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**JET BLUE FLIGHT ATTENDANT ARRAIGNED ON RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT
CHARGES FOR ALLEGEDLY OPENING EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR ON AIRCRAFT**

Faces Up To Seven Years In Prison If Convicted

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 38-year-old Jet Blue flight attendant en route from Pittsburgh to John F. Kennedy Airport has been charged with recklessly endangering the lives of ground crews by opening an emergency exit door and deploying the emergency chute after landing in New York.

District Attorney Brown said, "The emergency chute deploys at 3,000 pounds per square inch within seconds and could easily injure or kill ground crews or others on the tarmac who are unaware the chute has been activated. This would have been a far different arraignment if someone had been standing under the emergency chute when it deployed."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Steven Slater, 38, of 124 Beach 128th Street in Belle Harbor, Queens. The defendant was arraigned this morning before Queens Criminal Court Judge Mary O'Donoghue on charges of first- and second-degree reckless endangerment, second- and fourth-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal trespass and ordered to be held on \$2,500 bail and to return to court on September 7, 2010. He faces up to seven years in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Slater, who is a Jet Blue flight attendant, was aboard Jet Blue Flight 1052, which was en route from Pittsburgh to JFK Airport, on Monday, August 9, 2010, at approximately 12:15 p.m., when he is alleged to have activated the aircraft emergency escape slide on door R-2, following an alleged incident involving a passenger.

The District Attorney further said that, according to the charges, Jet Blue security has alleged that the defendant's actions caused damage to the emergency escape slide and caused a dangerous condition to the ground crew working below the aircraft. The emergency escape slide deploys at three thousand pounds of pressure per square inch and causes a risk of serious physical injury or death if it strikes people working under the aircraft. Furthermore, the cost to replace the emergency escape slide is in excess of \$25,000, according to Jet Blue security.

Finally, according to the charges, the defendant admitted to Port Authority Police Officers that he intentionally activated the aircraft emergency slide and exited the aircraft via the emergency slide. The defendant allegedly further admitted that he walked on the aeronautical area until he was able to find an unlocked door to exit to the street area.

The defendant was arrested by officers of the Port Authority Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Benjamin J. Mantell, under the supervision of Catherine C. Kane, Chief of the District Attorney's Airport Investigations Unit, and the further supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, and Mark L. Katz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Peter A. Crusco, Executive Assistant District Attorney, Investigations Division, and Linda M. Cantoni, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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