



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

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www.queensda.org

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CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

KNIFE-WIELDING MAN ARRAIGNED ON ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGES
IN STABBING ATTACKS ON THREE PEOPLE

Held Without Bail

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 41-year-old Queens man has been charged with stabbing three people on Northern Boulevard in Flushing yesterday morning after an earlier incident in which he is alleged to have punched another person in the face.

District Attorney Brown said, "The routine of a Tuesday morning was thrown into chaos by this frightening and unprovoked attack allegedly carried out by the defendant. Without warning, three people were senselessly but deliberately stabbed – causing them to be hospitalized – and another person was punched – leading him to be treated at a hospital as well."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as David E. Williams, 41, of 147-25 Northern Boulevard in Flushing. The defendant was arraigned today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Lenore Gerald on two counts of second-degree attempted murder, three counts of first-degree assault, one count of third-degree assault, resisting arrest and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Williams faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted. He was ordered held without bail and to return to court on January 28, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, a 38-year-old man was walking in the vicinity of 147th Street and Northern Boulevard at about 9:15 a.m., when he was punched in the face by the defendant causing a laceration on his chin that required three stitches.

District Attorney Brown added that it is further alleged, that the defendant then, at approximately 9:40 a.m., stabbed a 41-year-old woman in the back, causing her to suffer a collapsed lung. She was hospitalized and is expected to recover. Within minutes, the defendant is alleged to have approached a 72-year-old woman and her 79-year-old husband. The defendant is accused of stabbing the woman in her lower chest, causing a laceration to her liver, and also stabbing her in her left arm – with the blade completely passing through her arm and into her chest. Finally, he is accused of stabbing her husband in the chest, penetrating his stomach and causing a laceration to the spleen, then stabbing him a second time in the right arm. Both the husband and wife are in critical condition.

It is further alleged, according to the District Attorney, that Police Officer James Alexander of the 109th Precinct observed the defendant holding a knife with a blade in excess of six inches at approximately 9:46 a.m., in the vicinity of 147th Street and Northern Boulevard. The officer recovered the knife from the defendant, who refused to be handcuffed and flailed his arms and kicked his legs to avoid being handcuffed.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Yanni Taveras of the New York City Police Department's 109th Precinct Detective Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Thomas Conforte.

Assistant District Attorney Andrew Wenzel, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Charles A. Testagrossa, Executive Assistant District Attorney and Daniel A. Saunders, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney, Major Crimes Division.

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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