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Release # 218-2009
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009

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**QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 75 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR VIOLENT MUGGING OF THREE WOMEN – INCLUDING 101-YEAR-OLD**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 47-year-old Queens man convicted of robbery, burglary and assault in the 2007 mugging of three Queens women – one of whom was 101 years old at the time – has been sentenced to 75 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant’s disturbingly, cowardly attacks on elderly and defenseless women – two of who needed the aid of a walker to get around – has rightfully cost him his future. He will now spend the rest of his life behind bars, never again having the freedom to breathe fresh air or the opportunity to prey on society’s most frail and vulnerable citizens.”

The District Attorney noted that the defendant’s crimes were found by the jury to be hate crimes under the provisions of New York State’s Hate Crimes Act of 2000 under which enhanced charges can be filed when a defendant is alleged to have selected his or her victim because of their disability and/or age which is defined as being 60 years of age or older.

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Jack Rhodes, 47, whose last known address was 1525 Ericksson Street in East Elmhurst. The defendant was convicted in October 2009 of first-degree burglary, first- and second-degree robbery – all as hate crimes – and first-degree burglary, first- and second-degree robbery, and second-degree assault following a four-week jury trial presided over by Queens Supreme Court Justice Gregory L. Lasak, who imposed today’s determinate sentence of 75 in prison.

Just prior to sentencing, prosecutors read a victim impact statement into the court record from one of the victims, 103-year-old Rose Morat. In her statement, Ms. Morat said: “I am writing this letter regarding my experience of a cruel and brutal attack by Jack Rhodes on March 4, 2007. Leaving my apartment he attacked, injured my face with a severe blow that broke my cheekbone. He continued hitting me several more times and left me in a pool of blood and [I] had to be taken to the hospital. Atrocities done frequently by the man Jack Rhodes must be stopped ... so that this will never happen again to other good people and life once again can be enjoyed without fear. Knowing justice will be done, I am respectfully, Rose M. Morat, 103 years old.”

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, as Angela Khan – then 51 years of age – entered her 182nd Street residence in Jamaica, through the basement garage on the evening of December 30, 2006, she was accosted by Rhodes who punched and kicked her while robbing her of cash and other personal property. Ms. Khan suffered a fractured nose, black eyes and lacerations to her face which required six stitches. The attack was caught on surveillance video.

Shortly before noon on March 4, 2007, the superintendent of a Devonshire Road building in Jamaica confronted Rhodes who was trespassing in the basement and ordered him to leave. The super watched as Rhodes left the premises with a red, pink and black bicycle.

Less than an hour later, Rose Morat – who was 101 at the time and uses a walker– was caught on a surveillance video exiting the elevator on the main floor of her Highland Avenue building. Rhodes approached her in the vestibule and offered to open the front door for her. The defendant then repeatedly punched Ms. Morat on the left side of her face while demanding money from her. The defendant then grabbed her pocketbook, which contained approximately \$33 and her house keys, before knocking her to the ground and fleeing with a bicycle. Ms. Morat was taken to a local Queens hospital and was treated for a fractured cheekbone, bruises to the left eye and facial swelling.

Approximately a half-hour later, 85-year-old Solange Elizee, who also uses a walker, was getting on the elevator of her 170th Street building at the lobby level when she saw Rhodes already on the elevator. Ms. Elizee exited the elevator alone one level below her floor and waited for the next elevator. As she exited the elevator on her floor and entered her apartment, the defendant blocked the door from closing and forced his way inside. Once inside, the defendant repeatedly punched Ms. Elizee in the face, knocking her to the floor. The defendant then removed two yellow metal rings from her hand and took her pocketbook which contained approximately \$32. Once again, the defendant fled on a bike. Ms. Elizee was taken to a local Queens hospital and treated for lacerations to her lip, abrasions and bruising to her forearm, face and buttocks.

Assistant District Attorney Eugene P. Reibstein, the District Attorney’s Coordinator of Trials, and Naomi K. Schneidmill, of the District Attorney’s Homicide Investigations Bureau, prosecuted the case, with the assistant of paralegal Alexandra Z. Friedman, under the supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org