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**AFTER SCHOOL DAY CARE PROGRAM EMPLOYEE
CHARGED WITH CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AT QUEENS HOME**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Astoria man who is employed at a Manhattan after school day care program has been charged with possessing sexually explicit images of children ranging in age from four to sixteen years old on his home computer. The sexual material was discovered when he downloaded the pornographic images using his AOL account.

District Attorney Brown said, "Individuals who trade in child pornography on their computers can no longer expect to remain anonymous. Federal law requires Internet service providers – when they become aware of potential child pornography – to report this information to the cybertip hotline of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), in Alexandria, Virginia. NCMEC, a non-profit agency that is mandated by the federal government to store and catalogue known images of child pornography, then reports the information to the designated law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the protection of children."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Michael F. Dossantos, 22, of 34-37 33rd Street in the Astoria section of Queens. Dossantos, who is employed part time by Manhattan Youth Recreation and Resources, Inc., in lower Manhattan, was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Toko Serita on a criminal complaint charging him with ten counts each of promoting a sexual performance by a child and possessing a sexual performance by a child. Dossantos, who faces up to seven years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$15,000 cash/\$30,000 bond and to return to court on January 19, 2010.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the New York City Police Department's Computer Crimes Squad received a report in July 2009 that someone using the screen name BRAZIPAP102 and the e-mail address BRAZIPAP102@aol.com had downloaded approximately ten photographs of children ranging in ages from about four years old to sixteen years old engaged in various sexual acts. In conducting an investigation, it is alleged that the subscriber of the above-mentioned screen name was determined to be Dossantos.

On December 15, 2009, a search warrant was executed at Dossantos's apartment and among the items allegedly recovered were various computer and electronic equipment.

At the time of his arrest, Dossantos allegedly made statements admitting that he had downloaded the images of child pornography with the intention of selling them to others for cash and that he has been obtaining child porn from the Internet for years.

In addition to the work of AOL and NCMEC, the investigation was conducted by Police Officer Luciana Queiroga and Detective Owen Soba who are assigned the New York City Police Department's Computer Crime Squad, which is under the supervision of Sergeant Felix Rivera and Lieutenant Dennis Lane, who is the commanding officer of the squad.

Assistant District Attorney Robert Alexander, Chief of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony Communiello, Bureau Chief and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Chief of the Special Proceedings Bureau and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations.

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