

TURKEY TOSS MAY NOT BE AN ISOLATED INCIDENT

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The Huntington man accused of tossing a turkey out of a moving car in November, seriously injuring a Lake Ronkonkoma woman, may have thrown bricks at parked cars from the same vehicle weeks earlier, sources close to the case said.

The Suffolk district attorney's office is investigating whether Ryan Cushing, 18, threw bricks at parked cars along a residential street in Mount Sinai about two weeks before the turkey tossing incident Nov. 13, a law enforcement source and others close to the case said.

Sources said Cushing was riding in the back seat of his friend Jack Cutrone's car during the brick-throwing incident, while Cutrone's girlfriend Rachel MacDonald, 17, was in the passenger seat. Cutrone, 18, and MacDonald are both from Selden. Those are the same positions that authorities say the three were in during the turkey-tossing incident, which left Victoria Ruvolo, 44, with serious face and brain injuries.

Suffolk district attorney's spokesman Bob Clifford declined to comment.

If admitted in court, the incident could be damaging to Cushing's case, since it could be shown that the turkey tossing was not an isolated incident. Steven Manzolina, 17, of Selden, another teen involved in the turkey incident, has been charged with criminal mischief for throwing apples from a car at an oncoming car in October, also in Mount Sinai.

"I think this prior incident will help to strengthen the DA's case," said MacDonald's attorney Michael Brown, of Central Islip, who acknowledged that his client was present when the bricks were thrown. Cutrone's lawyer, Steven Taitz of Patchogue, could not be reached for comment.

Cushing's lawyer, William Keahon of Islandia, denied that the brick-tossing incident ever happened, saying that Cutrone and MacDonald are unreliable.

"It's a dream story from Bonnie and Clyde," he said. "I'm going through the penal law, and I've been unable to find a crime that [they] have not committed."