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Release # 83-2007  
[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2007

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**D.A. BROWN: HOMELESS MAN CHARGED IN HOLLIS APARTMENT BREAK-IN**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 30-year-old homeless man has been charged with breaking into a Hollis apartment earlier this month and attempting to steal electronic and other personal items.

District Attorney Brown said, "It is every burglary victim's worst nightmare – coming home to a ransacked apartment and unexpectedly confronting the burglar who is still on the premises. In this case, it is alleged, the burglar when confronted by the resident was captured by other residents of the building when he attempted to flee the scene."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Robert Williams. He was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Gene Lopez on charges of second-degree burglary and possession of burglar's tools. Williams, who faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted, was ordered held without bail and to return to court on May 7, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, on the afternoon of April 19, 2007, a female resident of 190-25 Woodhull Avenue in Hollis was notified at work by a neighbor that her apartment had been broken into sometime that day. Returning to her apartment at approximately 6:00 p.m., the resident found her front door open and her apartment ransacked. Once inside, she discovered her television, VCR and some toiletries had been placed in a bag by the door. At that moment, it is alleged, the defendant opened the door and entered the apartment, only to see the resident and flee the scene.

The complaint further alleges that another resident of the building had seen the defendant exiting the burglarized apartment prior to the tenant returning home from work. At the time, the defendant was allegedly carrying a hammer. Police allegedly recovered a hammer and two screwdrivers on the floor in front of the burglarized apartment.

The defendant was arrested by police officers assigned to the New York City Police Department's 103<sup>rd</sup> Precinct.

Assistant District Attorney John Carroll, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Chief and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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

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