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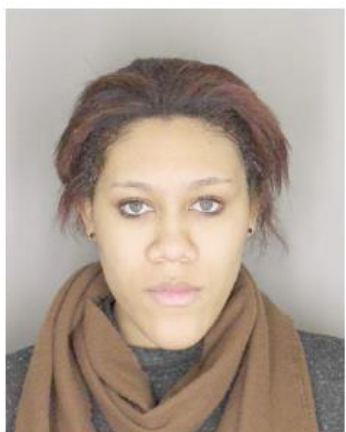
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Arraignment in Bus Assault Case



ARIEL AGUDIO



ASHA BURWELL



ALEXIS BRIGGS

ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that three defendants were arraigned on criminal charges before the Honorable Rachel Kretser in Albany City Court this morning in relation to an incident that occurred on a CDTA bus on January 30, 2016.

ARIEL AGUDIO, 20, of Huntington, NY, was arraigned on (1) Count of Assault in the Third Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Attempted Assault in the Third Degree, a Class B Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Falsely Reporting an Incident in the Third Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, (2) Counts of Harassment in the Second Degree, both Violations, and (1) Count of Attempted Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree, a Class B Misdemeanor. AGUDIO pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released under the supervision of the Department of Probation.

ASHA BURWELL, 20, of Huntington Station, NY, was arraigned on (1) Count of Assault in the Third Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Falsely Reporting an Incident in the Third Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and (1) Count of Harassment in the Second Degree, a Violation. BURWELL pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released under the supervision of the Department of Probation.

ALEXIS BRIGGS, 20, of Elmira Heights, NY, was arraigned on (1) Count of Assault in the Third Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor. BRIGGS pleaded not guilty to the charge and was released on her own recognizance.

Criminal complaints filed today in court allege that around 1:00 a.m. on January 30, 2016, while aboard a CTDA bus on the UAlbany campus in the City of Albany, AGUDIO, BURWELL, and BRIGGS did cause physical injury to a 19 year old female passenger by means of repeatedly striking her.

BURWELL is also charged with allegedly having physical contact with an 18 year old female bus passenger.

In addition, it is alleged in the criminal complaints filed today that AGUDIO attempted to cause physical injury to a 19 year old male passenger, while also allegedly attempting to damage his property. It is also alleged that AGUDIO had physical contact with two other female bus passengers, ages 18 and 20.

In addition, it is alleged in the criminal complaints filed today that AGUDIO and BURWELL did falsely report the incident to law enforcement after exiting the bus.

Chief Assistant District Attorney David Rossi is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710.

All parties are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty

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