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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009

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**QUEENS TEENAGER PLEADS GUILTY TO PROSTITUTING 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL**

*Faces up to Four Years in Prison*

\_\_\_\_\_ Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Jamaica, Queens, teenager has admitted to prostituting a 13-year-old girl who had run away from home.

District Attorney Brown said, "It is deeply disturbing that such young individuals would knowingly inject themselves into the sex trade. Prostitution is not a victimless crime but a terrifying and despicable offense against society - - and the young women it enslaves."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Dwayne Thames, 18, of 119-08 147<sup>th</sup> Street in Jamaica, Queens. Thames pleaded guilty as charged today to second-degree promoting prostitution and endangering the welfare of a child before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Joel L. Blumenfeld who indicated that – depending on the pre-sentencing report – he would sentence the defendant to an indeterminate term of either one to three years or one and one-third years to four years in prison at sentencing on March 20, 2009. Thames has been in jail in lieu of \$35,000 bail since his arrest on August 1, 2008.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Thames was observed by an undercover police officer standing at the intersection of 119<sup>th</sup> Street and Sutphin Boulevard just after midnight on August 1, 2008, and in close proximity to a 13-year-old girl, who entered the undercover officer's vehicle after offering to perform sexual intercourse for a \$120 fee. The officer drove off but returned a short while later to the intersection without the 13-year-old girl. Thames approached the vehicle and asked the officer what happened to the girl. The officer stated that the girl had changed the agreed price. Thames told the officer that the girl worked as a prostitute for him and that the officer could have sexual intercourse with her for the agreed upon fee of \$120.

The investigation was conducted by New York City Police Department's Vice Enforcement Division.

Assistant District Attorneys Charles J. Balvin, Jessica L. Melton and Stephen M. Dixon-Gordon, of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief, 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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