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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**D.A. BROWN: FOREST HILLS WOMAN CHARGED**  
**WITH DUI AND VEHICULAR ASSAULT**

*Allegedly Injured Three People – including 3-Year-Old Child –  
and Dragged Stroller for Four Blocks*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 54-year-old Forest Hills woman who allegedly admitted to drinking a bottle of vodka before getting behind the wheel has been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, injuring three people – including a 3-year-old girl in a stroller – as they walked across the street and then leaving the scene of the accident with the child's stroller lodged under the vehicle.

District Attorney Brown said, "Drinking and driving is a deadly combination, one that has the potential of turning a vehicle into a lethal weapon. In this case, the defendant is accused of getting behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol, plowing into three members of a family as they were crossing the street and then speeding away without checking to see if anyone needed medical assistance. The defendant now faces felony drunk driving charges."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Susan E. Karnabe, 54, of 65-15 Alderton Street in Forest Hills, Queens. She is being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on charges of first- and second-degree vehicular assault, second-degree assault, second-degree reckless endangerment, fourth-degree criminal mischief, endangering the welfare of a child, leaving the scene of an accident without reporting (personal injury and property damage) and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If convicted, the defendant faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, 57-year-old Aviva Govshovitz was crossing the intersection of Gerard Place and Yellowstone Boulevard at 2:45 p.m., on Saturday, August 4, 2007, on foot with her 86-year-old mother, Frida Shein, and 3-year-old granddaughter, Mia Tetelman, who was riding in a baby stroller when the defendant, driving her dark grey 1987 Mazda RX7, struck them. It is alleged that, as a result of the impact, Mia Tetelman was ejected from the stroller and suffered multiple injuries, including multiple rib fractures and pulmonary contusions, Frida Shein suffered a broken rib, black eye and lacerations, contusions, and swelling and substantial pain to her head, body and both legs, and Aviva Govshovitz suffered lacerations, contusions and substantial pain to her body. Mia Tetelman was taken to a local Queens hospital, where she is presently intubated and unconscious and her conditional is listed as critical.

It is further alleged that the despite being told by eyewitnesses to stop because she hit several people, the defendant drove off, dragging the stroller for approximately four blocks. When police arrived at her home later that day, the defendant was allegedly observed to have a strong odor of alcohol on her breath, an unsteady gait and slurred speech. It is alleged that an intoxilyzer test administered to the defendant resulted in a blood alcohol content reading of .094 percent – above the legal limit of .08 percent in New York.

In statements made to police, the defendant allegedly admitted that she started drinking at approximately 2:00 p.m. that day and that she drank a bottle of vodka. The defendant also allegedly admitted that she had gone to her son's house but that he had told her to leave or he would call the cops. The defendant allegedly admitted that as she drove home, she hit something on Yellowstone Boulevard and heard people screaming and that when she reached Dartmouth Street and Yellowstone Boulevard, a young man yelled out, "Look what's under your car" and someone pulled out a baby stroller after which she drove off. When she arrived home at 3:00 p.m., the defendant allegedly admitted to observing that her driver's mirror was missing and there was a white paint stripe on the right side of her car.

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It is alleged that at the time of the accident, the defendant had sideswiped a parked white 2006 Honda Civic and had damaged the left side fender, the driver's side mirror and front bumper. The defendant's own vehicle allegedly suffered the following damage: missing driver's side mirror, broken passenger side mirror, damage to both side bumpers and the front bumper, scratches to the hood and roof of the car, and what appeared to be white paint on the side of the car.

The defendant was arrested by detective assigned to the 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct Detective Squad.

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](http://www.queensda.org).**