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**RINGLEADER OF MAJOR AUTO THEFT PLEADS GUILTY IN THEFT OF 60
AUTOMOBILES – VALUED AT \$2 MILLION – AND FENCING THEM OUT OF STATE**

Will Be Sentenced to 3 - 6 Years in State Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that one of the ringleaders of an auto theft ring charged with stealing more than sixty high-end luxury automobiles – with a total value exceeding \$2 million over the last year – from owners in Queens and elsewhere has pleaded guilty to participating in the thefts and will be sentenced to three to six years in state prison.

District Attorney Brown said, “Here in Queens County auto theft has long been a benchmark in measuring our effectiveness in combating crime. In 1991, when I first took office, there were some 52,000 cars stolen in Queens County. Last year we were at less than 5,000 cars stolen – a decrease of more than 90 percent. This year’s numbers show an even further decrease. As such, we remain committed to aggressively investigating and prosecuting such conduct. As today’s defendant learned the hard way, those who make the mistake of setting up shop in Queens County face serious felony charges and prison sentences.”

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Deshawn Eaddy, 29, of 118 Tapscott Street in Brooklyn. Eaddy pleaded guilty today to the felony charge of attempted enterprise corruption before Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter, who indicated that he would likely sentence the defendant to three to six years in state prison at sentencing on November 5, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Eaddy was one of nine defendants accused of stealing more than 60 automobiles – including expensive Hummer H2s and Cadillac Escalades – from Queens County and elsewhere and selling them mainly to out-of-state buyers. Many of the vehicles were recovered in Michigan, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Georgia and Mexico. The automobiles were allegedly stolen using key codes surreptitiously obtained from auto manufacturers.

Specifically, according to the charges, Eaddy was one of two bosses of the enterprise who coordinated the theft, lay up and disposal of the targeted vehicles. Eaddy was to have obtained keys for many of the vehicles through a locksmith who, in turn, allegedly obtained the key codes (a code used in connection with the manufacture of certain automobile keys which enables only the key with the proper code to unlock and start a specific vehicle) which were needed to cut the keys from an unindicted co-conspirator who was employed at Major Chevrolet located in Long Island City, Queens. It is further alleged that the keys were then picked up and furnished to Eaddy by a courier who paid the locksmith \$50 per key and, among other things, also faxed VINs to the locksmith. Eaddy then allegedly directed two individuals – who were employed as “steal men” for the ring – to steal the vehicles.

Eaddy is the fifth defendant to plead guilty to felony charges in the case. The four remaining cases are presently pending trial.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Kenneth DeStefano and Michael McMahon of the New York City Police Department’s Auto Crime Division under the supervision of Sergeant Jonathan Schwartz, and the overall supervision of Lieutenant Gene Barelli, Captain Paul Inzirillo, and Deputy Inspector Charles V. Talamo.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert E. Miller of the District Attorney’s Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Chief, and Marc P. Resnick, Deputy Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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