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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**  
*Captured Through Team Effort Between America Online And Law Enforcement*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Flushing man pleaded guilty to Possessing Child Pornography – and has admitted that he sent child porn images to others using his America Online account. Use of the AOL account was key to the defendant’s arrest and conviction as AOL had been able to track the images through a digital fingerprint, then alert the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and, ultimately, the District Attorney’s office.

District Attorney Brown said, “The close cooperation between Internet providers and the law enforcement community to halt the use of the Internet to advance the exploitation of children is absolutely essential. AOL’s expertise and its sense of corporate responsibility were a key factor in the prosecution of this case. Interagency and industry cooperation have become the hallmarks of Internet-based law enforcement efforts.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Peter Botsaris, 24, of 59-22 164<sup>th</sup> Street in Flushing, Queens. Botsaris pleaded guilty yesterday before Queens Criminal Court Judge Robert Raciti to one count of Possessing a Sexual Performance by a Child and is expected to be sentenced to 10 years’ probation on September 15, 2008. As part of his guilty plea, Botsaris will also be required to register as a sex offender, attend a sex offender treatment program, and permit probation officers to examine his computers as part of their supervision. In addition, all computer equipment seized from the defendant will be forfeited.

District Attorney Brown said that the case was developed as the result of the use of advanced investigation techniques by America Online and the cooperation of a network of law enforcement organizations all working to combat Internet-based child exploitation.

According to the criminal complaint, the defendant admitted that he downloaded and viewed numerous images of child pornography from Limewire, a file sharing website, over a period of time between October 11, 2005, and July 25, 2006. The defendant was charged following an investigation that began after AOL used a technique it has employed for a number of years which is to examine all suspected child pornography that is sent over their e-mail system and translate the pixels that make up an electronic image into a code that represents a unique digital fingerprint of the suspect picture file.

The fingerprint, known as a “hash value,” is then sent to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Alexandria, Virginia, a non-profit agency that is mandated by the federal government to store and catalogue known images of child pornography. If the fingerprint sent by AOL matches a fingerprint found in NCMEC’s database, that agency contacts the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which is a network of law enforcement agencies that distributes this and other information through regional coordinators down to the local level.

In addition to AOL, NCMEC, and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the investigation was conducted by Detective Robert DeBatista of the NYPD’s Computer Crimes Squad, under the direct supervision of Lieutenant Dennis Lane and the overall supervision of Deputy Chief Jeremiah J. Quinlan.

Assistant District Attorney Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the Computer Crimes Unit, of the District Attorney’s Special Proceedings Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, as well as the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni of the Investigations Division.

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