



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**NEW YORK CITY FIREFIGHTER CHARGED WITH USING
THE INTERNET TO SOLICIT A MINOR FOR SEX**

ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and **ROSE GILL HEARN**, Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced the unsealing of a federal complaint charging **RYAN HOGAN**, a New York City firefighter, with using the Internet to attempt to entice a 14-year-old

girl into having sex with him and with using the Internet to transmit obscene matter to a person he believed to be under 16 years of age.¹

HOGAN was arrested this morning at his residence by DOI investigators and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His initial appearance is scheduled later today before United States Magistrate Judge Lois Bloom, at the U.S. Courthouse, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York.

According to the complaint, HOGAN used the Internet, including chat rooms and e-mail, in an attempt to entice a purported 14-year-old girl to have sexual contact. HOGAN used the screen names “ryan4686” and “ryane237” to communicate with someone using the screen name “cuteashley4U1990.” Cuteashley told HOGAN that she was 14 years old and resided in Bethpage, Long Island, with her mother. Cuteashley also included a picture of a young girl in her online profile. The individual behind the screen name cuteashley was actually an adult volunteer for an organization called “Perverted Justice,” which set up the sting that resulted in HOGAN’s detection by law enforcement.

In one instance detailed by the complaint, HOGAN told cuteashley that he had seen her profile on the Internet and that he wanted to see her that night to have oral sex, “doggie” sex and anal sex. When cuteashley told HOGAN that her mother was away and she was home alone, HOGAN gave her his telephone number to arrange a meeting. Another adult posing as cuteashley then spoke with HOGAN, during which conversation HOGAN agreed to meet cuteashley for the purpose of having sex with her.

¹ The charges contained in the complaint are merely allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

According to the complaint, over the next two days, HOGAN repeatedly contacted cuteashley online, including some online chats that HOGAN conducted from a computer located at Engine Company 237 in Brooklyn, while HOGAN was on duty. During the online chats, HOGAN arranged to meet cuteashley at her home, while her mother was out, in the morning on March 10, 2004. HOGAN then traveled to cuteashley's house, but did not stop because he apparently had seen a police car. Later that day, HOGAN and cuteashley chatted online and, after being reassured that she was not a law enforcement agent, HOGAN sent cuteashley a video image of himself masturbating, which video image appeared to be transmitted over the Internet as a live feed. In the image, HOGAN was naked from the waist down and wearing a New York City Fire Department shirt.

The New York City Department of Investigation has since seized for analysis the computer from the New York City firehouse where HOGAN was stationed.

“This case is an example of our firm commitment to identify and prosecute those individuals who attempt to prey on the children of our community,” stated United States Attorney **ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF**. “The crime alleged in this complaint is particularly disturbing due to the fact that the defendant, as a firefighter, breached the public trust by attempting to victimize a member of the community whom he was trained to protect.” Ms. **MAUSKOPF** thanked the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the members of the private citizens' group who assisted in the investigation, and emphasized that the investigation was continuing.

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation, stated, “In the past week, DOI has arrested a City employee for possessing child

pornography and today the agency has arrested another City employee for using the Internet to schedule illegal activity with an underage girl. Let these arrests be a warning to others who are considering engaging in such shocking activities because DOI will investigate any inappropriate or illegal activity on the City's computers.” Ms. **GILL HEARN** also thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta for referring this matter to DOI.

If convicted of the charges in the complaint, RYAN HOGAN faces a statutory mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of five years and a maximum sentence of thirty years, and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

The government’s case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Taryn A. Merkl and Lawrence P. Ferazani, Jr.

The Defendant

Name: Ryan P. Hogan
DOB: 08/15/1979
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