.” The motto on the cards read: “Don’t cheat yourself, treat yourself.”

District Attorney Brown noted that the Executive Motor Inn was declared a public nuisance and ordered closed by Queens Supreme Court Justice Martin J. Schulman on December 10, 2005 following a pre-dawn raid by a task force of police officers and investigators from the District Attorney’s office, together with representatives of the New York City Departments of Buildings and Finance, during which the motel’s night clerk was arrested along with a 41-year-old alleged “John” found in the company of a 15-year-old runaway in one of the motel’s rooms. The raid was the result of numerous complaints received by the NYPD and the District Attorney’s office from area residents about the activities at the motel and a burgeoning street-walking problem in the area. The motel continues to remain closed at the present time and the two criminal cases arising from the raid are pending.

The closing of the Executive Motor Inn and the indictment of Troy Siddons are part of a major initiative dubbed Operation Guardian which targets those who sexually exploit children. The initiative, which was announced by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and District Attorney Brown in June 2005, provides around-the-clock services to victims to help them, win their trust and gain their cooperation in prosecuting pimps.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives John D’Onofrio and Anthony DiCarlo, of the Queens Vice Enforcement Squad, under the supervision of Sergeant Peter Auerbach and Captain Michael E. Ameri and the overall supervision of Deputy Bureau Chief of Vice Enforcement Division James P. O’Neil, in conjunction with the District Attorney’s Special Proceedings Bureau. Detective Kim Andrews, of the 105 Precinct Detective Squad, assisted in the investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Jennifer S. Michael of the District Attorney’s Special Proceedings Bureau is prosecuting the case, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Susan Kim, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony M. Communiello, Chief, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org