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**FORMER QUEENS RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 5 - 15 YEARS IN STATE PRISON
FOR INTERNET SEX CRIME INVOLVING YOUNG GIRL IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Two Other Defendants Plead Guilty To Felony Charges In Internet "Sex Stings"

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a former Queens resident who admitted last month to engaging in sexually explicit electronic communications with a 13-year-old girl in Massachusetts has been sentenced to five to fifteen years in prison – the maximum term of imprisonment.

The District Attorney added that his office also obtained felony convictions against two Brooklyn men who, in separate cases, used the Internet to try and lure undercover detectives posing as 14-year-old Queens girls to meet for sexual relations.

District Attorney Brown said, "These cases underscore the importance of Internet surveillance initiatives by law enforcement to protect children from sexual predators and should serve as a warning to parents to closely monitor their children's Internet access and activities. The Internet goes far beyond the boundaries of one's neighborhood and can unlock the door for sexual predators to gain access to young children."

The District Attorney identified the defendant in the first case as Philip Hawthorne, 28, of 746 West Thames Street in Norwich, Connecticut. Hawthorne, who is unemployed, formerly lived at 140 Beach 123rd Street and 224 Beach 97th Street, both in Rockaway Park, Queens. Hawthorne, who pleaded guilty on March 19, 2009, to the felony crime of use of a child in a sexual performance, was sentenced yesterday before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Ira Margulis to the indeterminate sentence of five to fifteen years in prison. At sentencing, Hawthorne was also ordered to forfeit his computer and a final order of protection was issued for the 13-year-old victim.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Hawthorne began communicating with a 13-year-old Massachusetts girl in November 2007 on an Internet social networking site by using the screen name "ballin4lyfe1237@aim.com" and pretending to be a 16-year-old Boston teenager named Keith. During the course of their conversations, the girl provided "Keith" with personal information – such as where she resided and went to school, and the names of her parents – and, in turn, Hawthorne convinced the girl to send him naked pictures of herself, as well as a video of herself in which she was naked and exhibiting her genital and anal areas. He then asked her to make another video of herself performing deviant acts. When she refused he threatened

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to send the first video to her school and told her she would be taken away from her parents. He conducted the instant message conversations while living on Beach 123rd Street in Rockaway Park.

In other cases, District Attorney Brown said that Daniel E. Arquinigo, 33, of 1279 Hancock Street in Brooklyn, pleaded guilty to first-degree attempted dissemination of indecent material to minors. According to the charges, a NYPD Vice detective was operating in his undercover persona as a 14-year-old girl from Queens between January 28, 2007, and November 14, 2007, during which time he received numerous instant messages from the defendant, who claimed to be a model scout/photographer. At the time of his arrest, the defendant admitted to police that his messages were sexual in nature, that he had arranged twice to meet the undercover officer – whom he believed to be a 14-year-old girl – and that he had conversed with the officer over the Internet both from his parents' Hancock Street address and from his workplace – Worldwide Cargo Service, located at 2 Johnson Road in Lawrence, Long Island.

Also, Gennaro Narvaez, 51, of 214A 32nd Street in Brooklyn, pleaded guilty to second-degree attempted rape. According to the charges, Narvaez initiated communication with a screen name whom he believed to be a 14-year-old female from Queens – in actuality a NYPD Vice detective – on February 4, 2009. The instant messages were sexual in nature and included the defendant's desire to meet for sexual intercourse. Narvaez was arrested on February 19, 2009, when he appeared at a pre-arranged Queens location for what he believed would be a sexual encounter with the 14-year-old he had been instant messaging. He was taken into custody after approaching a female undercover police officer waiting there and identifying himself as the person with whom she had been conversing online. Police recovered two condoms from his front pants pocket.

Arquinigo is scheduled to be sentenced on June 15, 2009, at which time he will be sentenced to five years' probation. He will also be ordered to successfully complete the Mustard Seed program, a sex offender treatment program, and forfeit his computer.

Narvaez is scheduled to be sentenced on May 21, 2009, at which time he will be sentenced to time served (approximately six weeks) and ten years' probation. He also will be ordered to successfully complete the Mustard Seed program and forfeit his computers.

District Attorney Brown noted that all three defendants also will be required to register as sex offenders

The investigations were conducted by the New York City Police Department's Computer Crime Squad and its Vice Enforcement Division, and by the District Attorney's Detective Bureau.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper, of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, prosecuted the cases, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the Computer Crime Unit, and under the overall supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Alexander, Anthony M. Communiello, Chief of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau 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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Note to Editor: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.