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Deputies arrest 28-year-old man who exposed himself, seeking sex with 13-year-old-girl



***Suspect exposed himself, performed sex act via webcam**

Wayne County — Online investigators with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office have arrested a 28-year-old man who allegedly exposed himself via web cam and performed a sex act with whom he thought was a 13-year-old girl; It was, in fact, an undercover Sheriff's deputy, according to Sheriff Benny Napoleon.

Nikhilkumar Rana, a native of India and Detroit resident working in a business providing physical therapy, committed the alleged crimes at least six times involving the targeted victim. Deputies determined he had been in Detroit less than a year when he began preying on innocent children. Detectives were alerted when Rana began chatting and emailing the undercover officer on May 13, 2009. During the online conversations, the subject performed a sex act broadcast over the webcam to whom he believed to be a 13-year-old girl. At the time, he clearly showed his face, police said. Rana asked the girl to meet with him to "talk and see what happens." Stills from the captured video were used to identify the subject as he arrived at the meeting location.

Rana was arraigned this morning at 31st District Court in Hamtramck on four felony counts: Accosting and Soliciting a Minor, Disseminating Sexual and Explicit Material to a Minor and two counts of Illegal Use of the Internet. He faces up to 16 years in prison if convicted.

Rana is being held in the Wayne County Jail in lieu of posting a bond of \$75,000. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for Aug. 13.

"This individual claims this was his first time performing such an act," said Sheriff Napoleon. "Even though we can assume that may be false, it shouldn't have even happened once. Our children should not be victimized in their homes, at school, or anywhere else they access the internet by predators like this. We intend to make sure they can't hide among the perceived anonymity of the internet and prey on the innocent."

The arrest is the latest in a very successful campaign by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department to arrest any individual who targets children and teens for sexual purposes.

The Internet Crime Unit boasts a phenomenal 100% conviction rate. It was established in the late 1990s by then Sheriff Robert A. Ficano to combat the growing trend of crime that targets children, adults and seniors alike. The unit is known primarily for its work catching sexual predators by using undercover officers to pose as young girls and boys in online chat rooms. In its first four years of operation, the unit's officers arrested 130 adult men who attempted to meet with whom they thought were minor girls for sex.

In addition to conducting these online chats, the officers also perform computer forensics to recover files--even deleted ones--that can help build their cases. The ICU also investigates identity theft, software piracy and other computer crimes. To report suspected internet criminal activity, call (313) 875-9675 or send an email to Wayne_Co_Internet@yahoo.com