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Release #166-2009
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

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CITI FIELD “STREAKER” PLEADS GUILTY TO INTERFERING WITH METS GAME
To Pay \$3,000 in Fines and Civil Penalties and Perform 20 Days of Community Service

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens man who disrupted a baseball game between the New York Mets and the Atlanta Braves this past May by jumping onto the field naked except for a stuffed monkey strategically clad around his waist has pleaded guilty to interfering with a professional sporting event.

“The defendant’s antics have resulted in a criminal record, the paying of thousands of dollars in fines and civil penalties, and – perhaps the worse punishment for any true Mets fan – precludes him from ever again visiting Citi Field or any of the New York Mets other venues – such as KeySpan Park in Brooklyn or Tradition Field in Port St. Lucie, Florida,” said District Attorney Brown. “The Queens District Attorney’s Office and the New York Mets have zero tolerance for those who interfere with the play of America’s pastime.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Craig Coakley, 29, of 156-05 Cross Island Parkway in Whitestone, Queens. Coakley, who at the time of his arrest was employed at Tri-County Plumbing in Floral Park, appeared today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Toko Serita and pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor crime of interference with a professional sporting event.

Coakley was immediately sentenced to a conditional discharge, the conditions being that he pay a \$1,000 fine and \$2,000 in civil penalties (payable to the New York Mets), perform 20 days of community service, and not visit Citi Field for one year. If he fails to complete any of the conditions of his sentence, he will be sentenced to 30 days in jail. Judge Serita ordered that all the conditions of the sentence be completed by December 15, 2009.

District Attorney Brown noted that in addition to the ban connected to his criminal case, the New York Mets organization has served him with a trespass notice that indefinitely prevents him from entering any of their playing venues.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, Coakley was sitting in field level seats at Citi Field at approximately 8:00 p.m. on May 12, 2009, when a security guard observed him removing his clothes and placing a stuffed monkey around his waist before jumping onto the field as the game was in progress.

At the time of his arrest, Coakley told police that he “didn’t think I was gonna get in so much trouble. It was a bet. My boss said he would pay me a week’s worth of salary if I did it and my lawyer told me it’s only a misdemeanor.”

Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Scharf, of the District Attorney’s Economic Crimes Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Kristen A. Kane Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Investigations Division Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.