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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 24, 2014

Home Invasion Robber Sentenced To 20 Years To Life In Prison

*Defendant Terrorized Crown Heights Family At Gunpoint;
Tracked Down After Stolen Cell Phone Used To Send Lewd Texts To Victim's Daughter*

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that a 30-year-old Brooklyn man, who has been deemed a violent persistent felon, has been sentenced to 20 years to life in prison following his conviction on first-degree robbery and other charges in connection with a 2011 gunpoint home invasion in Crown Heights.

“This menace to society will no longer be able to terrorize the people of Brooklyn through violent home invasions and gunpoint robberies,” said District Attorney Thompson.

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Trevor Brown, 30, of East Flatbush, in Brooklyn. The defendant was today sentenced by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Deborah Dowling to 20 years to life in prison following his June 7, 2013, conviction on charges of first-degree robbery, first-degree burglary, third-degree grand larceny and petit larceny following a jury trial. He was sentenced as a violent persistent felon based on his prior criminal history, which includes convictions on robbery and other charges in 2003 and 2005.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, on October 18, 2011, at approximately 9:20 p.m., [Name withheld] 17, entered the vestibule of his apartment building located on Grand Avenue in Crown Heights, where he encountered the defendant and a cohort, Kervin Dorce. The defendant engaged [name withheld] in conversation, then suddenly put a gun to his head and demanded entry into his apartment while Dorce waited outside as a lookout. Inside the apartment, the teen's mother, [name withheld] was seated on a couch in the living room studying for nursing school. The teen's brother, [name withheld], and his friend, [name withheld], were also in the apartment. The defendant stole cell phones from the victims, as well as assorted jewelry and a bag containing \$4,500 cash that another son, who was not in the apartment at the time, was saving to purchase a car. Before fleeing, Brown told Dorce to take the mother's cell phone, as well as the landline from the apartment.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, hours after the robbery the mother's 20-year-old daughter began receiving lewd and taunting text messages from her mother's stolen cell phone. Two days later detectives tracked the cell phone to a vehicle located on Nostrand Avenue in Flatbush, where they recovered two of the three stolen cell phones in the car's console, along with Brown's identification. Dorce was arrested at the scene. Brown was arrested three months later.

The District Attorney said that, as a violent mandatory persistent and predicate felon, with two prior violent felony convictions involving weapons, the defendant was sentenced today to a mandatory 20 years to life in prison. The District Attorney said the sentencing was delayed for approximately one year following the defendant's conviction due to the defendant refusing to come to court, as well as requesting a mental health exam after which he was found fit to proceed.

Dorce, who pleaded guilty to third-degree robbery on April 8, 2013, was sentenced to one to three years in prison on September 23, 2013.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Ian Bronfeld, formerly of the District Attorney's Orange Zone Bureau, now assigned to the District Attorney's Money Laundering and Revenue Crimes Unit. Assistant District Attorney Thomas Ridges is Chief of the Orange Zone Bureau.

