

NY parole officer arrested for child porn

CHILD PORN ARREST | SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 | BY: MIKE BALSAMO |



A senior New York State parole officer responsible for supervising paroled sex offenders was arrested by federal agents on allegations he possessed child pornography.

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Federal agents arrested a senior New York State parole officer at his Bethpage home on Tuesday on charges he allegedly possessed and shared child pornography.

James Leone is a senior parole official, whose duties include commanding officers who supervise paroled sex offenders. According to a criminal complaint unsealed

Tuesday, Leone possessed videos of minor children engaged in sexually explicit and lewd conduct.

Leone appeared in U.S. District Court on Tuesday, where a judge ordered his service firearm confiscated. Leone was released on \$500,000.00 bond, but is limited to home confinement and subject to electronic monitoring.

In early September, Leone was netted in an undercover operation, which revealed he accessed a peer-to-peer sharing site, known to traffic pornographic images of minors. Investigators obtained a search warrant last week to search Leone's computer.

In the criminal complaint filed, a [Department of Homeland Security \(http://www.dhs.gov/\)](http://www.dhs.gov/) investigator detailed the images found on Leone's computer, which include children being sexually abused by adults. Investigators from the New York State Inspector General's Office assisted in the investigation.

Leone allegedly told investigators he downloaded between 10 and 15 videos of child pornography in the last year, according to [reports \(http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/NY-parole-officer-accused-of-possessing-child-porn-3893234.php\)](http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/NY-parole-officer-accused-of-possessing-child-porn-3893234.php).

A spokesperson for the New York State Department of Correction, which oversees parole officers, said Leone was first hired as a parole officer in 1994. He was promoted to senior parole officer in 2001, where he worked in New York City. In 2005, Leone was transferred to the Long Island office.

Leone, who according to [payroll records \(http://new-york-employees.findthedata.org/1/209566/James-B-Leone\)](http://new-york-employees.findthedata.org/1/209566/James-B-Leone) earned \$90,946.00 in 2010, has been suspended from his executive position.



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Mike Balsamo is a Long Island hyperlocal news journalist. Experienced in covering breaking and investigative news across Long Island, Mike is live with everything crime, courts, and public schools. News tips are always welcome! Contact Mike at this address or follow Twitter .