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**QUEENS PAIR CHARGED WITH PEDDLING FAKE DESIGNER GOODS;
MORE THAN \$250,000 WORTH OF ALLEGED COUNTERFEIT MERCHANDISE SEIZED**
*Knock-Off Brands Include Coach, Louis Vuitton, Michael Kors, Tory Burch, Hermes And Chanel;
Defendants Face Up To Five Years In Prison If Convicted*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a man and woman from Flushing are charged with trademark counterfeiting following the seizure of more than \$250,000 worth of fake designer goods recovered from three different storage units in Ridgewood, Queens. Dozens of boxes and bags filled with alleged knock-off handbags, wallets, belts and even cigarette lighters were confiscated.

District Attorney Brown said, "Selling fake designer goods is not a victimless crime. Counterfeit operations, such as this one, fuel an underground economy that rakes in hundreds of thousands of dollars to alleged criminals. These cash-only transactions also rob both City and State municipalities out of much-needed tax revenue. Also, these knock-offs damage both the reputation and brand of designers because the merchandise is inferior in both material and quality."

District Attorney Brown added, "My office is committed to working closely with the NYPD and all our law enforcement partners to close down these illegal operations and prosecute all those involved in selling knock-off merchandise."

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Xu Jing, 46, and Jing Ye, 43, both of 41st Avenue in the Flushing section of Queens. The defendants were arraigned yesterday before Queens Criminal Court Judge Stephanie Zaro on a complaint charging them with first-degree trademark counterfeiting. The defendants were released on their own recognizance and ordered to return to court on December 13, 2016. If convicted, the defendants face up to five years in prison.

According to the complaints, a court-authorized search warrant was executed earlier this week at CubeSmart Self Storage in Ridgewood, Queens. Both defendants were allegedly observed selling fake designer merchandise from the storage units, where dozens of boxes and bags were filled with knock-off Coach purses, Louis Vuitton handbags, Chanel leather goods, as well as pocketbooks and accessories with the Michael Kors, Tory Burch, Hermes, Gucci and Burberry labels. The seizure, also allegedly, included hats, belts and lighters.

The investigation was conducted by Detective David Gilbert and members of the New York City Police Department's Queens District Attorney's Squad, under the command of Sergeant Francis Teran and Captain John Zanfardino, under the supervision of Chief of Detective Borough Queens South Joseph Kenny, and under the overall supervision of Chief of Detectives Robert K. Boyce. Also assisting in the investigation, were Investigators William Sanborn, James Ricaurte and Harry Cheng of the Allegiance Protection Group.

Assistant District Attorney Anna Diao, of the District Attorney's Economic and Environmental Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy and Kristen A. Kane, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco.

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 press release and photo posted at www.queensda.org.