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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009**

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NEWS ADVISORY

Melissa Weber, 27, of West Babylon, Long Island, was arraigned this morning before Queens Criminal Court Judge Ira H. Margulis on a 22-count criminal complaint charging her with seven counts of second-degree rape, fourteen counts of third-degree sexual abuse and one count of endangering the welfare of a child. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

Weber is charged with the statutory rape of a 14-year-old boy on seven separate occasions over the past month. The abuse is alleged to have occurred at MS/IS 8 in Jamaica, where Weber is employed as a social studies teacher and the victim is a student.

Judge Margulis set bail at \$100,000 and ordered Weber to return to court on June 15, 2009.

Weber was represented at arraignment by Donald H. Vogelmann, Esq. (212-889-5860).

It should be noted that a criminal 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