



# Ken-Ton Bee



2018-01-31 / Local News

## Registered sex offender arrested

Carlos Francisco Lopez, 28, of Los Angeles, has been arrested and charged by criminal complaint with enticement of a minor to engage in sexual activity and attempting to transport a minor across state lines to engage in sexual activity, according to James P. Kennedy Jr., U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York.

The charges carry a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years and a maximum of life in prison if convicted.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron J. Mango, who is handling the case, stated that according to the complaint, on Jan. 16, the City of Tonawanda Police Department received a request to conduct a welfare check on a 15-year-old girl who was reported to have run away from home and gotten on a bus.

According to the attorney's office, police officers located the bus in Tonawanda, stopped it and located the victim, who was a passenger. The victim told officers she was running away from home and intended to travel to California to visit family, claiming that her uncle purchased the bus ticket for her.

Subsequent interviews revealed that the victim met an unknown individual, with the username "playfulchaos," on the internet application Kik in a group for runaway youth. In addition to discussing the victim running away, the two also discussed having sex.

According to the victim, the two continued to communicate on the internet application Text Free, making plans for the victim to travel to California.

On Jan. 18, an undercover law enforcement officer posed as the victim to continue to communicate with the individual that police identified as Lopez. The officer wrote, "hey u there ... this bus ride sucks." The undercover officer stated she was due into California around 10 p.m. on Jan. 19 and asked what to do upon arrival.

Police said Lopez replied, "call me or text me. Wait at the station, and ill send an uber." Lopez was arrested after the officer sent a message that the bus had arrived and he reportedly ordered an Uber.

In 2011, Lopez was convicted of a sexual offense against a child under the age of 14 in the State of California, according to authorities, and is a registered sex offender. Police say he was released from prison in 2016 and is an active parolee.

Lopez was arrested in Los Angeles and made an initial appearance in Federal Court in the Central District of California. He will be returned to the Western District of New York at a later date.

The complaint is the result of an investigation by the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent-in-Charge Adam S. Cohen; the City of Tonawanda Police Department, under the direction of Chief William Strassburg; and the Cheektowaga Police Department, under the direction of Chief David Zack.

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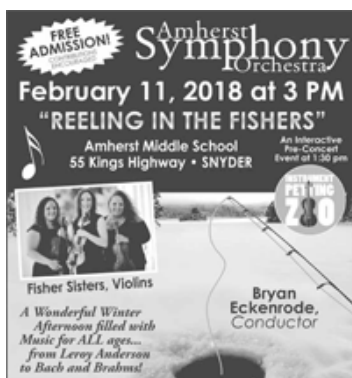
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