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**D.A. BROWN: HOMELESS MAN SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR RAPE OF QUEENS WOMAN AND ATTEMPTED RAPE OF TEENAGER**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 45-year-old homeless man convicted last month of the attempted rape of a Queens teenager and the forcible rape, sodomy and robbery of another woman has been sentenced to 40 years in state prison.

District Attorney Brown said, "On the date of the incidents, the defendant was wandering through the streets of Laurelton during the early morning hours, looking for vulnerable women on whom to prey. Within the space of 15 minutes, the defendant forever altered the lives of two innocent women. His offenses are crimes of violence that pose a serious threat to public safety. As such, the sentence imposed today is more than warranted."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as James Clark Brown, 45, no known address. The defendant was convicted on July 23, 2007, following a 11-day jury trial, of two counts of first-degree rape, two counts of first-degree sodomy, one count of first-degree robbery and one count of first-degree attempted rape. Queens Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Cooperman, who presided at trial, imposed today's sentence of 25 years for the rape, sodomy and robbery of one woman and a consecutive term of 15 years for the attempted rape of the teenage girl.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to testimony at trial, the defendant approached his first victim, a 19-year-old girl, in front of the Springfield Gardens Post Office, located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard, at 6:30 a.m. on June 13, 2006 and stated that he had a gun. The defendant then ordered her to follow him and indicated that he intended to have sexual intercourse with her. The defendant further stated that if she screamed or tried to run away he would kill her. At this point, the victim told the defendant that she wanted to tie her shoe. When the defendant let go of her hand, the victim ran into the post office parking lot where employees were gathered and called police.

The District Attorney said that it was further stated at trial that approximately fifteen minutes later the defendant approached a 34-year-old single mother and MTA worker, and again told her he had a gun and that he would hurt her if she screamed or ran away. The defendant then walked her to a detached garage in the rear of 136-39 220th Street where he sodomized and raped her. The defendant then smoked some crack cocaine and raped and sodomized his victim a second time before demanding money from her.

The defendant was arrested on June 15, 2006, by detectives of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad.

The investigation was conducted by Police Officer James Ropenus and Detective James O'Boyle of the NYPD's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer.

Assistant District Attorney Mina Q. Malik, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaun and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Daniel A. Saunders.

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