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**D.A. BROWN: ALLEGED “GRAFFITI TOURIST” INDICTED FOR DEFACING
QUEENS SUBWAY TRAIN AND ENDANGERING POLICE OFFICER’S LIFE**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a resident of the Netherlands has been indicted on charges of criminal mischief and reckless endangerment for allegedly leading a police officer on a dangerous foot chase along the elevated subway tracks of Queens after allegedly spray painting a number 7 subway car at Roosevelt Avenue and Willets Point Boulevard.

District Attorney Brown said, “City officials and anti-graffiti activists have worked very hard over the years – with great success – to keep our subways, highways and buildings from becoming the graffiti-scarred eyesores they were in the past. Unfortunately, there is now a serious and growing problem of international graffiti tourism, with graffiti vandals coming to the United States – and especially here to New York City, which is considered the birthplace of hip hop graffiti – to vandalize property. In this case the defendant is alleged to have not only spray painted a subway car, but to have put a police officer’s life in danger while trying to evade arrest.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Robbert [correct spelling] Boxem, 23, (a/k/a “KRAE”), of Zwolle, Holland. He is charged in a nine-count indictment with various counts of second-degree reckless endangerment, third-degree criminal mischief, making graffiti, third-degree criminal trespass and possession of graffiti instruments. Boxem is scheduled to be arraigned today in Queens Supreme Court. If convicted, the defendant faces up to four years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, the defendant and two unidentified others trespassed onto the elevated subway tracks at Roosevelt Avenue and Willets Point Boulevard at approximately 2:15 a.m., on September 9, 2008. The defendant and the unapprehended others allegedly began tagging a number 7 train that was laid up at this location. The defendant allegedly began spray painting his tag, “KRAE,” on the side of one subway car in four different colors. With his partners, he allegedly spray painted a total of three tags on two cars, causing more than \$1,000 in damages.

According to the indictment, Police Officer Edwardo Segui saw the defendant and the unapprehended others and gave chase. He and other officers from the Citywide Vandals Task Force were able to apprehend the defendant but the other two perpetrators escaped. The defendant is accused of running onto live subway tracks during the chase in a location where a subway train had just passed. The defendant allegedly jumped off the tracks, down to a viaduct and down to the street before being captured.

The defendant, who had been released on \$5,000 bail following his arrest on September 9th, is believed to have been in New York City to attend an international graffiti event known as Meeting of Styles which was scheduled to take place on September 6 and 7, 2008.

The investigation was conducted by Police Officer Edwardo Segui of the Transit Bureau Citywide Vandals Task Force, under the supervision of Captain Elwood Selover, Commanding Officer.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Michael Brovner of the District Attorney’s Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Mariela Palomino Herring, Bureau Chief, and Michele E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert Masters

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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