



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
RICHMOND COUNTY

---

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE  
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301  
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release on Feb. 3, 2016

Contact: Douglas Auer (718) 556-7150  
[Douglas.Auer@rcda.nyc.gov](mailto:Douglas.Auer@rcda.nyc.gov)

### **DA McMahon: Staten Island Man Indicted for Hate Crime Robbery**

*\*\*\* Vincent Popalardo targeted teen victim because of his disability \*\*\**

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that VINCENT POPALARDO has been indicted on charges including Robbery in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, Assault in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, and Robbery in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime for the robbery and assault of a disabled teen outside a North Shore shopping plaza.

“This defendant targeted the victim because of his disability, which shows that these actions were in fact hate crimes under the state’s statute,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “All crimes are unacceptable, but those committed against an individual because of his or her disability are particularly despicable.”

According to the 12-count indictment and documents filed in court, on Nov. 30, 2015, at about 8:30 p.m., in front of the commercial storefront at 1351 Forest Ave., POPALARDO and two separately charged juveniles forcibly stole property from the 18-year-old victim, who was born without arms. (*The case against the separately charged juveniles is being handled by Family Court.*) Police arrested POPALARDO in Erie, PA on Jan. 6.

=====

POPALARDO was arraigned today in State Supreme Court, St. George. Bail was increased from \$50,000 bond to \$100,000 bond.

The case is being prosecuted by ADA Antonia Assenso of the Supreme Court Bureau.

=====

The charges contained in the attached indictment are merely allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Defendant Information:  
Vincent Popalardo  
D.O.B. 8/8/95  
780 Henderson Ave. SI, NY

-End-