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QUEENS MAN CHARGED WITH TRYING TO LURE 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL FOR SEX
*Defendant Allegedly Sent Explicit Photos to “Girl” Who Was Really An Undercover Police Officer;
Faces Up to Seven Years in Prison if Convicted*

Acting Queens District Attorney John M. Ryan announced today that a Jamaica man has been charged with various crimes for sending sexually explicit content via an online app to an individual whom he believed was a 14-year-old girl living in Queens County. The defendant allegedly tried to set up a series of meetings for sex with the teenager, who was actually an undercover detective with the New York City Police Department.

Acting District Attorney Ryan said, “For many the internet is a great learning tool with access to a plethora of valuable information. But for some, unfortunately, it is a place to troll for children to satisfy their demented sexual fantasies. The defendant in this case got caught reaching out to a 14-year-old youngster, who just happened to be a police officer on assignment. Despite being told the “girl” was just 14, the defendant is alleged to have repeatedly chatted about sex, sent explicit photos and pushed to meet the girl for sex. The defendant now faces prison time for his alleged actions.”

The District Attorney’s Office identified the defendant as Richard Wood, 33, of Grand Central Parkway in the Jamaica section of Queens. Wood was arraigned late Friday before Queens Criminal Court Judge Mary Bejarano on a complaint charging him with attempted use of a child in sexual performance, first-degree attempted dissemination of indecent material to minors and attempted endangering the welfare of a child. Judge Bejarano set bail at \$25,000 and ordered the defendant to return to court on May 28, 2019. If convicted, Wood faces up to seven years in prison.

According to the charges, on April 8, 2019, at approximately 7 p.m., an undercover NYPD detective posing as a 14-year-old Queens girl online, received an introductory instant message from the defendant who was using the screen name Tjtj201 on the Kik app. Following the first message, the defendant allegedly continued his chat by sending a series of sexually-explicit messages along with pictures to the underage “girl.”

Continuing, according to the charges, on April 15, 2019, several days after initiating the chat on the Kik app, the defendant followed up with explicit photos of a penis and asked the “girl” to video chat with him. In one picture, the defendant allegedly shared another photo with a penis positioned next to a bottle of lotion. During the course of that conversation, the detective pretending to be the girl told the defendant that she was just 14. The defendant allegedly responded by reassuring her that he was not a cop and that he had no problem with her age.

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Furthermore, according to the criminal complaint, the defendant asked the “teen” to send him pictures of her exposed breasts for him to look at while he masturbated. The following day, the defendant contacted the alleged victim several more times in the hopes of arranging a face to face meeting. This time a female undercover police officer, posing as the 14-year-old girl, did a video chat with the defendant. During the 10 minute exchange, the defendant allegedly asked again to meet with the girl face to face, to see her breasts and offered to come to the girl’s home.

Acting DA Ryan said, according to the charges, on April 22, 2019, law enforcement officials obtained a subpoena for the defendant’s Kik account and verified Wood’s IP address was connected to the Kik account and the chats with the underage “teen.” The defendant was subsequently arrested. A court ordered search warrant was executed on the defendant’s residence and detectives are seeking any other potential victims. If you or someone you know has been in contact with Tjtj201 on the Kik app, please call Detective Philip Adazzewski at (646) 872-7609.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Philip Adaszewski of the supervision of Lieutenant Joseph Agresta and Captain Thomas Milano of the Vice Major Case Squad under the overall supervision of Inspector James Klein of the Vice Enforcement Division.

Assistant District Attorney Suzanne H. Sullivan is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper, Chief of the District Attorney’s Computer Crimes Unit of the Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Wilbert J. LeMelle.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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