

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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WISCONSIN SEX OFFENDER CONVICTED IN NEW YORK OF TRANSPORTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BUFFALO, N.Y. -- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that James Allen Hammer, 68, of Onalaska, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty to transporting child pornography before U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara. The charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years and a maximum of 40 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Fauzia K. Mattingly, who is handling the case, Hammer was traveling through Canada in July 2010 to attend a retreat in Upstate New York when he was stopped at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls. Record checks listed the defendant as a registered sex offender based upon a 2002 conviction in Elgin, Illinois for sexual abuse of a minor child. A search of Hammer's vehicle conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers resulted in the discovery of a computer and thumb drive containing over 2000 images of child pornography, cameras, and sexual paraphernalia. Child pornography was also found at Hammer's residence by authorities of the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov.

The plea is the result of an investigation being handled by Special Agents of

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of Buffalo Special Agent in Charge James C. Spero.

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