



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Street Performer Arrested for Sexual Assault

On August 17, 2008, OCPD officers arrested a street performer who was wanted for a 4th Degree Sex Offense and Second Degree Assault of a 16 year old female.

The charges resulted from an incident involving a street performer identified as Andrii Mokrishcev, 21 years of age, from Ukraine. Mokrishcev is living in Ocean City, Maryland for the summer.

Mokrishcev is a licensed street performer, who routinely performs with another person on the Ocean City Boardwalk. At the time of the incident Mokrishcev was wearing a "Patrick Star Fish" costume which is a character from the popular kids cartoon series "Sponge Bob Square Pants".

Mokrishcev and another performer, who is typically dressed as the title character will pose with persons on the Ocean City Boardwalk for donations. On August 15, 2008, OCPD officers received a complaint that Morkrischev had posed for a picture with a 16 year old female. During the picture taking session, Morkrischev allegedly fondled the victim's buttocks.

The victim left the area and located a uniformed OCPD officer who investigated the incident. OCPD obtained an arrest warrant for Mokrishcev charging him with 2nd Degree Assault and 4th Degree Sex Offense.

After Mokrishcev was arrested, he was seen by an Ocean City District Court Commissioner and released after posting a bond of \$3500.

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Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococean.com