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WHITESTONE "STREAKER" CHARGED
WITH INTERFERING WITH METS GAME AT CITI FIELD

Faces Up To A Year In Jail and \$5,000 In Penalties

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens man who disrupted last night's baseball game between the New York Mets and the Atlanta Braves by jumping onto the field naked except for a stuffed monkey strategically clad around his waist has been charged with interfering with a professional sporting event and criminal trespass.

District Attorney Brown said, "The New York Mets do not need fans who break the law. As the defendant sadly learned yesterday, one 'streak' equals three strikes and you're out – out of the ballpark and on your way to the courthouse to face arraignment on criminal charges. The Queens District Attorney's Office and the New York Mets have zero tolerance for those who interfere with the play of America's pastime."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Craig Coakley, 29, of 156-05 Cross Island Parkway in Whitestone, Queens. Coakley, who is employed at Tri-County Plumbing in Floral Park, was arraigned this afternoon in Queens Criminal Court on charges of third-degree criminal trespass and interference with a professional sporting event. Coakley, who faces up to one year in jail and civil penalties of \$5,000 if convicted, was ordered held on \$1,000 bail and to return to court on June 11, 2009. An order of protection was also issued by the court, barring the defendant from Citi Field.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, Coakley was sitting in field level seats at Citi Field at approximately 8:00 p.m. on May 12, 2009, when a security guard observed him removing his clothes and placing a stuffed monkey around his waist before jumping onto the field as the game was in progress.

At the time of his arrest, Coakley allegedly told police that he "didn't think I was gonna get in so much trouble. It was a bet. My boss said he would pay me a week's worth of salary if I did it and my lawyer told me it's only a misdemeanor."

District Attorney Brown noted that the New York City Council passed the Interference with a Professional Sporting Event Law in 2003 after fashion designer Calvin Klein stepped out onto the basketball court at Madison Square Garden in March 2003 to speak with player Latrell Sprewell while a Knicks game was in progress. John McCarthy, 38, of Clifton, NJ, was the first person charged under the law when he ran onto the field during a Mets game at Shea Stadium on May 4, 2004, carrying a sign that read "Howard Stern: Here's Johnny." McCarthy pleaded guilty in August 2004 and was sentenced to eight weekends in jail, fined \$2,000 and ordered to serve three years' probation, during which he was prohibited from going to Shea Stadium.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kristen A. Kane, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau.

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

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