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SOCCER COACH CHARGED WITH RAPE, SEXUAL ABUSE AND OTHER CRIMES
FOR ALLEGEDLY FONDLING AND HAVING SEX WITH TEENAGE BOYS AND GIRLS

Defendant Faces 15 Years To 50 Years in Prison, If Convicted

Acting Queens District Attorney John M. Ryan today announced that a 23-year-old Woodhaven resident – who coached soccer with the now-defunct American Eagle Soccer Academy – has been charged with rape, sexual abuse, promoting a sexual performance by a child and other crimes for his alleged contacts with both boys and girls between July 2018 through September 2019. The victims in this case were 13, 14 and 15 years old at the time.

Acting District Attorney Ryan said, “This case is every parents’ nightmare – a coach gains their trust and then betrays them in the most vile ways to feed his own sick, sexual desires. This defendant is accused of forcing one boy against a wall and molesting him. The defendant is also alleged to have had both oral, anal and vaginal sex with teen boys and girls in his home and other locations. The defendant will be held accountable for these alleged actions. He now faces a lengthy term of incarceration.”

The Acting DA also urged anyone who suspects their child may have been victimized by this defendant to please contact the police by calling 911 or walking into any police facility to report the abuse. Additionally, if anyone has any information regarding the abuse, they should call the NYPD’s Crime Stoppers’s tip line at 800-577-TIPS.

The District Attorney’s Office identified the defendant as Harrison Torres, 23, of 89th Avenue in the Woodhaven neighborhood of Queens. The defendant is awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on 4 separate complaints charging him with first-, second- and third-degree sexual abuse, attempted use of a child in a sexual performance, promoting a sexual performance by a child, second- and third-degree criminal sexual act, third-degree rape, possessing a sexual performance by a child and endangering the welfare of a child. If convicted, Torres faces between 15 and 50 years in prison.

Acting DA Ryan said, according to one complaint, Torres had sex with an underage teenage girl in his home sometime between July 20, 2018, and October 1, 2018. In a separate complaint, he is alleged to have brought a young teenage boy to his home between November 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, and sexually abused the victim. Torres is also charged with allegedly video recording the sex acts, a copy of which was allegedly recovered by the police.

According to a third complaint, Torres shoved a 13-year-old boy against a wall at a high school in Woodside, Queens and forcibly touched his genitals on the afternoon of November 7, 2018. Torres was at the high school with the American Eagle Soccer Academy, the soccer academy that was operated by his father and had rented space from the school for an event.

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Furthermore, according to the last complaint, Torres allegedly asked a 14-year-old boy to send him photos of his penis in exchange for cash sometime during the month of February 2019. Torres is then alleged to have sent his own videos to the teenager – one showing Torres having sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old girl and the other containing images of the defendant having sex with a 13-year-old boy. Both videos were allegedly recovered by the police.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Daniel Cruz of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad and Detective-Investigator Noel Torres of the Queens District Attorney's Office.

Senior Assistant District Attorney George Kanellopoulos, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Kenneth M. Appelbaum, Bureau Chief, and Eric Rosenbaum and Debra Lynn Pomodore, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders and Deputy Executive District Attorney for Major Crimes Brad Leventhal.

It should be noted that criminal complaints are merely accusations and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org