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**QUEENS RESIDENT CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING THREE NYPD OFFICERS
BY CRASHING INTO THEIR VEHICLE WITH STOLEN MTA POLICE VEHICLE**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Jamaica, Queens, man has been convicted of, among other crimes, injuring three NYPD officers by ramming their vehicle with an unmarked MTA police vehicle that had been reported stolen two days earlier.

District Attorney Brown said, "This case underscores yet again the dangers faced by our police officers. There is nothing 'routine' or 'predictable' about police work. Every interaction with the public has the potential for danger. This jury verdict represents a measure of justice for the officers."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Larry D. Barton, 49, of 116-30 Sutphin Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens. Barton, a construction worker, was convicted yesterday following a jury trial before Queens Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron. Barton was convicted of three counts of attempted aggravated murder, three counts of second-degree assault, third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property. He faces up to life in prison when he is sentenced on October 16, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the trial testimony, Barton was observed by three plainclothes NYPD detectives at approximately 2:10 p.m. on February 18, 2008, getting into the driver's seat of a 2001 Dodge Durango parked at the intersection of 107th Avenue and 164th Street in Jamaica, Queens. The Durango was an unmarked MTA police vehicle that had been reported stolen on February 16, 2008, from a car wash on Jamaica Avenue and 187th Place. The three detectives – who were sitting in an unmarked NYPD Ford Explorer and displaying their shields around their necks – drove up to the Durango in such a manner that both vehicles were faced nose to nose. At that point, two of the detectives – Detectives Michael Busso and Michael Pesale – exited their vehicle and, displaying their shields, approached Barton. The police repeatedly asked the defendant to step out of the vehicle, but Barton refused and instead started up the Durango and drove forward, pushing the NYPD Explorer – with Detective William Heiser still behind the wheel – backwards into the middle of the intersection. Barton then rammed the Durango into the Explorer, causing the air bag to deploy and causing Detective Heiser to suffer bruising and substantial pain to his chest, ribs, lungs and left hand, as well as shortness of breath. Barton then drove toward Detectives Busso and Pesale at a high rate of speed and attempted to hit them head on, mounting the sidewalk in the process. He was apprehended by Detective Heiser after a brief car chase.

District Attorney Brown said that a passenger in the vehicle, Sonia McClean, 53, no known address, who exited the Durango when ordered to by police, was separately charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance after police recovered one glass pipe containing cocaine along with one metal pusher containing cocaine. She later pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Assistant District Attorney Robert J. Hanophy, Jr., Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau, prosecuted the defendants, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney James W. Evangelou, 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.