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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

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**HOMELESS MAN ADMITS TO STEALING CIGARETTES AND LIQUOR**  
**FROM JFK AIRPORT DUTY-FREE SHOP**

*Faces 1½ to 3 Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 43-year-old homeless man caught red-handed in front of a terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport in September selling items that he had stolen from an airport duty-free shop has pleaded guilty as charged in the case.

District Attorney Brown said, “A duty-free shop allows travelers to purchase items without paying local taxes. In this case, the defendant went a step further and simply stole what he wanted – namely, dozens of cartons of cigarettes and bottles of liquor which he offered for sale outside the shop. Based on this and his prior criminal history, the prison sentence to be imposed by the Court is more than justified.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Frederick McDonald, 43, no known address. McDonald appeared today before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Mary O’Donoghue and pleaded guilty to fourth-degree grand larceny. Sentencing was set for January 30, 2009, at which time Justice O’Donoghue indicated that she would likely sentence the defendant to 1½ years to 3 years in prison as a predicate felon.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, McDonald stole a total of forty-two cartons of cigarettes and four bottles of Chivas Regal scotch worth more than \$1,576 from the duty-free shop inside Terminal Four at JFK Airport on September 25, 2008. McDonald was observed by the Port Authority Police a short time later standing outside the terminal selling five cartons of the stolen cigarettes. McDonald fled but was arrested on October 1, 2008. He has been held in jail in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

The investigation was conducted by Detective John Reilly of the Port Authority Police Department.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin J. Mantell, of the District Attorney’s Airport Investigations Unit, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Catherine C. Kane, Chief of the Airport Investigations Unit, Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney’s Rackets Bureau, and Marc P. Resnick, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations.

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