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PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER CHARGED IN INTERNET “SEX STING”

Allegedly Tried to Lure Undercover Detective Posing as 14-Year-Old Queens Girl to Meet For Sex

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 26-year-old Brooklyn high school teacher has been arraigned on charges of attempting to meet for sexual relations a person he had met online and who he believed to be a 14-year-old girl. The alleged victim was actually a New York City Police Department undercover detective assigned to its Vice Enforcement Division.

District Attorney Brown said, “This case underscores the crucial importance of Internet surveillance initiatives by law enforcement to protect children from sexual predators and should serve as a warning to parents to closely monitor their children’s Internet access and activities.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Alexander D. Kravitz, 26, of 2107 East 7th Street in Brooklyn, Kravitz, who is a teacher at William E. Grady Vocational High School in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, was arraigned today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Suzanne Melendez on charges of second-degree attempted rape, second-degree attempted criminal sexual act, first-degree attempted dissemination of indecent material to minors and attempted endangering the welfare of a child. The defendant, who faces up to four years in prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$75,000 bail and to return to court on January 22, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, a NYPD Vice detective was operating in his undercover persona as a 14-year-old girl from Queens between November 13, 2008, and January 7, 2009, during which time he received numerous instant messages from the defendant, who was using the screen name EVRYDAYGURLS. The defendant’s messages allegedly were sexual in nature and, on at least two occasions, included live video of him masturbating.

Kravitz was arrested yesterday when he appeared at a pre-arranged Queens location for what he allegedly believed would be a sexual encounter with the 14-year-old he had been instant messaging. He was taken into custody after approaching a female undercover police officer waiting there and allegedly identifying himself as the person with whom she had been conversing online.

The investigation and arrest were conducted by NYPD Detective Sean Ryan, of the Department’s Vice Enforcement Division, under the supervision of Sergeant Robert Minca, and the overall supervision of Deputy Chief Brian J. Conroy and Chief Anthony Izzo of the Organized Crime Control Bureau.

Assistant District Attorney Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the District Attorney’s Computer Crimes Unit, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief of the 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.

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