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Officer Accused Of Sexual Exploitation Of Teen Runaway

Aurora Officer Michael Mangino Facing Two Felony Charges

Written By **Kim Ngan Nguyen**, Web Editor

POSTED: 11:28 am MDT March 28, 2011
UPDATED: 1:04 am MDT March 30, 2011



AURORA, Colo. -- A 29-year veteran of the Aurora Police Department was arrested Monday morning, accused of coercing a 15-year-old female runaway to take sexually explicit photos of herself with his cellphone.

When police officers confiscated that cell phone from 50-year-old Michael Mangino, detectives found it also contained photos and videos of Mangino engaging in sex with women, possibly while on duty, said Aurora Police Chief Daniel Oates.

"This is a pretty sad and dark day for the Aurora Police Department," Oates said at a Monday news briefing. "The shame, of course, is that anytime something like this happens involving a police officer who is accused of betraying the public trust, it diminishes all the wonderful, good things that this department does."



forward if they have more information about Mangino's conduct. The six schools where Mangino was a DARE officer are:



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Picture Of One Girl Taken During DARE Class

Mangino, who is currently a community resource officer in District 1, was a DARE instructor in several elementary schools.

In one of the videos found on Mangino's phone, the camera focuses on the butt of a young girl in a DARE class as she was bending over a table in a classroom, according to the arrest affidavit.

"Sad day if these charges are to be true. A big hit for DARE," said Officer Sean Goings, president of DARE Colorado.

It's not clear where the class was held, and who this girl was, but the video was taken on Feb. 15 at 5:24 p.m., according to the affidavit.

Police are concerned that there are other victims and are asking for the students and parents at six elementary schools to come

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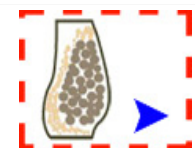
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There is no evidence at this time that Mangino victimized any other person, police spokeswoman Sgt. Cassidee Carlson said. However, because of his exposure to youth through the DARE program, Aurora police are working closely with the leadership in the schools where he was an instructor.

Aurora Public Schools and police held a closed-door meeting for about 40 parents, staff and community members Tuesday night.

But Superintendent John L. Barry locked the news media out of the meeting.

7NEWS reporter Marc Stewart asked Barry to talk about the investigation outside the meeting.

"We have a lot of investigations going on, so were going to release a statement to you in just a minute," Barry said, before walking away.

In that statement, Barry said: "We wanted an environment that was comfortable for parents and staff to ask questions and share concerns. We held this meeting with a preponderance of caution to ensure that anyone who had information about officer Mangino would have the opportunity to share their thoughts freely."

Parent Branannon Osborne recalled learning of the news.

"When my wife called me and told me he'd been arrested, that shocked me," the father told 7NEWS.

"Both of our oldest daughters have had officer Mangino for the DARE program," he said.

"Unfortunately there's going to be a bad apple every now and then, and that's the facts of life."

Mangino, who turned 50 on Monday, was being held on charges of sexual exploitation of a child and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. In addition to those two felonies he is also facing one misdemeanor charge -- official misconduct.

Teen Runaway Said Mangino Told Her To Take Naked Photos Of Herself

According to the arrest affidavit, the teen runaway from San Francisco was contacted by Aurora police officers on March 9. Mangino was tasked to take her to jail.

After she was fingerprinted, she told Mangino that she had smoked marijuana four hours before. He then drove her to The Children's Hospital so she could be medically cleared before she could be booked at the juvenile detention center, the affidavit said.

On the way to the hospital, Mangino asked her to take a photo of herself with this Android phone because he said he takes photos of everyone he arrests, she told detectives.

Then, while waiting by the ER, Mangino "strongly hinted" for her to take pictures in the bathroom and even told her which body parts to photograph, according to the arrest affidavit.

She did as she was told and took a handful of photos of herself partially undressed, and then completely naked in the bathroom at the hospital.

When she handed his cellphone back to him, he asked if he was "going to be surprised," but didn't look at the pictures right away, she said.

On the drive to the juvenile facility, she said he handed her some Cheetos because she was hungry and told her he would take her out to lunch when she was released, "free and clear."

He then handed her his business card and asked her to call him when she was out, according to the affidavit.

When she returned to the home for runaways, she told a counselor that she took photos of herself for a police officer. When asked if she thought this was abnormal, she said no, that she's done that at least twice before, although she was not certain during the other two times if the officers involved were really officers or police impersonators.

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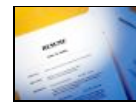
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She said she did what Mangino told her to do because he was "nice to her, not handcuffing her and giving her chips to eat."

Mangino Was Given Humanitarian Award In 2010

The allegation was immediately investigated by the Crimes Against Children Unit, and Mangino was placed on administrative leave with pay on March 17, Carlson said.

The case against Mangino was filed in Adams County Court on Friday. He had a warrant out of his arrest and turned himself in Monday morning, according to court documents. He was processed and released after posting \$20,000 bond.

In accord with Police Department policy, Mangino was placed on administrative leave without pay after his arrest Monday morning.

7NEWS tried contacting Mangino at his home but a woman hung up the phone.

In April 2010 Mangino was given a humanitarian award by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Michael Mangino Is 2nd DARE Officer Arrested In 4 Months

This is the second Aurora officer involved in police department's DARE program to have been arrested in four months.

In December, another Aurora police officer was arrested in Colorado Springs, accused of taking child porn and sex toys to work.

Sgt. Morgan Sellman, 39, was arrested on suspicion of sexual exploitation of children for possession of child pornography.

Sellman was Aurora's DARE program coordinator, managing the program's budget, scheduling, supplies and administrative tasks. He did not deal with students and last taught in 2001.

Police Seeking Additional Witnesses

Once the criminal charges in Mangino's case are resolved, the police department will complete an internal affairs investigation in the case, Carlson said.

Mangino's job as a community resource officer -- in the area west of Interstate 225 -- was to work with businesses, schools, and residents "to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods."

While there is no evidence of other victims at this time, the Aurora Police Department recognizes that there may be other people who may have been victimized by Mangino using his position of authority as a police officer, Carlson said.

The community is encouraged to provide any information that might be relevant to Sgt. Joe Young at 303-739-6093 or the Crimes Against Children Unit at 303-739-6155.

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- December 18, 2010: [Police: Officer Took Child Porn, Sex Toys To Work](#)
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