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Brooklyn Man Indicted For Hammer Attacks On Subway Commuters
Defendant Allegedly Struck Victims From Behind, Demanded Cash

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that a 28-year-old Brooklyn man has been indicted on multiple counts of first-degree robbery and assault in connection with two separate attacks in which he approached commuters from behind and struck them before robbing them and fleeing the scene.

District Attorney Thompson said, “This defendant is accused of brutally robbing unsuspecting commuters by hitting them in the head with a hammer, grabbing their property and cash and then fleeing. He will now be held accountable for the senseless acts of violence that he committed against those victims.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Anthony Coward, 28, of 159 Hull Street, in the Ocean Hill section of Brooklyn. He was arraigned this morning before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Vincent Del Guidice on an indictment in which he is charged with two counts of first-, second- and third-degree robbery, two counts of first- and second-degree assault, two counts of first-degree attempted assault, two counts of fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, and one count of fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property. The defendant was ordered held on bail of \$350,000 bond or \$150,000 cash and to return to court on July 29, 2014.

The District Attorney said that, according to the investigation, on May 4, 2014, at approximately 11 a.m., inside the Rockaway Avenue and Fulton Street station of the “A/C” line, complainant Cory Healy was purchasing a Metrocard from a vending machine when he was approached from behind and hit over the head with a hammer allegedly by the defendant. Healy fell to the ground and the defendant allegedly demanded his property and struck him on the arm. The defendant allegedly then fled with the complainant’s wallet, Metrocard, debit card and cash.

The District Attorney further said that, according to the investigation, on May 7, 2014, at approximately 9:20 a.m., in the same location, Brijanand Rishianand was purchasing a

MetroCard when he was hit in the back of the head with a hammer allegedly wielded by the defendant, who then fled with the complainant's cash.

Both men suffered pain, bruising and swelling to the head. The first complainant also suffered bruising to the arm, while the second complainant also suffered a concussion.

The case was investigated by the New York City Police Department's Transit Robbery Squad.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kori Medow, of the District Attorney's Orange Zone Bureau, under the supervision of Thomas Ridges, Chief of the Orange Zone Bureau.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

