

## Waltham cop charged in child porn case taken back into custody

WALTHAM –

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The Waltham police officer arrested last March on a federal child pornography charge was taken into custody last week for allegedly violating the conditions of his release, while new details of his case came out in a detention hearing on Wednesday.

Paul Manganelli, a veteran of the Waltham force, was discovered using the Internet and accessing Facebook, and was taken into custody last Friday by U.S. Marshals, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Manganelli was allegedly commenting on Facebook posts and "liking" pages. The conditions of his release, which were approved by a federal judge last March, specifically prohibited access to the Internet.

Manganelli appeared in federal court for a detention hearing on Wednesday that had been scheduled prior to his apprehension last week.

"At the hearing, the prosecutor told the court that Manganelli allegedly solicited advice from child molesters about how to groom a victim and he sent them (clothed) pictures of a child to whom he had access, suggesting the child as a potential victim for Manganelli/others," Christina Sterling, U.S. Attorney's Office spokeswoman, wrote in an email.

The prosecution also told the court about Manganelli's emails, in which he talks about kissing, touching and wrestling with the minor, including genital contact through the clothes, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The sending of clothed pictures was not discussed in the original complaint affidavit.

Manganelli is currently in custody as the judge is taking the terms of his release under consideration. Sterling said the judge has given Manganelli's attorney time to assess the defendant's assets to determine whether any collateral could be used. Equity on his home was discussed, along with the fact that Manganelli is a previous lottery winner.

Manganelli was released to home detention under the supervision of his parents last March. Judge Leo Sorokin ordered Manganelli to wear a monitoring device and not have any direct or indirect contact with anyone younger than 18, except relatives with adult supervision. He was also specifically prohibited from using the Internet.

Manganelli was charged last March with receipt of child pornography. He was arrested as a part of an FBI investigation that exposed an international web of people who allegedly exchanged child pornography. A search warrant was executed on Manganelli's email account, which revealed about 1,230 emails had been sent between February 2012 and January 2013 that contained child pornography, according to the criminal complaint filed last March.

Manganelli acknowledged to the FBI that he had been viewing and exchanging the pornography, but that he was doing it for the purposes of research. Manganelli also told the FBI that he was never tasked by the

Waltham Police Department to conduct any research and over the two to three years he was involved, he never once reported any of the illicit activities he observed online.

Manganelli faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine.

Manganelli has been a Waltham police officer since May 1993, and pending an indictment he is currently on paid administrative leave from the department, according to police.

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