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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER HOMELAND SECURITY AGENT PLEADS GUILTY IN "SEX FOR GREEN CARD" SCAM

Faces Up To 4½ Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a former agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has pleaded guilty to asking for – and receiving – sexual favors from a female applicant seeking U.S. citizenship by causing her to fear that if she did not comply with his request he would use his office to have her citizenship application denied.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant abused the power and authority of his position with the federal government in order to unjustly take advantage of someone new to this country. In doing so, he brought dishonor on his fellow agents and could have left the victim believing that all government employees were corrupt. Fortunately, she reported his actions and he will now be punished for his misdeeds."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Isaac Baichu, 59, of 2000 Anthony Avenue, Bronx, New York. Baichu, who was formerly employed as a DHS immigration screening officer, pleaded guilty yesterday to third-degree bribe receiving, second-degree receiving reward for official misconduct, second-degree coercion, sexual misconduct and official misconduct before Queens Supreme Court Justice James P. Griffin. Justice Griffin indicated that he would sentence the defendant to an indeterminate term of 1½ - 4½ years in prison on July 22, 2010.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, Baichu admitted that he called a married female applicant whose citizenship application he was reviewing and asked to meet her alone outside the office to discuss matters. The applicant met Baichu on December 21, 2007, at his car opposite 138-40 Queens Boulevard. While in his car, Baichu coerced her to perform oral sex on him in return for assisting her with her application by making her believe that if she did not do so, he would use his position as a screening officer to keep her from getting a green card – even though she was legitimately entitled to receive one.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Joseph Brancaccio and Evelyn Alegre, of District Attorney Brown's Detective Bureau, under the supervision of Lawrence J. Festa, Chief Investigator and Albert D. Verlardi, Deputy Chief Investigator, and assisted by agents supervised by Gregory K. Null, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, Northeast.

Assistant District Attorney Carmencita Gutierrez, Deputy Chief of the District Attorney's Integrity Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney James M. Liander, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Investigations Division Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editor: An e-version of this press release is posted on QDA website at www.queensda.org.