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**OZONE PARK RESIDENT CONVICTED**  
**OF RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT AND VEHICULAR ASSAULT**

*Was Speeding On Long Island Expressway In Convertible With Seven Passengers In Car*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that an Ozone Park man has been convicted of reckless endangerment, vehicular assault, driving while intoxicated and other charges for taking his seven passengers – including six women sitting in the backseat of a top-down convertible – for a terrifying ride on the Long Island Expressway that culminated with one of the women being ejected from the vehicle and thrown across three lanes of traffic.

District Attorney Brown said, “This defendant’s reckless actions left several of his passengers with severe injuries. It is a miracle that he did not cause the death of any of his passengers or other motorists on the road that night. This dangerous behavior can not be tolerated and must be dealt with severely.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Anthony Rampino, 35, of 103-17 90<sup>th</sup> Street in Ozone Park. He was convicted of first-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree vehicular assault, two counts of driving while intoxicated, speeding, leaving the scene of an accident, driving without insurance and driving without a license following a two-week jury trial before Queens Supreme Court Justice Kenneth C. Holder. The defendant, who face up to seven years in prison, has been remanded without bail pending his sentencing on December 23, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, the defendant, while under the influence of alcohol, was driving a 2002 Chrysler convertible with the roof down at a high rate of speed – reaching up to 100 miles per hour – on the Long Island Expressway near Flushing Meadows Park in the 110<sup>th</sup> precinct on July 25, 2006. In addition to the driver, there was a male in the front passenger seat and three women in the back passenger seat with an additional three women seated on the women’s laps. The defendant ignored the women’s pleas to slow down and stop weaving in and out of traffic, instead just raising the volume on the car’s radio. He eventually crashed into two medians, then fled the scene of the accident on foot.

The District Attorney further said that, according to testimony, one of the defendant’s passengers was ejected from the vehicle and thrown across three lanes of traffic. She suffered severe abrasions on her arms, shoulders and face and required reconstructive surgery on her knees. Another woman suffered a broken pelvis. The other four women passengers were all treated at local hospitals for various back injuries and lacerations. An off-duty police officer saw the defendant leave the scene of the accident and chased him, eventually locating the defendant walking in Flushing Meadows Park. He was arrested and taken to the 112<sup>th</sup> precinct where an intoxilyzer exam was administered and indicated his blood alcohol level to be .10, which is above the legal limit.

Assistant District Attorneys Charissa Ilardi and Bradley H. Chain of the District Attorney’s Kew Gardens II Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Daniel M. Sullivan, Bureau Chief, and Mark Osnowitz and Jennifer L. Naiburg, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Trial Division, James C. Quinn, and John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**