



**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release #133-2009  
[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2009

**CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE**  
(718) 286-6315

**MALE AIDE CHARGED WITH SEXUALLY MOLESTING**  
**NINE-YEAR-OLD BOY ON SCHOOL BUS FACES ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

*Faces Up To Seven Years In Prison On New Cases*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 20-year-old school bus aide known to children as “Michael” – who has been in jail for the past almost three months on \$200,000 bail for allegedly sexually molesting a 9-year-old male student on his bus this past April – has been re-arrested and charged with inappropriately touching two more young boys.

District Attorney Brown said, “As a result of media coverage of the defendant’s arrest last April, two more youngsters have come forward and have accused the defendant of abusing them. As a result, the defendant faces an additional seven years in prison if convicted of these disturbing charges.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Darnell “Michael” Washington, 20, of 636 Beach 22<sup>nd</sup> Street in Far Rockaway, Queens. Washington, who worked as a bus aide for Philippe and Elmer Transportation, is awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on two new criminal complaints – one charging him with first-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child, and the other with endangering the welfare of a child. Washington, who has been held in jail in lieu of \$200,000 bail since April 2009, faces an additional seven years in prison on the new charges.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the latest charges, the school bus was in front of P.S. 183, located at 245 Beach 79<sup>th</sup> Street sometime between March 2, 2009, and April 27, 2009, when Washington asked an eight-year-old boy to go to the back of the bus, where he placed his hand inside the boy’s pants and gave him a ‘wedgie’ by yanking up his underwear – in the process, hurting the boy and tearing his underwear. Washington then allegedly placed his hands back in the boy’s pants – allegedly to undo the wedgie – and touched his genitals and buttocks. Finally, it is alleged that when the victim told Washington to stop, he did not. Instead, it is alleged that Washington offered the boy money and candy not to tell anyone.

It is alleged in the second incident, which also allegedly occurred in front of P.S. 183 during the same time period, Washington reached into the pants of a seven-year-old student and gave him a ‘wedgie,’ after which he gave the boy a lollipop.

District Attorney Brown noted that Washington was charged in April 2009 with sexually molesting a 9-year-old male student on the bus and with possessing nude photos of children on his cell phone. Washington was charged in that case with first-degree sexual abuse, possessing a sexual performance by a child and endangering the welfare of a child. That case is pending.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Miguel Ruiz of the New York City Police Department’s Queens Child Abuse Squad under the supervision of Sergeants Robert Garrity and Kesha Johnson and under the overall Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer.

Assistant District Attorney Debra Bresnahan, of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the cases under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#