



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release # 157-2009
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009

CONTACT: QDA PRESS OFFICE
718-286-6315

**QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH DEFRAUDING INTERNET
WATCH BUYER OUT OF \$100,000**

Allegedly Offered to Sell Patek Philippe Watch He Did Not Own

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a self-proclaimed Queens watch enthusiast has been charged with defrauding a California man out of \$100,000 by offering a nonexistent Patek Philippe watch for sale on an Internet website that caters to watch collectors.

District Attorney Brown said, "While online shopping offers a certain ease and convenience over traditional store shopping, consumers should always be cautious and remember the old adage, 'buyer beware,' because shopping online, sight unseen, can potentially pose a big risk."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Johnathan C. Jackson, 23, of 31-12 Lewmay Road in the Far Rockaway section of Queens. Jackson was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge William Harrington on charges of second-degree grand larceny, second-degree criminal possession of stolen property and first-degree scheme to defraud. Jackson, who faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted, was released on his own recognizance and ordered to return to court on September 8, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Jackson used a wireless connection to gain the Internet Protocol (IP) address of a neighbor and set up an account under the name Jonathan Miller. Thereafter, it is alleged, the defendant was in contact with a Mr. Oscar Ho, of California, regarding the sale by "Miller" and the purchase by Mr. Ho of a Patek Philippe Model 5970G watch for \$100,000. After a series of negotiations, Mr. Ho allegedly sent \$100,000 by wire transfer to a Bank of America account belonging to the defendant Jackson. Despite repeated requests, it is alleged that Mr. Ho never received the watch.

The defendant was arrested yesterday by Detective Carolyn Shabunia, of the New York City Police Department's Special Frauds Squad, under the supervision of Lieutenant Marash Vucinaj and under the overall supervision of Deputy Inspector Gregory Antonsen. At the time of his arrest, Jackson allegedly made statements to the police that he neither had the watch nor had he sent the watch and that he had used the money taken for investment purposes.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Neil F. Gitin, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Gregory Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney Peter Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda Cantoni of the Investigations Division.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#

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