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Off-duty Jersey City cop charged with abuse after allegedly promising 16-year-old girl "alone on streets" to pay for motel room in exchange for sex

Tuesday, March 29, 2011
By MICHAELANGELO CONTE
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

An off-duty Jersey City police officer was arrested on child abuse charges yesterday after he allegedly offered to pay for a room for a 16-year-old girl in exchange for oral sex, authorities said.

Marcos Kelly, 44, of North Arlington, was arrested after the girl got scared and called a friend from the North Bergen motel, Hudson County Prosecutor Edward DeFazio said.

"The allegations are serious and disturbing," DeFazio said about the charges against Kelly, a South District cop. DeFazio described the girl as "alone on the street" and said Kelly "feigned helping her" to entice her.

At about 12:30 a.m. yesterday, Kelly was on Kennedy Boulevard in Jersey City when he picked the girl up and offered "to provide her with a motel room in exchange for the victim performing oral sex," the criminal complaint says.

Sources said he told the girl to get down and stay out of sight as he drove her into the Lincoln Tunnel Motel on Tonnelles Avenue and then registered for a room under an assumed name.

At some point, the 16-year-old became frightened and phoned a friend and police became involved, DeFazio said. North Bergen police responded, followed by Jersey City police, and the case was then referred to the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit, the prosecutor said.

The charges were filed against Kelly based on the "sworn statement of the victim and physical evidence located at the Lincoln Tunnel Motel," the complaint says.

"After reviewing the case and consulting with the prosecutor, I deemed it necessary to suspend the officer (Kelly) without pay immediately," Jersey City Police Chief Tom Comey said yesterday.

When Kelly appeared in Central Judicial Processing court yesterday afternoon he was wearing white sneakers, blue jeans and a gray sweater, with a jacket draped over his hands, which were cuffed behind his back....

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