



MICHAEL C. O'MALLEY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Ohio ICAC Task Force “Operation Triple Play” Results in Arrest of 28 Online Offenders

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, July 11, 2019

CLEVELAND, OH – Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O’Malley announced the arrest of 28 individuals as part of “Operation Triple Play,” an undercover operation led by the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. The four-day operation ran from Saturday, July 6 to Tuesday, July 9, 2019. The purpose of the operation was to identify and arrest individuals interested in engaging in sexual activity with whom they believed to be minor children.

“Online predators are a hidden threat to children throughout this community. The success of this operation should serve as a stern reminder to perpetrators – if you attempt to exploit children online, we will catch you,” said Prosecutor O’Malley. “This operation would not have been possible without the teamwork of the numerous law enforcement agencies involved.”

The defendants, ages 20 to 67-years-old, engaged in sexually-explicit online conversations with undercover task force officers posing as children. Contact was initiated through popular social media applications. The defendants expressed an interest in engaging in sexual activity with the purported children and/or disseminated images of their genitals during these online conversations.

Following the conversations, the individuals traveled to a pre-arranged location, which was a vacant house in Cuyahoga County, and were arrested by law enforcement officers. Several defendants were in possession of condoms, personal lubricant, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

Initial charges were filed against the defendants that include Attempted Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Disseminating Matter Harmful to Juveniles, and Importuning. Each case is being reviewed for possible charges of Possessing Criminal Tools and Attempted Corrupting Another With Drugs. Each case will be presented to a Cuyahoga County Grand Jury.

The arrested individuals include:

- Jacob Hale, 20, Cleveland, OH
- Kyle Ferguson, 21, Medina, OH
- Denis Ismailaj, 22, Lakewood, OH
- Jacob Hoover, 22, Brunswick, OH
- Tyler Reed, 23, Parma, OH
- Luis Ponciano, 23, Lorain, OH
- Sebastien Juin, 24, Cleveland, OH
- Jonathan Staples, 24, Barberton, OH
- Maurice Cannon, 26, Cleveland Heights, OH
- Julio Torres, 26, Cleveland, OH
- Jamal Williams, 26, Cleveland, OH
- Justin Raab, 26, Painesville, OH
- Michael Mills, 27, Westlake, OH
- Douglas Rosenthal, 27, Cleveland, OH
- Peter Nelson, 28, Cleveland, OH
- Jason Chandler, 28, Akron, OH
- Carlos Crespo, 29, Brunswick, OH
- Anthony Gentry, 29, Youngstown, OH
- Aaron Hawley, 30, Sheffield Village, OH
- Scott Carrigan, 31, Chardon, OH
- Phillip Pate, 31, Lakewood, OH
- Derek Simon, 31, Lakewood, OH
- Jason Conley, 32, Painesville, OH
- Steven Prest, 36, Youngstown, OH
- Eric Flores, 40, Cleveland, OH
- Vincenzo Rampini, 43, Mentor, OH
- Norman Thompson, 49, Chesterland, OH
- James Schultz, 67, Parma, OH

Operation Triple Play was coordinated by the Ohio ICAC Task Force with the assistance of the Ohio Attorney General's Office and Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Newburgh Heights Police Department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S Secret Service, the Ohio Adult Parole Authority, Mahoning Valley Sheriff's Office, Solon Police, Wooster Police, Streetsboro Police, Austintown Township Police, Kent Police, and Cortland Police Departments.

The Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is run under the direction of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and funded in part by a grant from the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The task force conducts proactive and reactive investigations dealing with the online exploitation of children and provides training and technical assistance to more than 350 local, state and federal criminal justice affiliated agencies throughout the state of Ohio.

Contact: Ryan Miday, Director of Communications and Public Policy. Phone: 216.443.7488 or Email: rmiday@prosecutor.cuyahogacounty.us