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City Police Officer Is Charged With Rape of His Student, 14

By AL BAKER Published: December 29, 2007

A New York City police officer has been arrested on charges of raping a 14-year-old girl who studied martial arts at his home in Middletown, N.Y., and at his martial arts school in New Jersey, the authorities said on Friday.



Trent Young

The officer, Trent Young, 39, was suspended without pay and stripped of his gun and badge after he was

arrested at 4 a.m. Thursday by Middletown police officers who pulled him over as he was driving to his city job, officials said.

Officer Young is assigned to the 26th Precinct, in Upper Manhattan, and has been a police officer for nine years, said Lt. Patrick M. Freeman, a spokesman for the Middletown Police Department. He said the officer, who is married, was formerly a schoolteacher.

The child, who is now 15, came forward with her parents on Dec. 21, the police said. The child said that she became a student at Officer Young's martial arts school in the summer of 2004, the police said, and that when she reached the green-belt level of her training, in December 2005, the officer had her sign an oath of obedience and take her clothes off. He then sexually abused her, the police said.

From 2006 through October 2007, Officer Young had sex with the girl 20 to 40 times at various locations, including at his home on Maple Drive and at the dojo, or martial arts school, he operates in West Milford, N.J., said Lieutenant Freeman. Calls to the school on Friday were not returned.

An investigation led the police to a second child, who also said the officer had her sign an oath of obedience and asked her to disrobe when she reached the green-belt level in the spring of 2007, when she was 14, said Lieutenant Freeman.

But "she does not comply," the lieutenant said. Officer Young has not been charged in that case, the police said.

The police in Middletown, which is in Orange County, have alerted the authorities in New Jersey and are trying to determine whether other victims exist, said Lieutenant Freeman. He said the case would be presented to a grand jury. Investigators carried out search warrants at the officer's locker at the station house and at his home to look for cameras or computers, the police said.

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Lieutenant Freeman said Officer Young "twisted the martial arts code" of obedience between a teacher and a student, and violated his position of trust.

A lawyer for the <u>Patrolmen's Benevolent Association</u>, the city police union, said the union was representing Officer Young for the purposes of arraignment only. "We have no comment," said the lawyer, <u>Stephen C. Worth</u>.

Officer Young was freed on bail after his arraignment on Thursday, said Lieutenant Freeman, and was due back in court on Wednesday.

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