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**QUEENS TEENAGER WHO PROSTITUTED 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL
IS SENTENCED TO UP TO 14 TO 42 MONTHS IN PRISON**

_____ Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Jamaica, Queens, teenager who has admitted to prostituting a 13-year-old girl who had run away from home has been sentenced to up to three and one-half years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said, "Prostitution is not a victimless crime but a terrifying and despicable offense against society – and the young women it enslaves. Today's sentence - - which also requires that the defendant register as a sex offender - - is more than justified. "

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Dwayne Thames, 18, of 119-08 147th Street in Jamaica, Queens. Thames pleaded guilty last February to second-degree promoting prostitution and endangering the welfare of a child before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Joel L. Blumenfeld who imposed today's indeterminate sentence of 14 to 42 months in prison. The defendant is also required to register as a sex offender.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Thames was observed by an undercover police officer standing at the intersection of 119th Street and Sutphin Boulevard just after midnight on August 1, 2008, and in close proximity to a 13-year-old girl, who entered the undercover officer's vehicle after offering to engage in sexual intercourse for a \$120 fee. The officer drove off but returned a short while later to the intersection without the 13-year-old girl. Thames approached the vehicle and asked the officer what happened to the girl. The officer stated that the girl had changed the agreed price. Thames told the officer that the girl worked as a prostitute for him and that the officer could have sexual intercourse with her for the agreed upon fee of \$120.

Assistant District Attorneys Charles J. Balvin, Jessica L. Melton and Stephen M. Dixon-Gordon, of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted as www.queensda.org.