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**QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH RECKLESSLY ENDANGERING  
LIVES OF NYPD OFFICERS WITH SERIES OF FALSE 911 CALLS**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, today announced that a 50-year-old Oakland Gardens man has been charged with recklessly endangering the lives of scores of NYPD officers who responded to approximately 20 false 911 calls that the defendant allegedly placed over the past four months in which he claimed that officers had been shot or were being held hostage. In one instance, it is alleged, responding officers sustained injuries when they lost control of their vehicle.

District Attorney Brown said, “Prank calls to police jeopardize the lives of officers and civilians alike, waste resources and keep police officers from dealing with real emergencies. Those who place such calls will be vigorously prosecuted.”

Commissioner Kelly said, “Fake 911 calls kill. They can kill officers who respond to what they believe is an actual emergency, and they kill real victims deprived of life-and-death seconds wasted on fakers.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Alex Rodriguez, 50, of 75-20 Bell Boulevard in the Oakland Gardens section of Queens. Rodriguez was arraigned yesterday before Queens Criminal Court Judge Robert C. McGann on charges of first-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree criminal nuisance and third-degree falsely reporting an incident. If convicted, the defendant faces up to seven years in prison. He was ordered held on \$10,000 bail and told to return to court on July 7, 2009.

According to the criminal charges, Rodriguez made approximately 20 phone calls to the City’s 911 emergency call system from pay phones in Queens between February 22, 2009, and June 20, 2009, variously telling the 911 operator that a named police officer or detective had been shot, killed, struck by a vehicle or was being held hostage. It is alleged that in making the calls, Rodriguez would often use such police parlance as “10-13” – officers down, needs assistance. However, all of the calls were deemed unfounded by responding units.

In one instance, two officers assigned to the NYPD’s 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct were injured when responding to an alleged 911 emergency call to supposedly aid a fellow officer – and traveling at a high rate of speed under bad weather conditions – they lost control of their vehicle and struck a metal pole. Both officers sustained injuries in the crash.

The investigation was handled by Detective Philip Schurr of the NYPD’s Major Case Squad under the supervision of Sergeant Frank Ventura and Lieutenant Christopher Stahly, and the overall supervision of Deputy Inspector Charles Neacy, Commanding Officer of the Major Case Squad.

The case is being prosecuted by Robert J. Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney’s Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau under the supervision of James W. Evangelou, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney James C. Quinn of the Trial Division and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

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

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