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Brothers Accused Of Stealing Retired CO's Home

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QUEENS—Two brothers, one who had been employed at a Queens real estate brokerage firm and the other at the family's fish market in Brooklyn, have been charged with fraudulently selling the Cambria Heights residence out from under a retired New York City correction officer suffering from dementia and stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars in the home's equity.

One of the brothers is in custody and the other is presently being sought internationally.

The defendants are Moses Brach, 30, of 182 Lynch Street in Brooklyn, and his brother, Joel Brach, 27, who lived at 137-68th 70th Avenue in Flushing and is believed to have fled to Israel. Moses Brach, who is employed at the family-owned 18th Avenue Kosher Fish Store in Borough Park, Brooklyn, was arraigned Thursday in Kew Gardens before Acting Queens County Supreme Court Justice James P. Griffin on a four-count indictment charging him and his brother with second- and third-degree grand larceny and second- and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property.

Brach, who, along with his brother, faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$25,000 bail and to surrender his passport. His next court date is April 14.

"The victim is alleged to have been swindled out of his life savings and his home by the two defendants who are accused of taking advantage of an elderly man suffering from dementia to strip the equity dollars from the victim's home without regard to the financial consequences or human suffering that their alleged actions would cause", Queens district attorney Richard A. Brown said. "Fortunately, the victim had a guardian angel watching over him in the guise of his eldest daughter, a New York City police officer, who reported the matter to the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau."

Brown said that, according to the charges, 71-year-old Hoesey Walker sought the aid of Home Energizer, Inc., a real estate brokerage company formerly located at 189-07 Jamaica Avenue in Hollis, in February 2007 to assist him in the purchase of real estate. Joel Brach, an employee of Home Energizer, allegedly handled the transaction involving Walker's purchase that same month of two properties, one in Brooklyn and the other in Queens, for a total of \$1,370,000.

The district attorney said it is further charged that shortly after the purchase of the two investment properties, Mr. Walker's daughter, New York City Police Officer Kim Walker, discovered that her father exhibited the warning signs of dementia and that he did not understand the financial consequences of purchasing the two investment properties. Officer Walker also discovered, it is alleged, that her father's primary residence at 114-121 228th Street in Cambria Heights had been sold.

It is further alleged that the Cambria Heights residence was sold in March 2007 to Joel Brach and his brother, Moses Brach, for \$440,000 and that the equity proceeds from the sale of the house,