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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY TIMOTHY J. HEAPHY

I. Introduction

Good morning and thank you all for being here. My name is Tim Heaphy and I'm the United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia.

I have asked you all here today to announce the details of a guilty plea, entered into just moments ago by a Lynchburg resident, Randy Bruffy, on charges related to the production and possession of child pornography.

In addition, I want to talk a little bit about what my office is doing to hunt down and prosecute those who traffic in child pornography and the ways in which we are working to educate parents on how to keep

their children safe online.

But first, the Bruffy case.

II. Bruffy Case

This morning, Randy Wayne Bruffy, a 30-year-old resident of Lynchburg, pled guilty to two counts of producing child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography following an investigation by the Campbell County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Southern Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Like so many of these tragic cases, the investigation of Mr. Bruffy began when an member of SOVA ICAC observed the defendant on a peer-to-peer file sharing website making available for download a large collection of child pornography images and videos.

One of the largest collections, in fact, that investigators have ever discovered online.

After observing the defendant's online activity, state authorities

executed a search warrant at Bruffy's home in November 2010 and seized a computer, video camera and various storage media that were found to contain a large volume of child pornography, including homemade child pornography that Bruffy recorded himself.

The homemade child pornography the agents found included two videos, both depicting children under the age of five.

The first video is of a five-year-old boy taken by a hidden camera while the boy was taking a bath and while the boy was asleep. The video contained multiple images of the boy's genital area.

The second video was of a four-year-old girl, taken again while the victim was asleep. Bruffy removed the girl's clothes and took images of the victim's genitals, including images where a hand appears to be spreading the girl's vagina.

These images are just horrific.

Absolutely heart wrenching.

Often times with these child pornography cases, we are

prosecuting someone who sits down at his or her computer and downloads child pornography images that were made years ago in some far away place. While those images are still despicable, there is something more tragic when a local man victimizes local children for his own perverse sexual desires.

Mr. Bruffy directly victimized these children by personally producing child pornography. He didn't log onto a website and stumble upon images of child pornography. Instead, he initiated the abuse and filmed two young children in a perverse and explicit manner.

Those are serious crimes and they will have serious consequences, consequences our office will seek at the appropriate time. While the actual sentence falls under the power of the court to decide, I can tell you that each count of producing child pornography carries with it a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years in prison.

I am grateful to all the men and women who investigated and helped bring Mr. Bruffy to justice. Without a doubt, the Lynchburg community is safer by having this man behind bars.

The Bruffy case is, unfortunately, just one of the thousands of child pornography cases the Department of Justice prosecutes each and every year.

III. Project Safe Childhood

The Department of Justice takes the issue of child exploitation extremely seriously and has prioritized it among the various criminal justice challenges we face. One significant federal resource utilized by our office is Project Safe Childhood, an initiative begun by the Department of Justice in 2006 to help federal, state and local law enforcement locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet.

Since the program began in 2006, the number of federal prosecutions regarding those who exploit children over the internet has climbed each year. Just to give you a frame of reference, in 2006 there were just over 1,600 child exploitation cases filed in federal court. In 2007, only one year after the launch of Project Safe Childhood, that number jumped by over 500 cases to over 2,100. That number increased

by another 4% in 2008. This trajectory demonstrates both the scope of the problem of child exploitation and the need for and effectiveness of Project Safe Childhood.

We are fortunate in the Western District of Virginia to have a skilled and experienced Assistant United States Attorney as our Project Safe Childhood Coordinator. Her name is Nancy Healey, and she is here to tell you a bit more about Project Safe Childhood and the work she does supervising that program.

NANCY: As Tim has told you, I am the PSC Coordinator for the WDVA and have served as such since 2006 when the program was launched. I would like to take a couple of minutes to tell you about the program and how I believe it has forwarded our efforts to combat internet facilitated crimes against children.

Project Safe Childhood was started by DOJ to coordinate efforts at all levels of government - federal, state and local - to ensure that law

enforcement maximized its ability to combat the ever expanding threat of internet crimes against children. The goals of this program include tracking down more child sexual offenders, bringing prosecutions in the best forum for sentencing purposes, training law enforcement officers and prosecutors about federal crimes and PSC, attempting to prevent children from engaging in risky behavior, and, of course, rescuing children from these horrific crimes. For these efforts, federal prosecutors have partnered with their state colleagues, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, and more simply any organization willing and able to play a role.

The problem that Project Safe Childhood was conceived to address is multi-faceted. Child exploitation takes many forms. The some cases demonstrate the danger of child enticement, others are more focused on the transmission of images of child pornography is also significant and persistent. We have seen very sad and disturbing images in the course of PSC investigations, including pictures of pre-pubescent youth engaged in sexual acts with adults. We have discovered video

images which demonstrate awful, brutal victimization. Another byproduct of technology is the ability to broadcast live streaming images of sexual abuse. Child pornographers and abusers can now broadcast their abuse of a child live and these images can be captured to be replayed on permanent media.

Both the nature and volume of these cases is frankly astounding. We have strong Federal laws with tough penalties in our arsenal to deal with the huge problem. We use these laws to bring Federal prosecutions against those who choose to violate our children. These laws not only punish child pornography offenses but a variety of other cases including enticement of a minor to engage in illegal sexual acts committed by computer, telephone, or mail. Our laws also cover the "dateline" type of offenses where someone travels across a state line or transports a child across a state line to have sex with a minor. The people who commit these crimes are from all walks of life. Distressingly, some of the targets of our investigations are in positions of responsibility - teachers, coaches, scout leaders, even clergy. These offenders often have easy

access to children. This threat comes from unanticipated sources and is more pervasive than most people realize.

Those of us who work in this area are confronted with an online environment that is dynamic and rapidly evolving. The virtual universe presents opportunities for abuse that simply were not present when we (or most of us) were growing up. Children are frequently exposed to unsolicited sexual material online and too many receive unwanted sexual solicitations. Many children have reported receiving online communications from someone they did not know. Numerous children have considered meeting someone they have met online. Perhaps most disturbing is that parents sometimes have no insight into the online behavior of their children and don't know when their children have "friended" strangers who do not have their best interests at heart.

As a PSC Coordinator, I not only prosecute these cases -- I am also available to talk with parents and children about internet safety. Being able to prevent another mistake by a child is far more valuable to me, Tim, and these officers than an additional prosecution for another

crime that could have been prevented.

Part of my job as PSC Coordinator is to help people in this community respond to the threat of child exploitation. We want people to know that there are numerous materials readily available to teach you about internet safety and how you can monitor your children's online activity. Many of these materials are free. I am personally available to talk with parents or students at schools and other forums on this issue. Education leads to prevention, which is a vital component of the Project Safe Childhood strategy.

IV. Warnings and Conclusion

As Nancy said, this treat is extremely serious. Our team is poised to combat that threat, and it extends beyond Project Safe Childhood and our federal resources.

The other important partner in the battle against child exploitation is parents.

I want to encourage all of the parents who are watching this or

may read about this event to take a more active role in supervising their children when they enter this dangerous on-line universe. We encourage parents to get involved in their children's online activities. Monitor what they are doing online. Move computers out of the bedrooms and into public places. Talk to your children about online safety. It is important to prepare them for the dangers of the internet and help them recognize and avoid dangerous individuals and situations. There's an old saying: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That is particularly true in the area of internet safety. Addressing this threat with your children may be difficult and unpleasant. It could, however, end up making all the difference in the world.

As a way for our office to help parents address these very sensitive topics, the United States Attorney's Office will be offering training to parents, schools, scout groups, etc., on the dangers of the internet and the trouble children can get into online.

We will also hold a training session for local law enforcement officers to better help them deal with these complex and disturbing

cases. All of these things are steps in the fight to end all forms of child exploitation.

It's easy to ignore this problem or fail to appreciate its scope. We hope these cases and the information we provided today help parents appreciate the threat and take steps to protect their own families. Nancy Healey is available as a resource to help in that effort, as she indicated.

I want to say a final word about the most important aspect of all of this - the real victims of these cases - our children. We take each and every one of these cases very seriously because we know the exploitation of children has long lasting and real effects on their lives. These children are forced to suffer through the physical abuse of sexual assault and then must endure the mental trauma of knowing their image is being traded online. Many of the victims of child pornography that have been identified and have testified before Congress describe how knowing that images of their abuses were being traded for sexual gratification was as bad, if not worse, than the abuse itself. In a very real sense, each image of child pornography represents an abused child and a

shattered life.

I thought I would close with a quote from a recent sentencing in a case we prosecuted. Judge Samuel Wilson said this when sentencing a defendant in a federal child pornography case that we prosecuted in Harrisonburg:

"Our basic liberties are not nearly as basic as the right of a child to be left alone and to mature in a home in a way that's befitting their situation as a human being in a human family. There is nothing more degrading and more degenerative and nothing more unkind or hateful or excessive than to sexually abuse a child. . . . We circle our wagons around our children. It has been a long tradition that when our children are in trouble, we circle the wagons around them and people would die protecting the last child that wagon was circled around."

Judge Wilson's strong words are exactly right - we need to circle our wagons around our children. Project Safe Childhood and the other efforts you heard about today are one way in which we are trying to do

just that - protect our kids.