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FLUSHING MAN CHARGED IN HOME INVASION STABBING
OF 86-YEAR-OLD RETIRED CORRECTION OFFICER

Defendant Faces Up to 25 Years in Prison If Convicted

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 33-year-old Flushing man was arraigned today on charges he attempted to murder an 86-year-old retired corrections officer after breaking into her home and stabbing her repeatedly. The victim required hundreds of stitches.

District Attorney Brown said, "This is a terrible case of a man allegedly breaking into the home of an elderly woman and mercilessly attacking her after she was awakened by his presence. The defendant allegedly told the police that he knew the victim and decided that he had to kill her because she saw him. This case will be vigorously prosecuted."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Andre Mathis, 33, of 67-41 Kissena Boulevard in Flushing. He is charged in a criminal complaint with second-degree attempted murder, two counts of first-degree burglary, two counts of first-degree robbery, two counts of first-degree assault, one count of second-degree robbery, two counts of second-degree assault, and one count each of fourth-degree grand larceny and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. He was arraigned this morning before Criminal Court Judge Toko Serita and ordered held without bail. His next court date is March 23, 2009. He faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the complaint, the victim, Vivian Squires, was sleeping in the bedroom of her home located at 157-04 134 Avenue in Springfield Gardens, at approximately 6 a.m., on January 4, 2009, when she was awakened by a noise. She then was allegedly attacked by the defendant – who allegedly climbed in her bedroom window – and slashed her about the torso, back, neck and hands. The defendant then allegedly removed cash from the victim's pocketbook, took her car keys and stole her car out of her driveway.

The defendant allegedly admitted to police that when the victim woke up and saw him, he intended to kill her. He allegedly said there was a struggle and she fell off of her bed and he sliced her. He allegedly said she stopped moving and he thought she was dead.

The case is being investigated by Detective Scott Carson of the 113th Precinct Detective Squad.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Dianna L. Megias, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, under the direct supervision of Bureau Chief Marjory D. Fisher and Deputy Bureau Chiefs Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, and under the overall supervision Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Major Crimes Division Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Daniel A. Saunders.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely accusations and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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