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Cop Charged With Sex Abuse Of Girl, 13

BY JOSE LAMBIET
Thursday, June 29, 1995

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A Brooklyn cop was charged yesterday with sexual abuse for allegedly exposing himself and fondling a 13-year-old girl on at least five occasions since April.

Police Officer Gerard Rotolo, 28, of Park Slope, was charged with 10 counts of sexual abuse, public lewdness and endangering the welfare of a child.

Rotolo, who has been on the force since March 1993, was immediately suspended without pay. He was arraigned last night and was released on his own recognizance even though the Brooklyn district attorney's office requested \$10,000 bail.

Rotolo is assigned to the Brooklyn South Task Force. He previously worked patrol in Brooklyn's 62d Precinct.

"I'm always disappointed when I'm informed that the behavior of one of my officers is not what I'm used to," said Rotolo's commanding officer, Capt. Harry Knorr.

Cops would only say the girl, who was not identified because of her age and the nature of the charges, knew Rotolo socially.

Four of the incidents occurred during get-togethers with friends at the Prospect Park riding stables, sources said.

On one occasion, they said, Rotolo allegedly lured the girl to a locker area and exposed himself.

On another occasion, according to sources, he allegedly asked her to remove her shirt so that he could recommend her to "a friend in the modeling business." He also is accused of offering the girl cash to expose herself.

In the fifth incident, he allegedly put his hands under her blouse and fondled her breasts while they sat in his car on the parking lot of a Prospect Park Burger King.

According to the criminal complaint, the girl asked him several times to stop.

Rotolo was scheduled to get back to work yesterday after spending a month on sick leave because of injuries he suffered when his squad car was hit by another vehicle.

The arrest is the latest in a string of lewd incidents involving police officers. Two male officers and one female cop were suspended or resigned after they exposed themselves during a police convention last month in Washington, D.C.

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