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**KNIFE-WIELDING FAR ROCKAWAY MAN CHARGED WITH
ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A POLICE OFFICER**

Wounded Officer In Critical Condition

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 32-year-old Far Rockaway man has been charged with the attempted murder of a police officer who responded to a call concerning an emotionally disturbed man armed with a knife. Two other police officers were also injured.

District Attorney Brown said, "This case once again underscores the serious and dangerous nature of police work and the sacrifices that our police officers make in serving and protecting our community. It will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Neil Perreira, 32, of 24-50 Collier Avenue, in Far Rockaway. The defendant is charged with attempted aggravated murder, first-degree attempted murder, second-degree attempted murder, three counts of assault on a police officer, first-degree assault, second-degree assault and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The defendant is presently hospitalized for observation. If convicted of the charges he faces 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, two police officers from the 101st Precinct responded to a radio run of an emotionally disturbed person armed with a knife at 24-50 Collier Avenue. When the officers arrived they saw the defendant cutting up vegetables with a knife in the kitchen. Upon seeing the police he allegedly left the kitchen and walked into the bedroom. More police officers arrived on the scene and one of them, Sergeant Timothy Smith, knocked on the bedroom door. The defendant allegedly opened the door with a knife in his hand and stabbed Smith in the head. He allegedly injured two other officers, Daniel Sjoberg and Edward Simon, as they attempted to subdue him.

Sergeant Smith has been admitted to Bellevue Hospital with a stab wound to his left eye and his left chest, and is presently in critical condition with bleeding on the brain. The other two officers were treated at Jamaica Hospital for lacerations to their hands and released.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Kevin Cashen of the New York City Police Department's 101st Precinct Detective Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Maryam Lipkansky of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys James W. Evangelou, Bureau Chief, and Robert J. Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

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