

Ex-Newark teacher accused of child porn

Secret recordings at ‘Y’ also alleged

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A Newark, Wayne County, man who recently resigned as a faculty member at Newark High School and once worked at the YMCA in Canandaigua, has been arrested and charged with production, receipt and possession of child pornography and online enticement of a minor, according to a statement released Monday by U.S. Attorney James P. Kennedy Jr.

Matthew Holland, 28, also is believed to have secretly recorded people at the Canandaigua YMCA, the statement said.

According to the criminal complaint, on March 9, investigators with the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office in Leesburg, Virginia, received a report that Snapchat user “Tjohnson755,” later identified as Holland, engaged in sexually explicit conversations with a 14 year-old, coerced her into sending him nude photographs and threatened her when she tried to stop communicating, leading her to send him sexually explicit photographs and videos.

While analyzing Holland’s “Tjohnson755” Snapchat account, Loudoun County investigators identified dozens of similar conversations with other suspected minors.

With help from the Newark Police Department, and the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office, Loudoun County investigators executed a search warrant at Holland’s home. A preliminary analysis of seized computers found hundreds of images and videos of child pornography that Holland produced using his “Tjohnson755” Snapchat account.

In addition, according to the statement, Holland told investigators that he operated Illumination Images on West Union Street in Newark, where he had hidden cameras in the dressing room to record customers, including minors, undressing.

Anyone with information about Holland, Illumination Images, or Snapchat User “Tjohnson755” should contact Homeland Security Investigations at (716) 464-6070 or via email at hsibuffalotips@ice.dhs.gov.

Newark Central School District Superintendent Matt Cook said in a statement that “the District has been working closely with the Victim Resource Center of Wayne County to make sure our students and families get the support they need during this difficult time.

“As this is an ongoing law enforcement investigation, all other questions regarding Mr. Holland need to be directed to the agencies running the investigation,” Cook said.

The Canandaigua YMCA also released a statement saying it had been notified by authorities that a former employee was under investigation. “We are fully cooperating in this ongoing investigation,” the organization said. “The safety, security, and well-being of children and members in our care is the No. 1 priority at the Canandaigua Family YMCA. We take very seriously our obligation to protect those we serve. Prior to employment with the YMCA, this former employee had passed all required background screening.”

In his statement, U.S. Attorney Kennedy said: “This case serves as a sobering reminder that we must remain vigilant in our effort to educate our children to the dangers they face and to pay attention to their online activities.

“Too often children lack the real world experience needed to discern the dangers lurking in the virtual world.”



Holland was extradited to Leesburg to face state charges there. After making an appearance on the federal charges in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, he was ordered held without bail until he is transported to the Western District of New York.

The charges Holland faces carry a minimum penalty of 15 years in prison, a maximum penalty of life, and a \$250,000 fine.

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