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**QUEENS MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY
TO SENDING SEX VIDEOS TO THREE FEMALE STUDENTS**
Surrenders Teaching License; Will Have To Register as Sex Offender

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a former English teacher at a middle school in the South Ozone Park section of Queens County has admitted to sending sexual videos and electronic messages to three of his 12-year-old female students.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted to sending indecent messages and pictures to several of his students during his first teaching assignment. A classroom should always be a safe place for a child and a teacher should never abuse his or her position of trust and influence. This case should serve as a clear and unmistakable warning that law enforcement is prepared to apprehend and prosecute those who attempt to engage in illicit activity involving children."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Umesh Ramjattan, 24, of 91-71 115th Street in Richmond Hill, Queens. Ramjattan appeared yesterday before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Ira Margulis and pleaded guilty to Disseminating Indecent Material to Minors in the First Degree.

As part of his plea, Ramjattan, who has been free on \$50,000 bail since his arraignment on November 9, 2007, will surrender his New York State teaching license, forfeit his computer and be required to register as a sex offender. Ramjattan, who was hired as a New York City public school teacher in August 2007, has already been terminated by the New York City Department of Education. Justice Margulis set sentencing for April 20, 2009, at which time he indicated that he would likely sentence Ramjattan to five years' probation – one condition being the successful completion of the sex offenders program he presently attends. A final order of protection will also be signed for the three victims in the case.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, one of Ramjattan's female seventh-grade students at MS 137 in Ozone Park sent an e-mail on September 29, 2007, to the e-mail address the defendant had provided the class (mrramjattan@gmail.com) to ask him a question about school work. Soon thereafter, Ramjattan began instant messaging her from the screen name mrramjattan1@aol.com with questions that were both sexually suggestive and of a personal nature and that, on October 3, 2007, he sent her (via e-mail from umeshr85@yahoo.com) a video of him and his girlfriend having sexual intercourse. It is further charged that a second female student who

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e-mailed the defendant about her homework began receiving instant messages from him through his AOL account on September 29, 2007, that contained questions of a personal nature and that, sometime in early October, she received a picture of the defendant where he was not wearing a shirt. Finally, a third female student who e-mailed the defendant for help with her homework began receiving instant messages from the defendant through his AOL account that were both personal and sexual in nature.

District Attorney Brown said that an investigation began when the parents of one of the students notified school authorities that Ramjattan had e-mailed a sexual video to their daughter and the school, in turn, notified the police.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Donna Garrison and Owen Soba of the NYPD's Computer Crimes Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Dennis Lane and the overall supervision of Chief Jeremiah Quinlan.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper prosecuted the case under the supervision of Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit, and Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, 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 Editor: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.