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**ELDERLY QUEENS WOMAN CONNED OUT OF \$11,000
FOR STREET REPAIR OF 1976 AUTOMOBILE**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a New Jersey man has been charged with stealing more than \$11,000 from an 86-year-old female motorist who he flagged down in Forest Hills and told that her car – a 1976 Dodge Aspen – was in dangerous and immediate need of repair. The defendant allegedly “worked” on the vehicle right then and there and then demanded the money for the repair.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is accused of stealing virtually his victim’s life savings by pretending to make thousands of dollars in repair on a vehicle with little or no resale value. This is a classic con game and anyone who may have fallen victim to this scam is asked to call my Economic Crime Bureau at 718-286-6673.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Billy Thompson, 47, of 151 Davenport Avenue in Newark, New Jersey. Thompson is presently awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on charges of third-degree grand larceny and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Thompson and an unapprehended female flagged down an 86-year-old female motorist who was driving alone in Forest Hills at approximately 1:00 p.m. on September 23, 2009. When the motorist stopped, Thompson allegedly told her that her car was in dangerous need of repair and that he could fix her car right there while she waited. Shortly thereafter, it is alleged that Thompson stated to the victim that he had finished and demanded more than \$13,000 for the “repair,” which he then reduced to \$11,200. It is further alleged that Thompson and the unapprehended female then drove the victim first to her apartment – in order for her to retrieve her banking information – and then to her bank, where she handed the unapprehended female a check in the amount of \$11,200.

It is additionally alleged that the victim’s vehicle is exclusively serviced by Bayside Chrysler and that the vehicle was serviced a short time before the September incident. On October 1, 2009, Bayside Chrysler re-examined the vehicle and found that no additional work or repair had been performed on the vehicle since its last service.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Patrick Dolan and Richard A. Lewis, of the District Attorney’s Detective Bureau, under the supervision of Sergeant John Kenna and Lieutenant Robert Burke and under the overall supervision of Lawrence J. Festa, Chief Investigator, and Albert D. Velardi, Deputy Chief Investigator.

Assistant District Attorneys Kristen A. Kane, Chief of the District Attorney’s Elder Fraud Unit, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gregory C. Pavlides, Chief of the District Attorney’s Economic Crimes Bureau, 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.

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

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