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**16-2019**

**For Immediate Release**

**February 13, 2019**

**BROOKLYN MAN SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SEXUALLY  
ASSAULTING YOUNG WOMAN IN BRONX BUILDING STAIRWELL  
Defendant Placed Victim In Chokehold, Leaving Her Unconscious**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Brooklyn man has been sentenced to 18 years in prison for carrying out a brutal sexual assault against a 23-year-old woman in April 2018.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant assaulted the young woman in a series of violent acts. He choked her until she lost consciousness, dragged her into a stairwell and sexually assaulted her. I hope today's sentence brings some form of justice to the victim."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Lynneke Burris, 31, of Brooklyn, was sentenced to 18 years in prison and 20 years post-release supervision today by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio. He will also be required to register as a sex offender upon his release from incarceration. The defendant pleaded guilty to first-degree Criminal Sexual Act on January 16, 2019.

According to the investigation, on April 12, 2018, inside a building in the Concourse area of the Bronx, the defendant followed the victim into an elevator and put her in a chokehold, causing her to lose consciousness. He then dragged her to a stairwell where she regained consciousness. Upon receiving verbal threats to her life, the victim removed her clothing, and the defendant raped her and performed other sexual acts.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Astrid Borgstedt, Trial Counsel of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Rachel Ferrari, Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, and the overall supervision of Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Special Victims Division. District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Detective Juan Espallat and the Bronx Special Victims Squad.