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D.A. BROWN: WHITESTONE COUPLE CHARGED
WITH ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF WEAPONS ARSENAL

Face Up to 25 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Whitestone couple have been charged with keeping a large cache of illegal weapons and a sizeable amount of ammunition in their apartment following a police response to a domestic situation at their residence.

District Attorney Brown said, "Responding to a family dispute is among the most difficult challenges facing police officers as these types of situations can often escalate and turn violent. The situation can become even more dangerous when – as in this case – responding officers are confronted with deadly weapons in plain sight. The police should be commended for handling the situation professionally and effectively. However, it is disturbing to find such a lethal arsenal of this size being stockpiled in a residential community. Illegal firearms pose a serious and deadly threat to public safety."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Keith D. Boyer, 45, and his wife, Roberta Boyer, 39, of 14-11 148th Street in Whitestone, Queens. The Boyers were arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Joseph Zayas on one count of criminal possession of a weapon in the first degree, two counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree (as an armed offense), five counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree, three counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree (as an armed offense) and 29 counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree. Keith Boyer was additionally charged with one count of menacing in the second degree, one count of criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree and one count of harassment in the second degree. Keith and Roberta Boyer, who each face up to 25 years in prison if convicted, were ordered held on \$500,000 and \$100,000 bail, respectively, and to return to court on May 14, 2007.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, when police officers from the New York City Police Department's 109th Precinct went to the Boyers' residence on the morning of April 25, 2007, in response to a 911 call, Roberta Boyer informed them that her husband, Keith Boyer, had pointed a loaded handgun at her during a verbal argument. As police entered the Boyers' second-floor apartment to arrest Keith Boyer, they discovered a .32 caliber pistol laying in the bedroom in plain sight and were told by Roberta Boyer that her husband had numerous guns located in a safe inside their bedroom closet. The police obtained a search warrant and recovered an assault rifle with a scope and two magazines propped up against the safe and a total of 27 firearms from inside the safe. Also recovered were 275 boxes of ammunition, one large bag of loose rounds, dozens of magazines and holsters, six revolver speed loaders, one large capacity ammunition feeding device, assorted knives, handcuffs, silencers and a box of exploding targets.

Assistant District Attorney Mark Katz, Supervisor of the District Attorney's Narcotics Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Wilbert J. LeMelle, Bureau Chief, and Karen J. Friedman, 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 a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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