



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

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

**D.A. BROWN: RIKERS ISLAND INMATE CHARGED
IN MURDER-FOR-HIRE PLOT TO KILL MOTHER**

Alleged Hitman Actually Undercover Police Officer; Defendant Faces Up to 25 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 30-year-old Astoria man scheduled to be released from Rikers Island after serving four months for possession of drugs has been charged with the jailhouse hiring of an undercover police officer, posing as a hitman, to kill his mother in her Astoria home in return for three of the woman's fur coats valued at \$10,000.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant, an only child, allegedly solicited an individual whom he thought to be a hitman to kill his mother over the Easter weekend, believing that being in jail afforded him an airtight alibi. Unfortunately for him, the hitman was an undercover police officer and their conversation – detailing the alleged plot – was being secretly recorded."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Joseph Salvio, 30, of 30-63 35th Street in Astoria. Salvio, who was scheduled to be released yesterday after serving a four-month jail sentence for possession of a controlled substance, has been charge with one count of Conspiracy in the Second Degree (to Commit Murder), a Class B felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, on the afternoon of Friday, April 6, 2007, the defendant met with an undercover police officer, posing as a hitman, on Rikers Island, and solicited him to murder his mother – 54-year-old Susan Allogramento – in her Astoria home. Salvio, who allegedly did not get along with his mother and wanted his inheritance, offered the undercover officer three of his mother's fur coats – a mink, a fox and a raccoon – valued at approximately \$10,000. The defendant allegedly wrote down various information – such as his mother's address, phone number and how he wanted the murder to look like a robbery – and handed the sheet of paper to the undercover officer.

The District Attorney said that the defendant is scheduled to be arraigned later today in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens.

The investigation leading to today's arrest was conducted by NYPD Detective Enrico Morriello and Sergeant Robert Delaney, of the Identity Theft Squad, under the supervision of Captain Gregory T. Antonsen, Squad Commander, and the overall supervision of Chief of Detectives George F. Brown.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jason P. Garelick, under the supervision of Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney 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.