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## Retired Cleveland police officer sentenced to prison

4:42 PM, Mar 4, 2011 |

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 Written by  
 Kim Wendel

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CLEVELAND -- Retired Cleveland police officer Robert Bonness, 53, of Parma, has been sentenced to 52 and a half years in prison by Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Peter Corrigan.

Corrigan also ordered Bonness to pay a \$15,000 fine and labeled him as a Tier III sex offender, which requires him to register his address with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office every 90 days for life.

Bonness, who retired in 2009, pleaded guilty in January to attempted rape, multiple counts of pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, possessing material containing nude minors and possessing criminal tools.

Prosecutors say Bonness, on the police force for 23 years, used that experience to avoid detection. In addition to a collection of

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more than 100 pornographic videos involving children, he tried to meet a 12-year-old girl for sex, which ultimately led to his arrest.

According to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office, Bonness arranged to meet with a father and daughter for the purpose of having sex with the daughter.

In July, Bonness had responded to an ad posted on Craigslist that advertised a dad and daughter interested in a special person.


Over the next couple months, Bonness communicated with an undercover Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) detective, whose profile was the father of the fictitious 12-year-old daughter.

Prosecutors say Bonness arranged to meet with the dad and daughter in North Olmsted on Oct. 28 for sex with the daughter. Bonness drove to the meet location and was arrested inside the hotel.


A search warrant was executed on the car Bonness drove to the meeting location. Officers recovered condoms, lubricant, and sex toys. An additional search warrant was executed at Bonness' home in Parma. Officers recovered his laptop, cameras, firearms with ammunition, and additional sex toys.

His computer was confiscated and will be forensically analyzed by ICAC investigators. ICAC members, County Sheriff's Office and Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) SWAT, also assisted with the investigation.


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