



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000**

Release # 55-2007
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007

CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
NICOLE NAVAS
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718)286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: LONG ISLAND MAN SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS IN PRISON
IN 1997 KNIFE-POINT RAPE AND ASSAULT ON WOMAN IN HER HOME**

Arrest and Prosecution Result of DNA "Cold Hit"

_____ Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Long Island man has been sentenced to 23 years in prison for the 1997 home invasion rape of a 34-year-old Queens Village woman. The arrest and prosecution are the result of a DNA 'cold hit' which matched the DNA crime scene evidence with the defendant's DNA profile which had recently been entered in the National DNA Databank by Virginia law enforcement authorities.

District Attorney Brown said, "The sentence imposed today severely punishes the defendant for his brutal sexual assault and removes him from stepping foot on our streets for many years to come. This case underscores yet again the crucial importance of DNA evidence which is irrefutable proof of guilt or innocence. After nearly eight years of avoiding arrest, the defendant was ultimately done in by his own DNA."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Gregory Stovall, 38, of 32 Gray Avenue in Medford, New York. The defendant pleaded guilty on Monday, February 5, 2007, to first-degree rape before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert C. Kohm who imposed today's determinate sentence of 23 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on December 11, 1997, the defendant entered the Queens Village home of the then-34-year-old victim and waited for her to come home from work. When she entered her home, the defendant, wearing a mask, lunged at her and after a brief struggle held a knife to her throat and threatened, "Don't do anything stupid . . . You want me to cut your head off?" When the victim attempted to escape, the defendant tackled her in the driveway and dragged her back inside the house, causing her to sustain multiple injuries to her body. After taking her to the basement, where he blindfolded her, bound her feet, and cut off articles of her clothing, he raped her and then bound her hands before fleeing with her car and other personal items – including a mink coat, a VCR, fax machine and Christmas presents.

The victim was treated at a local hospital and medical personnel prepared a sexual assault evidence kit. A DNA sample was taken in September 2005 by Virginia law enforcement officials after the defendant was charged with burglary. The sample, which was entered into the National DNA database known as CODIS (Combined DNA Index System), positively matched rape kit DNA collected in the Queens Village case.

The investigation was conducted by retired Detective Maritza Sanchez and Detectives Richard Santangelo and Steve Dorn of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall and Sergeant Carmen Martinez.

Assistant District Attorney Frank P. DeGaetano, Supervisor 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.

#

Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.