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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Police Use DNA Evidence to Apprehend Sexual Assault Suspect

46-Year-Old Bridgeport Man in Custody for 2002 Attack at Bridgeport Metro-North Station

MTA Police today announced the arrest of a suspect in an unsolved 2002 sexual assault at MTA Metro-North Railroad's Bridgeport Station. The suspect, 46-year-old Jose Binet of Bridgeport, was arrested and arraigned on March 8 in Bridgeport. Mr. Binet was charged with aggravated sexual assault in the first degree and is being held on \$500,000 bail. The arresting officer was MTA Police Det. Sgt. John Rizzitelli, assisted by Det. Sean Connelly, also of the MTA PD, and Bridgeport Police Detective Warren Del Monte.

"This is a terrific example of the MTA Police Department collaborating with local law enforcement and utilizing cutting edge technology to take an alleged violent offender off the streets," said MTA Police Assistant Deputy Chief Stephen Conner, who is in charge of the Detective Division. "With the DNA Database at our disposal, law enforcement is always in pursuit of suspected criminals, even when all other leads have run dry."

On March 28, 2002, an out-of-state woman was walking to the Port Jefferson Ferry terminal from a nearby parking garage when she was abducted at knife point under the walkway entrance to the Bridgeport Train Station. She was then sexually assaulted underneath the station on the banks of the Bridgeport Harbor. The assailant's DNA was recovered during the sexual assault examination routinely performed by hospitals in such incidents. The MTA Police Department Detective Division, with the assistance of the Bridgeport Police Detective Division, investigated the case for months without any leads. At the time, the DNA from the sexual assault kit did not match any law enforcement databases. The case was dormant until Monday, March 5, when during the investigation of an unrelated case a new search was made of the Connecticut Convicted Offenders DNA Database, and a DNA match was made.