



**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
QUEENS COUNTY  
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD  
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568  
718-286-6000**

Release # 214-2009  
[www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

**CONTACT:** QDA PRESS OFFICE  
(718) 286-6315

NYS LOTTERY  
(518) 388-3415

**“CON MAN” PLEADS GUILTY IN \$30,000 FORGED LOTTERY TICKET SCAM**  
*Faces Three and One-Half To Seven Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown and New York Lottery Director Gordon Medenica today announced that a Far Rockaway man who defrauded several individuals around the state out of large sums of money by creating phony winning scratch off tickets for New York State Lottery games by cutting and pasting winning numbers on losing tickets and then selling them for half the value of the supposed winning tickets – which usually had a winning prize of between \$10,000 and \$30,000 a ticket – has pleaded guilty in the case.

“The defendant has pleaded guilty to having gained the trust of strangers and offering them a way to double their money quickly on a seemingly lucrative financial offer that invariably turned out to be too good to be true,” said District Attorney Brown. “The defendant’s scheme was nothing more than a variation on a classic con game. People should always be suspicious of any financial scheme that requires them to turn over their money to a complete stranger on short notice.”

New York Lottery Director Gordon Medenica said, “Nothing is more important to the New York Lottery than the integrity of our games. We are well known in the lottery industry for having one of the most secure lottery systems in the country, and we take our responsibilities very seriously. This latest case demonstrates our highly effective approach involving Lottery investigators and local law enforcement throughout the state. We thank our partners in law enforcement, especially Queens County District Attorney Richard Brown, for leading the charge, and, most importantly, our retailers and players themselves.”

Director Medenica added, “It’s important to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the simple steps that can be taken to protect yourself: sign your ticket, use Lottery Ticket Checkers to see if you’ve won, and always get a validated receipt when cashing a winning ticket. New Yorkers have a well-earned reputation for skepticism, so if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Alvin Summers, 37, of 79-28 Gouveneur Avenue in the Far Rockaway section of Queens. Summer, who has been held in jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail since his arraignment on May 21, 2009, appeared yesterday afternoon before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Pauline Mullings and pleaded guilty to third-degree grand larceny. Sentencing is set for December 15, 2009, at which time Justice Mullings indicated that she would likely sentence the defendant to three and one-half years to seven years in prison.

(MORE)

District Attorney Brown noted that Summers' plea also resolves similar pending cases that he has in New York, Nassau, and Monroe Counties. Sentences in those cases will run concurrent to that of the Queens case.

According to the charges, Summers would approach people on the street and offer them what appeared to a winning lottery ticket. He would explain to them that he couldn't claim the prize for various reasons – such as he was receiving welfare and could not show the authorities that he had a bank account or receipt of monies. He would then tell his victims that he'd sell them the ticket in exchange for half its prize value, which usually ranged from \$10,000 to \$30,000 per ticket. The unsuspecting victims would turn over their money to Summers, only to find out that when they tried to claim the prize that the ticket was rejected for being altered.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges in the Queens case, Summers approached a 47-year-old Jamaica, Queens, man at the intersection of Sutphin Boulevard and 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue at approximately 5:00 p.m. on October 12, 2008, and offered to sell him a winning scratch-off lottery ticket worth \$30,000 for \$15,000 because he was flying back to the northwest on a flight that was leaving in three hours and that he needed the money to pay child support. At 6:00 p.m. that same day, the victim gave \$15,000 in cash to Summers in exchange for the lottery ticket. Two days later, when the victim attempted to cash in the lottery ticket at a New York State Lottery claim center, he was informed that the ticket was a fake and that it had been altered in that the winning number had been glued onto the front of the ticket.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Louis Marensky, of the NYPD's 103<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Detective Squad, under the supervision of Lieutenant Salvatore Salerno, Commanding Officer, and by members of the New York State Lottery – namely, Security Director Jay Hemlock, Senior Investigators Lillian Lanza and Vito Abate, Investigator Gil Kalbus and Attorney Kent VanderWal.

Assistant District Attorney Mariana Zelig, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, 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.

#

**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**