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### Brooklyn Officer Faces Dismissal Over Child Pornography Tapes

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A Brooklyn police officer faces dismissal from the force because he was caught during a Federal sting operation buying videotapes of child pornography, according to police documents.

After a departmental hearing last fall, a police administrative judge recommended last week that the officer, Brian Matthews, who is the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association delegate from the 75th Precinct in East New York, be fired and forfeit his pension. Police Commissioner Howard Safir is vacationing this week, but two top aides said he was expected to sign the papers ordering Mr. Matthews's dismissal when he returns.

According to evidence presented at the departmental trial, a Canadian investigation known as Operation Special Delivery was monitoring a pornographic video company called Island Male Video in early 1995 when it received a letter from Mr. Matthews's address responding to a magazine advertisement for child pornography. A United States postal inspector testified that the letter contained a money order plus a request for three videos: "Young Men Series," "Young Teen Series" and "Young Boy Series."

The Canadian authorities reported the order to United States postal inspectors. Mr. Matthews was arrested after he took delivery and signed for the tapes in September 1995, the inspectors said.

Although the name on the order form was not Mr. Matthews's, a handwriting expert testified that he believed Mr. Matthews had written the order for three tapes under a bogus name and signed the delivery log.

Mr. Matthews's lawyer, Marvyn Kornberg, said that Mr. Matthews never ordered the tapes, adding that Federal officials declined to prosecute Mr. Matthews criminally. "It's unfortunate that a man can lose his job and pension in the trial room with a lot less evidence than it takes to prove that a crime has been committed," he said.

Mr. Matthews, 35, had been considered a rising star in the police union. He is a 15-year veteran of the force who once worked as a driver for the 75th precinct commander, and his campaign for the position of citywide trustee was backed by some of the union's most powerful board members. Joseph Mancini, a spokesman for the P.B.A., declined to comment.

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