

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## **BRIGHTON MAN CHARGED WITH SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Thomas Cramer, 40, of Brighton, N.Y., was arrested and charged by Criminal Complaint with sex trafficking of minors. The charge carries a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum of life, a \$250,000 fine or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Rogowski, who is handling the case, stated that according to the Criminal Complaint, between 2008 and February 2012, the defendant enticed, promoted and profited from the prostitution activities of six minor girls knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, that the girls were under the age of 18. One incident involved the exchange of text messages between Cramer and a girl. The Criminal Complaint alleges that the defendant enticed the girl by telling her she could make much more money performing commercial sex acts than she could working at a grocery store. Although the girl initially told Cramer she was older than 18, when she informed the defendant that she was 17 years old, Cramer was undeterred and continued to engage in salacious texting with the female.

The Criminal Complaint further alleges that the defendant placed advertisements on adult web sites regarding the availability of the minor females for commercial sex acts. The acts took place at hotels in the Rochester, Buffalo, and Syracuse areas and in Cramer's residence. Furthermore, the Criminal Complaint stated that customers were charged between \$150 and \$220 per hour to engage in sexual activities with the minor girls and that Cramer received a portion of those proceeds.

“Our Office, along with our law enforcement partners at every level of Government, are committed to aggressively prosecuting all forms of trafficking in human beings, particularly sex trafficking of minors,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “The allegations in this particular Complaint are troubling, and indicate that in at least one case, a young girl had

been a runaway as of the time she was recruited by the defendant. In order to effectively combat such serious offenses, our Office will continue to sponsor a Human Trafficking Task Force, which was started several years ago and includes both law enforcement and non-governmental organizations.”

The arrest was the result of an investigation on the part of members of the Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero and the New York State Police, under the direction of Major Christopher Cummings.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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