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**MANHATTAN MAN'S ARRAIGNMENT ON CHARGES
OF PLACING FAKE BOMB AT LAGUARDIA AIRPORT DELAYED**

Awaiting Psychiatric Evaluation

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 32-year-old Greenwich Village man who caused a bomb scare at LaGuardia Airport – resulting in the evacuation of thousands of early morning travelers and the disruption of flights – by attempting to detonate what has turned out to be a fake bomb has been ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation to determine whether he is fit to stand trial.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is clearly a very troubled young man. As a result, the Court has directed that he be examined to determine whether he has the capacity to understand the proceedings against him and assist in his defense. Pending the results of said examination, the defendant is being held without bail. His next court date is August 6, 2009.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Scott McGann, 32, who provided a home address of 317 Ganesvort Street in Manhattan to authorities. McGann was brought this evening before Queens Criminal Judge Lenora Gerald for arraignment but was instead ordered to undergo a psychiatric examination. McGann is charged with first-degree placing a false bomb, placing a false bomb or hazardous substance in a mass transportation facility, and making a terrorist threat. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, McGann appeared at a checkpoint at LaGuardia Airport’s Terminal B at approximately 4:50 a.m. on August 1, 2009. He was allegedly wearing a backpack and sweating profusely and that when a security officer attempted to ask McGann for identification information, McGann refused to answer any questions. It is further alleged that during the officer’s questioning, the officer was informed of a suspicious package attached to the bottom of McGann’s backpack. At that point, McGann allegedly reached for and grabbed what appeared to be a trigger device with a red button attached to a wire, which, in turn, led to the package attached to his backpack.

It is additionally alleged that McGann repeatedly pressed the red button until a Port Authority police officer grabbed McGann’s hand, removed the trigger device and grabbed the package attached to the backpack – at which time he felt what he believed to be an explosive device.

District Attorney Brown said that the device was examined by the New York City Police Department’s Bomb Squad, which determined that the device was a simulated improvised explosive device consisting of batteries, cylinders and electronic components that could have been used in the construction of an actual explosive device. However, it was determined that the device did not contain any actual explosives.

McGann was arrested by police officers of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department.

Assistant District Attorney Catherine C. Kane, Chief of the District Attorney’s Airport Investigations Unit, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney’s Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, and the overall supervision Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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

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