



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

Follow-Up News Release: Street Performer Charged with Additional Assaults

On August 17, 2008, OCPD officers arrested a street performer identified as Andrii Mokrishchev, 21 years of age, from Ukraine in reference to a 4th Degree Sex Offense and Second Degree Assault of a 16 year old female.

Since this arrest, Ocean City Police have received several calls from citizens alleging Mokrishchev had either sexually assaulted them or their children.

On August 20, 2008, OCPD Officers charged Mokrishchev with the Second Degree Assault and 4th Degree Sex Offense of a 32 year old female, who posed for a picture with Mokrishchev ("Patrick Star") on August 9th.

After Mokrishchev's original arrest on August 17, Mokrishchev was released after posting a bond of \$3500. After Mokrishchev's arrest on August 20, Mokrishchev appeared before an Ocean City District Court Commissioner, and was held on a new bond of \$50,000.

On August 21, 2008, Mokrishchev appeared in Ocean City District Court for a bond review hearing. During this bond review, the Worcester County States Attorney filed a motion to have Mokrishchev's original bond of \$3500 rescinded and have him held until trial. District Court Judge Richard Motsey rescinded the original \$3500. Judge Motsey ordered Mokrishchev held at the Worcester County jail as well as maintained the \$50,000 bond in the second case.

Mokrishchev has since been charged for sexually assaulting two additional female's ages 9 and 15. Mokrishchev is under investigated for several other alleged assaults as well. All the assaults occurred in August 2008 while Mokrishchev was a street performer wearing a "Patrick Star" costume, which is a character from the popular TV cartoon "Sponge Bob Square Pants". Because Mokrishchev allegedly fondled a 9-year-old female child, he has been charged with a 3rd Degree Sex Offense, which is a felony, 4th Degree Sex Offense and 2nd Degree Assault. The 3rd Degree Sex Offense carries a potential penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

This investigation has revealed that Mokrishchev did not have permission of from the trademark department of Nickelodeon Networks to represent the "Patrick Star" character.

The OCPD encourages anyone who has come into contact with Mokrishchev and believes they may have been touched inappropriately and/or assaulted, to please contact Corporal Scott Bernal at 410-520-5294 or email at sbernal@ococean.com.

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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