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**QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS IN PRISON FOR 1997 RAPES**

*DNA "Cold Hit" Led To Capture Of Defendant*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens man has been sentenced to 17 years in prison for two 1997 rapes – that of a 33-year-old woman who was on her way to work and that of a 30-year-old woman who was riding in the defendant's vehicle which she mistakenly believed to be a livery cab. The defendant was linked to both crimes as a result of a DNA "cold hit" in which DNA crime evidence was matched to his DNA profile in the national DNA database system.

District Attorney Brown said, "Law enforcement has always had the tenacity to go back and attempt to resolve unsolved crimes. With DNA fingerprinting, we now have the technology to effectively do so. This defendant is a violent predator and today's sentence will protect the law-abiding members of our society from his brutish behavior and, hopefully, provide his victims with a measure of closure after so many years. It will also avoid the necessity of the defendant's victims having to relive their ordeals on the witness stand."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Peter Grebinger, 42, of 85-88 87<sup>th</sup> Street in Richmond Hill. Grebinger pleaded guilty to first-degree rape on April 15, 2009, before Queens Supreme Court Justice James Griffin who imposed today's determinate sentence of 17 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that as the woman was walking to the subway on her way to work at 7:30 a.m. on January 3, 1997, he approached her near 87-18 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue and forced her into a building where he raped her and then demanded money before fleeing. The defendant also admitted that on December 28, 1997, at about 6:20 a.m., he had picked up a woman who was flagging down a dollar cab on her way to work and he stole jewelry from her and then physically and sexually assaulted her inside his vehicle before kicking her out of the car and fleeing. Both woman went to local Queens hospitals where sexual assault evidence kits were prepared and DNA profiles were obtained.

District Attorney Brown said that, in July 2008, the defendant submitted a DNA sample after being arrested following an unrelated narcotics investigation. The sample and the DNA profiles on file were a match.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Eric Rosenbaum, DNA Unit Chief of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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