



Department of Justice

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District of Oregon

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FORMER SALEM BASKETBALL COACH SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT AFTER GUILTY PLEA TO DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

*Oregon Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Coordinates
With State and Federal Prosecutors in Pornography Case
Against Former Basketball Coach*

PORTLAND, ORE. - Rodney Andre Howard, 41, a former South Salem High School basketball coach, was sentenced to 87 months incarceration as a result of his July 24, 2007 guilty plea to the crime of distribution of child pornography. Specifically, the September 27, 2006 indictment alleged that Howard knowingly transported child pornography by the use of a computer. U.S. District Court Judge Michael W. Mosman ordered Howard to report to the Bureau of Prisons on January 31, 2008 to begin serving his sentence. Upon leaving prison, Howard will be subject to five years of supervised release.

According to documents filed by the Marion County District Attorney's office in support of a search warrant, Howard's AOL Internet account was discontinued by the provider because AOL suspected that the account had been used to traffic contraband material. Shortly after the account was closed, Howard opened a second one with a different screen name and again used the account to traffic material which contained images of child pornography. AOL captured the data and sent it to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) who processed the image and the email from Howard's account, noting that it was child pornography.

NCMEC then contacted authorities in New Mexico, given as the location of the AOL account by the subscriber. Instead, authorities assigned to Operation Black Ice as part of the Oregon Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force at the Oregon Department of Justice were able to determine that the emails originated from an AOL account location in Oregon and registered to Howard.

Investigators assigned to the Oregon Department of Justice ICAC Task Force contacted Howard who gave consent to have his computers evaluated forensically. During the computer analysis, investigators discovered numerous sent email messages containing sexually explicit images of minor female and male children. Also discovered were numerous images containing child pornography attached to outgoing or sent emails.

A search warrant was obtained to recover the original computers which contained the child pornography. The case, originally filed in Marion County Circuit Court by the Marion

County District Attorney's Office, was dismissed in lieu of federal prosecution as part of the federal initiative Project Safe Childhood.

In February 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

United States Attorney Karin J. Immergut noted, "Project Safe Childhood provides us with the cooperation and coordination of resources at the national, state and local levels to ensure that offenders are apprehended and brought to justice." Speaking about this case specifically, Ms. Immergut remarked, "this case demonstrates that a concerted effort by both federal and state prosecutors can result in an effective approach to safeguarding our youth against Internet sexual exploitation."

The case was prosecuted by Charlyn Reese at the Marion County District Attorney's Office and Greg Nyhus at the United States Attorney's Office.

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