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NOPD sergeant arrested on 38 counts of child pornography

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A veteran **New Orleans Police Department** sergeant was arrested Wednesday (April 23) on child pornography charges, according to a statement from the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

Sgt. Bradley Wax, 54, was booked into the St. Tammany Parish jail Wednesday afternoon on 38 counts of possession of child pornography, Louisiana Attorney General Buddy Caldwell said in a prepared statement.

A source close to the investigation said Wax turned himself over to authorities in Orleans Parish Wednesday morning but was later transported to the St. Tammany Parish jail, as the charges stem from that jurisdiction. He resides in Mandeville, online property records show.

In January, following an online undercover operation led by the Attorney General's Cyber Crime Unit, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office and Homeland Security Investigations, investigators executed a search warrant at Wax's home. There, the statement said, investigators found pornographic images of children on computers and other electronic devices.

"As internet crimes escalate, Attorney General Buddy Caldwell is allocating resources to vigorously monitor, arrest, and prosecute online child predators," the statement said.

Deputy Chief of NOPD's Public Integrity Bureau, Arlinda Westbrook, said Wax has been placed on emergency suspension, without pay, "pending the outcome of an ongoing criminal investigation."

Wax's bond was set at \$1000 per count, or a total of \$38,000.

Wax's attorney, Buddy Spell, said that he had not yet had the chance to brief his client and was therefore unable to comment. However, Spell did say that he expected Wax to post bail and be released by Wednesday evening.

"At the moment all I've heard are rumors and speculations," Spell said. "But you can expect a very aggressive defense."

If convicted at trial, Wax faces up to twenty years in prison on each of the 38 counts he is charged with.

Wax, a 16-year veteran of the department, was most recently assigned to the 7th District, which covers eastern New Orleans.

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