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**COLLEGE POINT MAN ARRAIGNED ON HATE CRIME ASSAULT CHARGE**

*Allegedly Punched and Stomped Victim While Shouting Anti-Gay Slurs; Second Suspect Being Sought*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 26-year-old College Point resident has been arraigned on a charge of second-degree assault as a hate crime relating to an alleged bias attack on an openly gay man as he exited a neighborhood deli last week. The victim is presently hospitalized in serious condition and has been placed in a medically induced coma. A second suspect is being sought in the case.

District Attorney Brown said, "As Americans, each of us is free to choose where and how we want to live our lives. An illustrative example of that freedom is clearly Queens County, the most culturally diverse county in the nation. Crimes of hate will never be tolerated here. When they do, regrettably, occur, they will be condemned in the strongest possible terms and those responsible will be brought to justice to answer for their actions."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Daniel Aleman, 26, of 18-04 College Point Boulevard in College Point, Queens. Aleman was arraigned on Sunday, October 11, 2009, before Queens Criminal Court Judge Robert Raciti on a charge of second-degree assault as a hate crime. Aleman, who was ordered held on \$40,000 bond or \$20,000 cash bail and to return to court on October 29, 2009, faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Jack Price, 49, was walking to a nearby deli at approximately 4:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2009, when Aleman and an unapprehended other began taunting him with slurs about his sexual orientation. It is alleged that when Price exited the store, Aleman and the unapprehended other continued to shout anti-gay slurs at him before their verbal assault turned physical and they began to punch, stomp and kick him. The victim was transported to a local Queens hospital, where he was admitted with a broken jaw, several broken ribs, two collapsed lungs and a lacerated spleen. The victim is presently in a medically induced coma.

Aleman was arrested on Saturday, October 10, 2009, by detectives assigned to the New York City Police Department 109<sup>th</sup> Precinct Detective Squad. The NYPD's Hate Crime Task Force is also investigating the matter.

The case is being prosecuted by the District Attorney's Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Mariela Palomino Herring, Bureau Chief, and Michelle E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

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

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