

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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2 Page (s)

For further information contact:

Madelaine Vitale 609-909-7855

609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted a Williamstown man on multiple charges including attempted sexual assault, attempted endangering the welfare of a child, child luring and attempted sexual contact, for arranging a meeting with a Prosecutor's Office Detective posing as a 14-year-old girl, with whom he had contact in an Internet chat room, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced today.

It is alleged that Paul Baker, 27, had several sexually explicit conversations with "N.S.," whom he believed was a 14-year-old girl, between June 30, 2009 and July 20, 2009 in an Internet chat room. In addition, he allegedly spoke with the "girl" on two occasions before scheduling a meeting in Hamilton Township on July 20. Instead of meeting the "girl", Baker was met by Detectives of the Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit and arrested that same day, according to Assistant Prosecutor Janet Gravitz, who presented the case to the Grand Jury Wednesday afternoon.

Bail has been set at \$75,000 full cash.

After the return of the Indictment, Prosecutor Housel stated, "This office will not hesitate to indict and prosecute sexual predators who populate the Internet and who would prey upon children under the age of consent. We do so both to deter specific sexual predators who reach out to detectives posing as children and to deter predators generally from using the Internet as a tool to sexually abuse children."

The indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The most serious of the offenses charged in the indictment are second-degree crimes and carry a potential sentence of 10 years in State Prison and a \$150,000 fine.

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for

information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.