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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 10 1/2 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ROBBERIES
TARGETING ELDERLY WOMEN**
Defendant Also Sentenced for Jail House Violence At Rikers Island

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to 10 years and six months in prison for two robberies committed against elderly women in the Mott Haven area.

District Attorney Clark said, "It is horrifying that someone would terrorize an elderly person. The streets of the Bronx are safer now that the defendant will be behind bars for a decade. We hope this sentence provides the victims with justice and a sense of security that we will continue to protect the vulnerable."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Gilrael Ruperto, 28, was sentenced today to 10 years and six months in prison followed by five years of post-release supervision by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Michael Gross. The defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree Robbery as a Hate Crime and second-degree Promoting Prison Contraband on April 10, 2018. For the latter misdemeanor charge, he was sentenced to one year in jail to run concurrent to the Robbery sentence.

According to the investigation, throughout the month of November 2015, the defendant targeted two women over the age of 60, threatening them and taking their money and other possessions. In a building on East 153rd Street, the defendant stole \$50 from a 64-year-old woman after punching her repeatedly and ripping off her earrings as she exited an elevator. In another incident, he robbed a 72-year-old woman of her purse after throwing her to the ground. In both incidents, the defendant sprayed the women with an unknown substance.

According to the investigation, on April 5, 2017, while incarcerated at Rikers Island, the defendant was found to be hiding a scalpel.

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The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney John Miras of the Homicide Bureau under the supervision of Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau and the overall supervision of Nicole Keary, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Det. Sandy Polanco of the 40th precinct for all his hard work on this case.

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