

Unprepared Thai and American hikers lost on Mount Monadnock during -10F temperatures

“Just before 5:00 PM on January 19th, 2024, New Hampshire Fish and Game was contacted by Monadnock Park Staff in regard to three lost hikers near the summit of Mount Monadnock. The three hikers were unprepared for the impending darkness and cold temperatures. The wind chill temperatures on Monadnock at the time of the call were approximately -10 F. A response was initiated to rescue the three immediately from Monadnock Park Staff, Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team, and New Hampshire Fish and Game Conservation Officers.

A phone call was able to be placed to the victims in order to help them find the trail and get below tree line with the minutes of light left to navigate. Once they made it to tree line they were unable to continue as they did not have lights.



NH Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division and Operation Game Thief photo.

Rescuers made contact with the hikers and were able to provide gear to help with their decent. The three hikers were identified as 63 year old Sirin O'Connor and 50 year old Somjak Weerapit both of Quincy Massachusetts and 37 year old Phromthep Khankaew of Thailand.

Due to their lack of warm clothing and exposure to extreme cold, O'Connor's condition deteriorated on the decent. Rescue crews then stopped and gave warm fluids and aided in warming O'Connor. Due to her lack of strength and cold exposure, it was determined the safest and most efficient extrication would now be to carry O'Connor the remaining 1.3 miles. Crews were able to assist Weerapit and Khankaew down under their own power, arriving at the trailhead at approximately 8:30 PM.

Simultaneously, rescue crews carried O'Connor down the mountain, arriving at the trailhead at approximately 9:48 PM. O'Connor was transported by Jaffrey Ambulance to Monadnock Community Hospital where she was treated for her injuries.

Thankfully, due to the herculean efforts of rescue crews from Monadnock Park Staff, Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team and New Hampshire Conservation Officers, the three victims survived their blunder. Outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to check the weather forecast and prepare for the current winter weather conditions.”-NH Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division and Operation Game Thief.



NH Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division and Operation Game Thief photo.

Talk directly to New

Bedford's Mayor Mitchell during January "Office Hours"

"NEW BEDFORD – Mayor Jon Mitchell will hold office hours on Wednesday, January 24, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Restaurante Algarve, located at 128 County St.

City residents are invited to attend and meet with Mayor Mitchell directly and share their concerns and ideas, as well as a bite to eat. The session is open to all New Bedford residents, no advance appointments are required, and meeting with the Mayor will be done on a first-come, first-served basis."

UPDATED: Family seeks public's help locating missing New Bedford 14-year old

UPDATED Sunday @ 10:15pm: Good news! Thanks to the community spreading the word, Kaidyn has been found and is now safe at home.

MISSING



Kaion Lovell-Sousa

Last seen: 01/19/2024 at 730am

He was last seen wearing a BLACK PUFF JACKET WITH BLACK SWEAT SHIRT AND BLACK SWEATPANTS BLACK AND WHITE NIKE SHOES

14 year Old Male, approximately 5'5" & 130lbs last seen in the area of Country Street & Court Street New Bedford Massachusetts

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

508-718-9383

OR

NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

508-991-6300

Original article:

"He is 14-years old and has mental health issues and PTSD, He has been off his medication for over 48 hours now. He was last seen on the corner of Country St. and Court St. in New Bedford."-Carlos Sousa, father of Kaidyn.

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Kaidyn Lovell-Sousa

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New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park announces programming for Black History month

“NEW BEDFORD, MA – New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park has announced its programming commemorating Black History Month in February 2024.

This year’s theme chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH®) is African Americans and the Arts. New Bedford is known for its rich culture and historical artistic significance, and we celebrate today’s artists of the African diaspora who come from every corner of the globe. Two of New Bedford’s own, Iva Brito and Eden Soares will be telling the stories of their art and inspiration.

In addition, the 1850s Ladies will explore New Bedford and Boston anti-slavery societies and how crafts became a part of the abolitionist cause. Finally, the park will show the movie, 12 Years A Slave, directed by African Brit Steve McQueen which tells the story of Solomon Northup, who was kidnapped and sold into enslavement from freedom.

- **Saturday, February 3 at 1:00 PM:** Join Iva Brito (also known as Iva B), a mother, artist, poet, and award-winning author as she shares her art and inspiration. As a native of Cabo Verde, West Africa, Iva channels her nostalgic love of her birthplace through her work that looks at the intersectionality of culture, social and political issues.

- **Saturday, February 10th at 1:00 PM:** Join Eden Soares of trigrfx pronounced / tri,grafiks/ as he shares his work through murals and other arts. As a local artist, he weaves a story that resonates with the local community and visitors alike. In the past years, he has captured the essence of New Bedford's culture and history in colorful and captivating murals. Some of his works include the artistic painting of Booker T. Washington. He has also created a mural honoring Cesaria Evora on the wall of the Cape Verdean Cultural Center, the former Strand Theater on Acushnet Avenue.

- **Saturday, February 17th at 1:00 PM:** Join the 1850 Ladies, aka Ruth and Abby as they explore both Boston and New Bedford anti-slavery societies on how they used crafting to raise money to support the abolitionist cause. What kinds of handcrafts or quilts were on display for sale? Do they have stories? Do they preserve history the community memories as well as for empowerment? The Ladies will display some of the arts and crafts sold and how New Bedford contributed to the cause. They will also tell stories of New Bedford's women, who held abolitionist fairs here in the city.

- **Saturday, February 24th at 1:00 PM:** Join us for the screening and discussion of the movie 12 Years A Slave – an incredible true story of one man's fight for survival and freedom directed by Steve McQueen. It is 1841 and Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery. Stripped of his identity and deprived of all dignity, Northup is purchased by ruthless plantation owner Edwin Epps (Michael Fassbender) and must find the strength within to survive. In his twelfth year in captivity, a chance encounter with a Canadian abolitionist (Brad Pitt) forever alters his life."

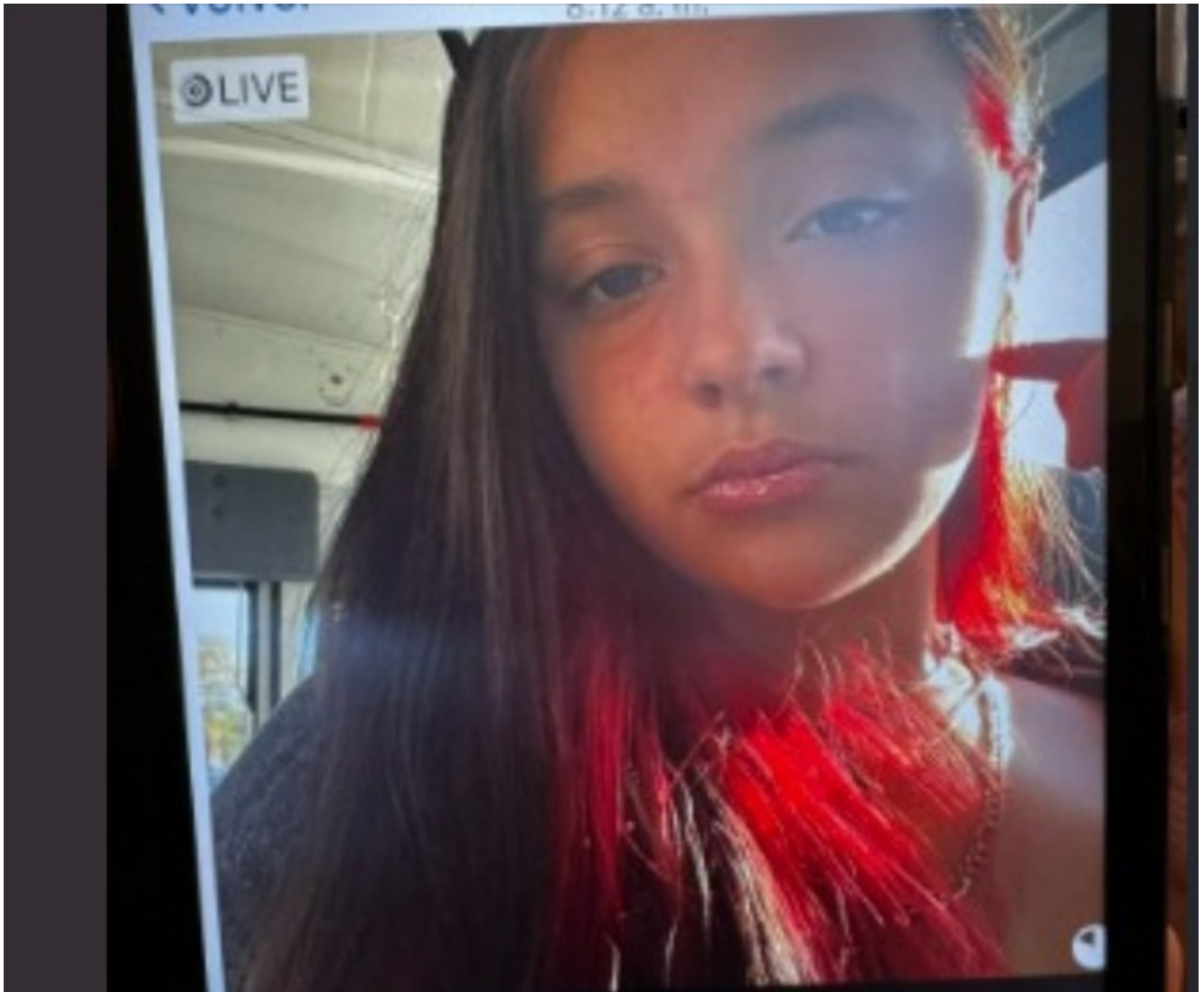
Boston Police seek public's help locating 12-year old who has been missing for 4 days

***** Boston Police Department Missing Person Alert: 12 Year-Old Aliana Roberts Of Boston *****

"Aliana Roberts was last seen on 1/16/2024 in the area of Downtown Crossing (450 Washington Street) in Boston. She was wearing a white long sleeve shirt and blue pajama pants.

Anyone with information regarding her whereabouts is advised to contact 911 or D4 Detectives at (617) 343-5619.

If you would prefer to share information anonymously you can do so by call the CrimeStoppers Tip Line AT 1-800 (494) -TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463)"-Boston Police Department.



Boston Police Department photo.

UPDATED: New Bedford Police Department welcomes seven new officers to the force

UPDATED: The original article stated that there were six new officers and omitted an officer. There were, in fact, 7 new officers and the missing officer is Ofc. Sarah Fine. Welcome to the force Sarah!

Original article:

“Congratulations to Ofc. Dylan Deston, Ofc. Ryan Donahue, Ofc. Nivaldo Mendes, Ofc. Shawn Raposo, Ofc. Andy Soares, and Ofc. Mackenzie Sylvester for becoming the newest edition of the City of New Bedford Police Department.

Thank you for your commitment to serving and protecting our City.

Wishing you all the best as you embark on this noble journey, and welcome to the family!”-City of New Bedford Police Department.



City of New Bedford Police Department photo.

New Bedford Police charge 28-

year old repeat offender with narcotics and firearm offenses

**** COCAINE, WEAPONS & CASH FOUND ON REPEAT OFFENDER ****

Police have seized narcotics and weapons from a residence in the south end.

On January 17th, at around 7 PM, Detective Nathaniel Almeida concluded an investigation into a cocaine distribution operation being operated out of 73 Mosher St. The target of the investigation was Mr. DESHAWN HUNT, 28, of apartment #3.

A search warrant was executed on the apartment as detectives looked for evidence. As a result of the search, HUNT was found to be in possession of over 108 grams of cocaine and 4 Percocet tablets. Digital scales and packaging materials used to prepare narcotics for street-level sales were also discovered. \$2,015 dollars was seized as a result of being proceeds from illicit activity. Detectives also located two 9 MM handguns.

HUNT has previously been convicted of illegally possessing a firearm stemming from an incident in 2017. During that incident, shots were fired at a victim who was believed to be a witness in a homicide investigation.

As a result of this investigation, HUNT was placed under arrest and is charged with trafficking cocaine in excess of 100 grams, illegal possession of two firearms and a large capacity magazine, and possession of a class B substance.

If you have any information you would like to share with the police, you can do so anonymously by visiting our website, www.newbedfordpd.com or by calling 508-99-CRIME."-City of New

Lakeville Police investigating multi-car accident that claims life of 75-year-old

“Chief Matthew Perkins reports that the Lakeville Police Department is investigating a serious motor vehicle crash on Main Street.

On Friday, Jan. 19, at approximately 5:30 p.m., Lakeville Police were called to Main Street in the area of Elliot Farm for a report of a crash. Ambulance 3 and Engine 1 responded to the scene, with Car 1 and Car 2 responding from their residences. A recall was transmitted for supplemental staffing, eventually bringing Ambulance 2, Squads 3, and Squad 4 to the scene.

First-arriving firefighters found 4 vehicles involved in the collision. Multiple patients required treatment and hydraulic tools (jaws of life) were needed to remove victims from one vehicle.



Lakeville Police Department photo.

Firefighters initiated care for 5 patients, with the support of recalled firefighters and good Samaritans. An off-duty Middleborough firefighter and a paramedic from Urgent Care assisted with patient care. A mutual aid ambulance also responded from Middleborough Fire Department to the scene.

An adult female was transported to Saint Luke's Hospital (level II trauma center) in Ambulance 3 with injuries that were believed to be serious. Supplemental staffing was committed to that patient transport.

An adult female was transported to Saint Luke's Hospital with injuries that did not appear to be life-threatening. An adult male was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital (Level III trauma center) with injuries that did not appear to be life-threatening by Coastal Ambulance (Middleborough). An adult male was evaluated for very minor injuries; he refused transport by ambulance to the hospital.



Lakeville Police Department photo.

Plymouth County District Attorney Tim Cruz reported that a 75-year-old man died from his injuries. The 75-year-old, who has not been identified, was first transported for his serious injuries before he was pronounced deceased.

Main Street was closed in the area for about 90 minutes while the investigation was conducted.

Chief Michael O'Brien would like to extend his condolences to the family and friends of the deceased. The Chief is grateful for the mutual aid support received from our partners from Middleborough and Freetown. The Department appreciates the support of the off-duty individuals who jumped into action.

Chief O'Brien is proud of the response of his firefighters and wishes to commend their continued dedication to the community.

Lakeville Police are investigating the crash with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section."-Lakeville Police Department.

City of New Bedford places 14 trash/recycling compactors at select sites throughout the city

“What’s cooler than a new trash bin? OK, maybe your average trash and recycling containers aren’t the coolest, but we have some new compactors in New Bedford and the positive environmental impact is pretty cool.

There are 14 of these bins (one trash, one recycling) in seven well-traveled spots around the City: East Beach, West Beach, Fort Taber, Brooklawn Park, Pier-3 (pictured), Pope’s Island near Noah’s Place Playground, and Hazelwood Park.

They’re solar-powered compactors, so they squish our waste and recycling into smaller units that save space in landfills and recycling centers, and they electronically notify our crews when full so we can dispatch someone to empty them. Lately, we’ve been getting pinged about once a week to go and empty the bins, when previously we’d send someone daily to check if they need to be emptied. That’s one trip a week per site compared to seven.

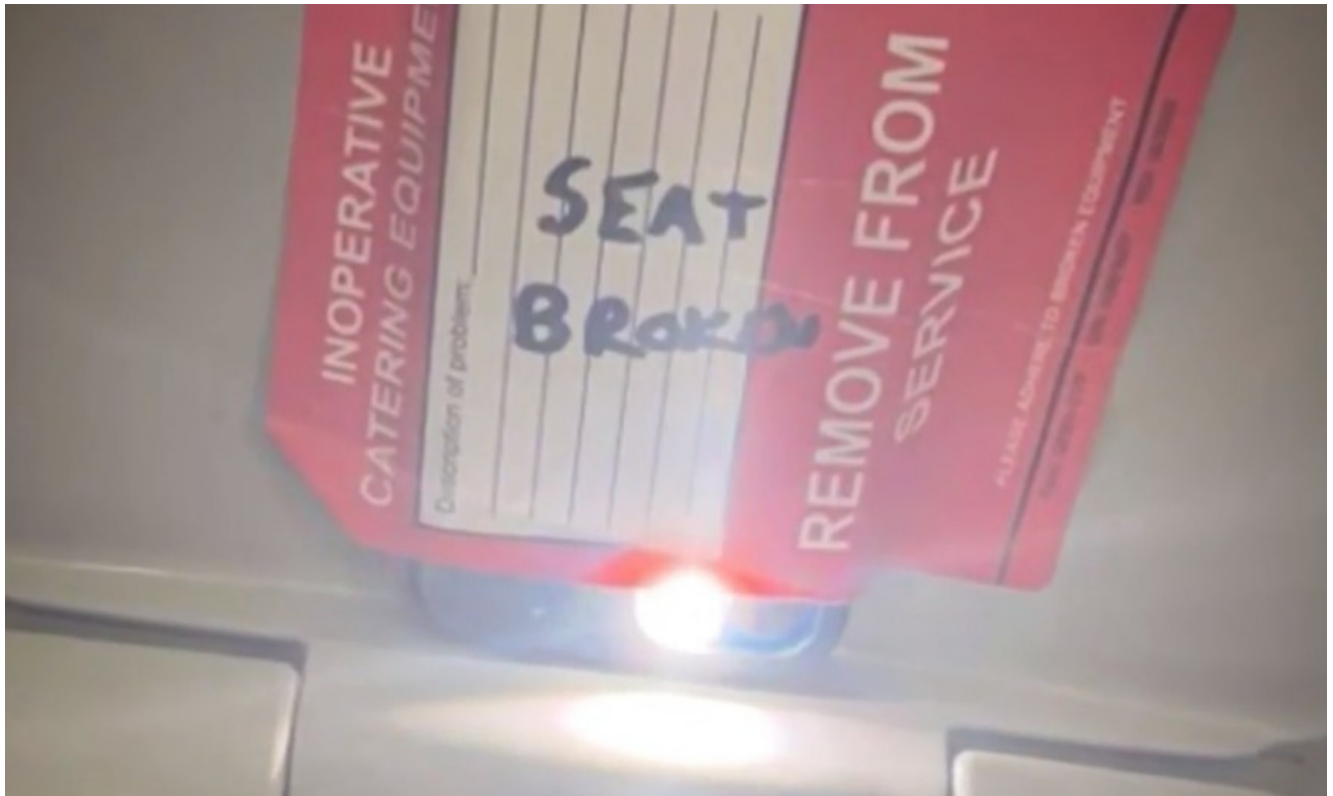
The City used federal funds to purchase the compactors, and we’re looking forward to seeing the positive impact they can have in New Bedford.

We know trash cans aren’t the coolest things on social media today, but if these can help us reduce waste, keep New Bedford clean, and cut down on trips to and from several spots across the City, that’s pretty cool.”-City of New Bedford.

Flight attendant arrested for allegedly filming minors in lavatory on flight to Boston

“BOSTON – An American Airlines flight attendant has been arrested for allegedly surreptitiously recording or attempting to record a minor female passenger using a lavatory aboard an aircraft he was working in September 2023. The defendant is also alleged to have possessed recordings of four additional minor female passengers using lavatories aboard the aircraft he had worked previously.

Estes Carter Thompson III, 36, of Charlotte, N.C., was charged with one count of attempted sexual exploitation of children and one count of possession of child pornography depicting a prepubescent minor. Thompson was arrested today in Lynchburg, Va. and will remain in custody pending his initial appearance in the Western District of Virginia. He will appear in federal court in Boston at a later date.



Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority photo.

"The deeply disturbing conduct alleged here is something no parent or child should ever have to worry about when they travel. Mr. Thompson allegedly used his position to prey on and surreptitiously record innocent children, including unaccompanied minors, while in a vulnerable state aboard flights he was working," said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy.

"Everyone – especially children – should feel safe and secure as airline passengers, and parents should feel comfortable traveling with their children. Protecting children is a paramount priority for this office and we will aggressively investigate and hold accountable people who victimize children."

"Today, the FBI arrested Estes Carter Thompson III after he repeatedly targeted unsuspecting children to sexually exploit them for his own gratification. What Mr. Thompson is accused of doing is disgraceful, and we believe, calculated, given that this alleged conduct occurred on at least five flights," said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau

of Investigation, Boston Division. "This case should make it crystal clear that the FBI takes crimes aboard aircraft and the sexual exploitation of children seriously. If you've been the victim of a crime aboard an aircraft or have witnessed one take place, we ask you to report it to both your flight crew and the FBI."

According to the charging documents, on Sept. 2, 2023, while working as a flight attendant onboard an American Airlines flight from Charlotte, N.C. to Boston, Mass., Thompson video-recorded or attempted to surreptitiously video-record a 14-year-old female passenger as she used the aircraft lavatory. Specifically, approximately midway through the flight, the minor victim got up to use the main cabin lavatory nearest to where she was seated.

When the minor victim arrived at the lavatory it was occupied. After the minor victim had been waiting a short time, Thompson allegedly approached her, told her that the first-class lavatory was unoccupied and escorted her toward first class. Before the minor victim entered the lavatory, Thompson allegedly told her that he needed to wash his hands and that the lavatory's toilet seat was broken and briefly entered the lavatory.

It is alleged that, after Thompson exited the lavatory, the minor victim entered and observed red stickers on the underside of the toilet seat lid, which was in the open position, that stated, "INOPERATIVE CATERING EQUIPMENT" and "REMOVE FROM SERVICE," and "SEAT BROKEN" was hand-written in black ink on one of the stickers. It is alleged that, beneath the red stickers, Thompson had concealed his iPhone to record a video. The minor victim used her phone to take a picture of the red stickers and the concealed iPhone she found in the lavatory before exiting, at which time Thompson allegedly re-entered it immediately.

According to court documents, when the minor victim returned

to her seat, she informed her parents of what she saw and showed them the picture. The victim's parents reported the matter to other flight attendants onboard who notified the Captain, who in turn notified law enforcement on the ground. It is alleged that the victim's father confronted Thompson who, shortly thereafter, locked himself in the lavatory with his iPhone for three to five minutes prior to the flight's descent.

Upon the flight's arrival at Boston's Logan Airport, law enforcement observed that Thompson's iPhone may have been restored to factory settings. It is alleged that a subsequent search of Thompson's suitcase was found to contain 11 "INOPERATIVE CATERING EQUIPMENT" stickers, like those observed by the minor victim on the back of the toilet seat. A search of Thompson's iCloud account allegedly revealed four additional instances between January and August 2023 in which Thompson recorded a minor using the lavatory on an aircraft. The minor victims allegedly depicted in the surreptitious recordings were seven, nine, 11 and 14 years old at the time. Additionally, over 50 images of a nine-year-old unaccompanied minor were allegedly found in Thompson's iCloud. The images included photos taken while the minor victim was seated in her seat pre-flight and close-ups of her face while sleeping.

All minor victims involved in this matter have been identified and their families contacted by law enforcement.

It is further alleged that hundreds of images of AI-generated child pornography were also found stored on Thompson's iCloud account.

The charge of attempted sexual exploitation of children provides for a sentence of at least 15 years and up to 30 years in prison. The charge of possession of child pornography depicting a prepubescent minor provides for a sentence of at least five years and up to 20 years in prison. Both charges also provide for at least five years and up to a lifetime of

supervised release, a fine of up to \$250,000 and restitution. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy, FBI SAC Cohen and John E. Mawn Jr., Interim Colonel of the Massachusetts State Police made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Elianna J. Nuzum of the Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse, launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/psc>.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law."-Massachusetts Department of Justice.