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**D.A. BROWN: RICHMOND HILL MAN ARRAIGNED IN ATTACK
ON NEIGHBOR – OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICER – WITH METAL PIPE**

Faces up to Seven Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 20-year-old Richmond Hill man who was shot in both legs last week by a neighbor – an off-duty police sergeant – after damaging the officer's house and threatening to physically assault him with a metal pipe has been arraigned in connection with the incident.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of taking the law into his own hands to settle a dispute – real or imagined – that he believed he had with his neighbor. It is alleged that the defendant destroyed his neighbor's property and then attempted to physically assault the homeowner. Such conduct cannot be tolerated. This case will be prosecuted vigorously and swiftly to ensure that justice is served."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Talwinder Singh, 20, of 101-58 116th Street in Richmond Hill. The defendant, who was released from the hospital yesterday, was arraigned last night on charges of second-degree attempted burglary, second-degree attempted assault, fourth-degree criminal mischief, fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon and menacing before Queens Criminal Court Judge Fernando M. Camacho who set bail at \$5,000 and a return date of March 13, 2007. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, the defendant went to Sergeant Quillian Virgil's house at approximately 8:10 p.m. on February 23, 2007, and began punching, kicking and swinging a three-foot metal pipe at his front door, shattering the window pane and denting the metal portion of the door. Believing someone was breaking into his house, Sergeant Virgil opened the door and confronted the defendant who allegedly began running toward the sergeant while swinging the pipe above his head. Sergeant Virgil attempted to escape but the defendant allegedly continued to pursue him, trying to hit him with the metal pipe. The defendant was only stopped when Sergeant Virgil turned and fired his handgun at the defendant, hitting him once in each leg.

Assistant District Attorney Marissa B. Gillespie of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, Peter J. McCormack, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Supervisor and under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys 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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Note to Editors: An e-version of this press release is posted on the QDA website at www.queensda.org.
