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**INMATE, ALONG WITH CO-CONSPIRATORS, INDICTED IN FAILED ATTEMPT
TO ESCAPE RIKERS ISLAND**
Inmate Hid On Jail Roof As Massive Search Was Launched

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Rikers Island inmate has been indicted for escaping from Rikers Island and two fellow inmates have been indicted for assisting in the act, which led to an over 8-hour search.

District Attorney Clark said, "Massive manpower, harbor boats and helicopters had to be used to control the chaos this defendant recklessly created. If convicted, he could face additional time behind bars, as will the two other inmates who aided his failed getaway."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Naquan Hill, 24, who is at Rikers Island awaiting the outcome of two burglary cases, was indicted for first-degree Escape, two counts of second-degree Escape and two counts of third-degree Escape. Robert Sasso, 35, and David Vaz, 33, were each indicted for third-degree Escape and second-degree Obstructing Governmental Administration.

Hill and Sasso were arraigned today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice William L. Mogulescu and are due back on Nov. 30, 2017. Hill faces up to seven years in prison if convicted of the top charge, and Sasso and Vaz are facing one year in jail if convicted. The sentences could run consecutively to sentences imposed if they are convicted in their pending cases. Additionally, the three defendants could be sent to maximum secure facilities.

According to the investigation, on the evening of July 26, 2017, Sasso and Vaz distracted two Correction Officers guarding the yard at the Anna M. Kross Center as Hill climbed over a perimeter fence, topped with barbed wire, and escaped from the detention facility. A search involving jail staff and the New York Police Department ensued lasting several hours until Hill was spotted running on Hazen St. at 2 a.m.

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The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jonathan D. Abramovitz of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, under the supervision of Donald Hanratty Jr., Deputy Chief of the Bureau, and Deanna Logan, Chief of the Bureau; and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Department of Correction staff, in particular Correction Intelligence Bureau Investigator William Cannon Jr., Epifanio Vasquez and Scott Frank for their assistance.