



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release #121-2007
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007

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

**D.A. BROWN: DNA “COLD HIT” DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO UP TO 45 YEARS
IN PRISON FOR 1996 RAPE AND ARMED ROBBERY OF QUEENS HAIR SALON
EMPLOYEE**

_____ Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 38-year-old man apprehended as a result of a DNA sample that he had been required to provide in an unrelated drug case has been sentenced to up to 45 years in prison for the 1996 violent attack of a 30-year-old Richmond Hill beauty salon employee whom he raped and robbed.

District Attorney Brown said, “For ten years, the defendant mistakenly believed that he would never be caught. However, as a result of the City’s DNA Backlog Project, which is an initiative that reopens sexual assault cases in which perpetrators are identified by using DNA from rape kits and matching them with the DNA profiles of convicted felony offenders on file with the New York and national DNA databanks, he was unable to escape justice. The defendant’s DNA sample which had been recovered from the victim proved to be crucial evidence and irrefutable proof of his guilt.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Alex Jackson, 38, who is presently serving a 2½ to 5 year prison term at the Riverview Correctional Facility in Ogdensburg, New York. He was convicted earlier this month of first-degree rape, second-degree burglary and first-degree robbery. Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter, who presided at the two-week jury trial, imposed today’s indeterminate sentence of 22½ - 45 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the trial testimony, at about 4:00 p.m. on April 1, 1996, the defendant forced his way into the Cedeño Hair Salon, located at 88-02 Van Wyck Expressway in Richmond Hill, after store hours. Upon entering, the defendant produced a black handgun and forced the store’s lone occupant – a 30-year-old female employee – into the bathroom where he raped and robbed her of \$150 in cash. The defendant warned the victim that if she told anyone he would come back the next day. Before fleeing on foot, the defendant taunted the victim by leaving behind a piece of paper on which he had scribbled a false name and phone number and saying, “If you like me, you can call me.”

The District Attorney said the victim was treated at a local hospital where medical personnel prepared a sexual assault evidence kit, which included DNA evidence recovered from the victim. When the defendant was recently convicted of felony sale of a controlled substance in Manhattan, a DNA sample was taken by New York law enforcement officials. That sample was entered into the National DNA database known as CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) and positively matched the rape kit DNA collected in the Richmond Hill case.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Richard Santangelo of the New York City Police Department’s Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer.

Assistant District Attorney Karen B. Migdal, Supervisor of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief 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