



DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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CONTACT: QDA PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

BRONX MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Must Register As A Sex Offender In Accordance With Megan's Law

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Bronx man initially arrested for urinating outside a Corona karaoke bar and pretending to be a police officer has pleaded guilty to felony possession of a sexual performance by a child for having numerous images of child pornography on his iPod touch – which he had on his person at the time of arrest.

District Attorney Brown said, “Child pornography strikes at the heart of innocence – sexually victimizing and violating the human rights of the youngest members of our society around the world. It is often linked to human trafficking and child prostitution.”

District Attorney Brown added, “This conviction is the result of the collaborative efforts and cooperation of many in law enforcement and would have not been possible without it. I want to thank those police officers, prosecutors and, especially the probation officers who played a role in getting and keeping this defendant off the streets.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Eddy M. Cepedahiciano (a/k/a Eddy Cepeda), 24, of 1920 University Avenue in the Bronx. Cepedahiciano pleaded guilty yesterday before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Chin-Brandt to possessing a sexual performance by a child. Cepedahiciano is expected to be sentenced on March 25, 2010, to one and a half to three years in prison, which will run consecutive to his violation of probation sentence of one to three years. He will also have to register as a Level III sex offender in accordance with Megan's Law when he completes his prison sentence.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Cepedahiciano was observed urinating outside Estrella Latina, a restaurant and karaoke bar located at 39-07 104th Street in the Corona section of Queens. When the restaurant's bouncer approached Cepedahiciano and told him to stop, Cepedahiciano violently flailed his arms at the man and stated that he was an FBI agent and would shut down the place and have him arrested. Cepedahiciano then showed the bouncer a miniature NYPD shield and a set of handcuffs and again threatened to arrest him.

At the time of his arrest, Cepedahiciano was in possession of an iPod touch which was vouchered with his other belongings. Thereafter, it was learned that Cepedahiciano was on probation in the Bronx as a result of a sex offense conviction in Queens County and was registered as a Level II sex offender. The iPod was examined and discovered to have more than 25 images of children

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ranging in age from approximately two years to fifteen and engaged in various explicit sexual acts or lewd exhibition.

On June 8, 2009, Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Douglas S. Wong revoked Cepedahiciano's probation and sentenced him to one to three years in state prison on his previous guilty plea to third-degree criminal sexual act with a fifteen-year-old girl.

The investigation was conducted by the New York City Department of Probation – specifically Probation Officer Rashid Ahmadi and Supervising Probation Officer Pamela Santos, under the supervision of Bronx Branch Chief Lisa D'Ambrosio, and the overall supervision of Assistant Commissioner Sharun Goodwin – and by the NYPD's Computer Crime Squad, which is under the supervision of Sergeant Felix Rivera and Lieutenant Dennis Lane and the overall supervision of Deputy Chief Jeremiah J. Quinlan, and by officers assigned to the NYPD's 115th Precinct.

Also assisting in the investigation was Assistant District Attorney Jennifer A. Tubridy, formerly of the District Attorney's Criminal Court/Intake Bureau, which is under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Joan I. Ritter, Criminal Court Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper, of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Robert D. Alexander, Chief of the Computer Crime Unit and the overall supervision of Assistant District Attorneys 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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