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18 Dec

Anthony Miller Should Have Known Better

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A Hastings, Minnesota police officer has been arrested at his home in New Richmond, Wisconsin. Anthony T. Miller, 40, has been placed on paid administrative leave. Until the matter of his employment is resolved, he will continue to receive pay even though he has admitted to downloading, possessing, trading and distributing child pornography for the last 2 years.



Miller, was charged with possession of child pornography and sexual exploitation of a child in St. Croix County District

Court. Both charges are felonies. United States Immigration and Customs officials arrested a child pornography distributor in Omaha, Nebraska that had sent hundreds of images of child pornography to Miller's home computer, among others.

Miller told investigators that he used his personal laptop while he was on duty to access wireless Internet from unsecured routers throughout the Hastings area. Miller also admitted to using an online file sharing program to chat with other perverts and share child pornography with them. The children in the illicit images ranged in age from nine years-old to fifteen.

Miller was hired by the Hastings police force in 1997. How long he has been engaged in his perverted hobby while working as a law enforcement officer is anyone's guess.

Miller has been released on bail. He is scheduled to appear in court again on January 6, 2009.

The following is the official Press Release from the Wisconsin Department of Justice:

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGENTS PARTNER WITH U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AND NEW RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT IN INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN OPERATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 18, 2008

Anthony T. Miller of New Richmond Arrested Arraignment Scheduled for 1 p.m. Today at the St. Croix County Courthouse

NEW RICHMOND – Special Agents from the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation along with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the New Richmond Police Department arrested Anthony T. Miller on 1 count of Possession of Child Pornography and 1 count of Sexual Exploitation of a Child.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) initiated a child pornography investigation regarding an internet website. The investigation was forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Justice – Division of Criminal Investigation. Subsequently, a search warrant was obtained by WI DCI for the residence of Anthony T. Miller in New Richmond, WI.

On Tuesday, December 16, 2008 a search warrant was executed at the residence of Anthony T. Miller, located at 1359 Island View Drive, New Richmond, WI.

The warrant was served by law enforcement from the WI DCI, US ICE and New Richmond Police Department. Items of evidence were seized pursuant to the search warrant. Agents interviewed Miller. Miller admitted downloading, possessing and trading/distributing child pornography for approximately the past 2 years.

Miller reported that he is an 11 year veteran of the Hasting, Minnesota Police Department. Miller also admitted that he had used his personal laptop while on duty as a Hastings Officer to obtain wireless internet access via unencrypted wireless signals from random locations throughout the Hastings, MN area.

Miller confirmed that he participated in an online file sharing program in which he would chat with other individuals involved in possessing child pornography. Miller would trade images of child pornography with these subjects via this file sharing program. Miller would also search the internet for child pornography by using selected, specific search terms. Miller estimated the age of the victims exposed in his child pornography images were typically between 9 – 15 years of age.

Miller is being arraigned today at 1 p.m. at the St. Croix County Courthouse in Hudson.

Questions concerning this case should be directed towards the St. Croix County District Attorney's office.

A defendant enjoys the presumption of innocence. The prosecution must prove its allegations at trial beyond a reasonable doubt.



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