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RETIRED NYPD OFFICER SENTENCED FOR PROMOTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Defendant Ordered To Serve Up To 10 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a retired NYPD police officer has been sentenced to up to 10 years in prison following his guilty plea last month to two counts of promoting a sexual performance by a child.

District Attorney Brown said, "Today's sentence should send a clear message to those who view and share child pornography that such behavior is unacceptable in a civilized society. The children who are depicted in these vile videos are real children who are being sexually assaulted by adults and who will suffer the physical and emotional effects of these crimes for a lifetime. The fact that the defendant is a retired NYPD officer makes this case all the more disturbing."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Matthew Fanning, 48, of South Ozone Park, Queens. The defendant, who last month pleaded guilty to two counts of promoting a sexual performance by a child, was sentenced today by Queens Supreme Court Justice Fernando M. Camacho to an indeterminate term of two-and-one-third to seven years in prison on the first count and one to three years on the second count. The sentences were ordered to run consecutive.

The District Attorney said that, according to the guilty plea, the defendant obtained a video file from the Internet file-sharing website Limewire on October 4, 2006, at his residence in Queens, which featured a three-year-old girl engaged in a sexual act with an adult male. Records obtained from the computer indicate that he last accessed it on December 5, 2007. Furthermore, according to the guilty plea, the defendant obtained another video file from Limewire on May 15, 2007, which depicted a 10-year-old girl engaged in a sexual act with an adult male. The defendant last accessed the file on February 2, 2008. He was arrested later that month.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Sharon Y. Brodt, prosecuted the case, under the supervision of Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit, and Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editor: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.