



**Ken Thompson**  
District Attorney

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
KINGS COUNTY**  
350 JAY STREET  
BROOKLYN, NY 11201-2908  
(718) 250-2000  
WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG

**Press Office**  
718-250-2300

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Two Brooklyn Men Indicted For Assault as a Hate Crime For  
Vicious Attack on Transgendered Woman in Bushwick Last Fall**  
*Victim Suffered Traumatic Brain Injury, Underwent Surgery to Her Skull*

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson today said that a Brownsville man has been arraigned on a nine-count indictment in which he is charged with first-degree assault as a hate crime for allegedly striking a 28-year-old transgendered woman in the head with a two by four piece of plexiglass, causing severe injuries. A second defendant indicted in the attack will be arraigned later this month.

District Attorney Thompson said, "I visited Bushwick last fall in the wake of this assault and a separate attack on a member of the LGBTQ community because I was distressed that such hate crimes occurred in Brooklyn, one of the most diverse counties in the nation. This was a cowardly, unprovoked and exceptionally vicious attack on an innocent person who was targeted because of her appearance. I must emphasize that hate crimes in any form, be they an attack on a person's race, gender, sexuality or ethnicity, won't be tolerated."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Mashawn Sonds, 25, of Hegeman Avenue in Brownsville. He was arraigned yesterday before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Danny Chun on an indictment in which he is charged with first-degree assault as a hate crime, first-degree assault, two counts of second-degree assault as a hate crime, two counts of second-degree assault, fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, third-degree menacing as a hate crime and third-degree menacing. The defendant was ordered held on \$250,000 bail and to return to court on March 25, 2015. He was arrested on February 3, 2015, following an investigation.

Another defendant, Tyquan Eversley, 17, of Bradford Street in East New York, was arrested on a criminal complaint on December 26, 2014, and arraigned the next day in Brooklyn Criminal Court. Bail was set at \$17,500. He is expected to be arraigned on the indictment in Brooklyn Supreme Court on February 18, 2015. Each of the defendants faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted of the top charge.

The District Attorney said that, according to the investigation, on October 12, 2014, at approximately 11:20 p.m., on Bushwick Avenue, near Halsey Street, a 28-year-old transgendered woman was walking with a gay male friend when she was approached by the defendants, who allegedly yelled "we don't want faggots on our block," among other things. It is alleged that Eversley then struck the victim, Kimball Hartman, with a filled garbage bag, knocking her to the

ground. He then allegedly continued to assault her, as Sonds and two unapprehended others continued to yell homophobic slurs.

The District Attorney said that, according to the investigation, Sonds allegedly then picked up a piece of plexiglass and swung it at Hartman. As she tried to get away he allegedly threw the plexiglass and struck her in the head. The victim was knocked unconscious, began seizing and suffered profuse bleeding from the back of her head. She sustained a traumatic brain injury, underwent surgery to her skull, and will likely suffer permanent injuries.”

The case was investigated by New York City Police Department Detective Michael Diaz of the Hate Crimes Task Force, under the supervision of Deputy Inspector Mark Magrone, Chief of the Task Force. NYPD Detective James Menton, of the Bronx Special Victims Squad, assisted in the apprehension of the defendants.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Hallett, of the District Attorney’s Civil Rights Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Damani Sims, Deputy Bureau Chief and Assistant District Attorney Marc Flidner, Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney William E. Schaeffer, Chief of the District Attorney’s Investigations Division.

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**An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant’s guilt**