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**D.A. BROWN: SPRINGFIELD GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER**  
**CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED RAPE OF 14-YEAR-OLD STUDENT**

*Faces Up To Seven Years in Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a school safety officer at Springfield Gardens High School has been charged with the attempted rape and sexual abuse of a 14-year-old girl during a six-week period earlier this year.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is alleged to have betrayed his position of trust at a Queens high school by taking advantage of a young student. The defendant's alleged conduct is not simply a violation of law but of society's innate code of ethics. Parents should never have to be concerned or worried about their children's well-being when in school."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Robert K. Smith, 33, of 1426 Loring Avenue in Brooklyn. He is being held pending arraignment later today in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on charges of second-degree criminal sexual act, second-degree attempted rape, endangering the welfare of a child and third-degree sexual abuse. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant approached the victim on or about May 1, 2007, and kissed her in a stairwell of Springfield Gardens High School, which is located at 143-10 Springfield Boulevard. On two occasions thereafter, the defendant allegedly took the student to rooms in the school basement where he sexually abused her. Finally, it is alleged that on the afternoon of June 13, 2007, the defendant drove around the corner from the school with the student in his car, at which point he got into the backseat with the student and sexually abused her and attempted to rape her.

The case will be prosecuted by the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, which is under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Surarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under 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 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 on [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)