



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

RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015**

**CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315**

**STATEMENT BY
QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN
ON DRONE CRASH LANDING AT U.S. OPEN**

Last night's incident at the U.S. Open in which an unmanned model aircraft crashed into an unoccupied area of the Louis Armstrong Stadium during play is just the latest close call involving a drone and clearly illustrates that drones cannot simply be considered children's toys. Many people operating unmanned aircraft are novices with little or no aviation experience and recklessly flying a drone near, over or into a tennis stadium or an airport or any other place where large groups of people assemble needlessly puts lives in danger. We were fortunate that no one was injured as a result of last night's incident. But we can't rely on happenstance to protect the public. Those who engage in conduct of this nature will be held legally accountable for their actions. They will not be treated as children – or as innocent hobbyists.