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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS ADVISORY

Billy Thompson, 47, of 151 Davenport Avenue in Newark, New Jersey, was arraigned late this afternoon before Queens Criminal Court Judge Stephanie Zaro on a two-count criminal complaint charging him with third-degree grand larceny and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

Thompson is 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.

Judge Zaro set bail at \$25,000 (with a bail sufficiency hearing) and ordered Thompson to return to court on February 23, 2010.

Thompson’s wife, Nina Jace, 45, was also charged today with participating in the scam. Jace, who is expected to be arraigned tomorrow on the same charges as her husband, was arrested at the Queens Criminal Courthouse when she showed up for Thompson’s arraignment.

Thompson and Jace are represented by attorney Leonard Ressler (718-263-6812).

It should be noted that a 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