



**RICHARD A. BROWN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE**  
(718) 286-6315

**DEFENDANT WHO ASSAULTED THREE NYPD OFFICERS**  
**SENTENCED TO 34 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON**  
*Defendant Crashed Into Their Vehicles with Stolen MTA Police Vehicle*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Jamaica, Queens, man has been sentenced to 34 years to life in state prison for assaulting three NYPD officers by ramming their vehicles with an unmarked MTA police vehicle that been reported stolen two days earlier.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant used the vehicle he was driving as a weapon, inflicting injury on three police officers who were only doing their job. This case underscores yet again the dangers faced by our police officers. Every interaction with the public has the potential for danger. The sentence meted out today is just punishment for the defendant and 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 earlier this month 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. Queens Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron, who presided at the jury trial, today imposed an indeterminate sentence of 34 years to life in prison.

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 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 164<sup>th</sup> 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 187<sup>th</sup> 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.

The District Attorney said that is further charged that at approximately 2:25 p.m., uniformed police officers Peter Boneta and Vicky Tobin were sitting in their patrol car at a traffic light at 157<sup>th</sup> Street and Linden Boulevard when Barton drove the Durango into the front passenger side of their vehicle, causing Officer Boneta to suffer bruising and substantial pain to his right leg and Officer Tobin to sustain bruising and substantial pain to her right shoulder. Barton was then apprehended by Detective Heiser.

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.

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