

The Federal Crimes Watch Daily

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Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

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# Aide charged with allegedly making child porn in NYC school

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 8:33 AM February 8, 2012

The Wall Street Journal on February 7, 2012 released the following: "Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York City teacher's aide already accused of possessing child pornography was jailed Tuesday after prosecutors brought new allegations that he videotaped himself spanking one naked child and fondling another in a public elementary school classroom.

FBI agents arrested Taleek Brooks, 40, at his Brooklyn apartment on Monday night after an investigation uncovered the videos on a computer seized last month from the home, authorities said.

A criminal complaint mentioned only two alleged victims — both believed by the federal authorities to be current or former students at the Weeksville School in Brooklyn, where Brooks had worked since 1995. The FBI held out the possibility there could be more student victims and was encouraging parents to come forward if they have information. Agents were expected to be at the school on Wednesday to pursue leads.

"As chancellor, and as a father, I am horrified and disgusted at the charges we learned of today from the FBI," Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott said in a statement after the meeting with the staff and PTA president. "Our paramount concern is for the safety of our students, and we are cooperating fully with the federal authorities as they continue their investigation."

The city Department of Education first hired Brooks for a summer job in 1991, when he was fingerprinted and passed a background check. He was given a fulltime job as a teacher's aide with the school system in 1993.

Brooks also had worked with children at an after-school program affiliated with Weeksville. Program director Christa McCarthy-Miller said Tuesday that the defendant had passed routine background checks, and that she wasn't aware of any previous complaints against him. As a "group leader" for about 14 children, Brooks' job was to encourage

them to make "positive life choices," McCarthy-Miller said.

"We're obviously very saddened by this," she said.

Though different in the nature of the accusations and the number of alleged victims, the case called to mind the unfolding scandal at a Los Angeles elementary school in which a teacher is suspected of blindfolding and molesting children in his classroom.

According to a criminal complaint filed Tuesday, an examination of a home computer and two external hard drives seized from Brooks uncovered a stash of self-produced child porn.

The videos included two taken in a school classroom, one of Brooks touching a child's genitals and another of him spanking a naked child, the complaint says. Investigators believe they were shot sometime between January 2008 and January 2011.

A letter sent to parents alerted to them to the accusations against Brooks, saying that "these incidents may have occurred on school grounds." It advised families to call an FBI tip line if they had information about the case.

A previous complaint had accused Brooks of sending pornographic photos and videos of children to an undercover agent he met online. The complaint says

### U.S. and Chinese Defendants Charged with Economic Espionage and Theft of Trade Secrets in Connection with Conspiracy to Sell Trade Secrets to Chinese Companies

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 2:23 PM February 8, 2012

A federal grand jury in San Francisco has charged five individuals and five companies with economic espionage and theft of trade secrets for their roles in a long-running effort to obtain U.S. trade secrets for the benefit of companies controlled by the government of the People's Republic of China. one of the images was of a man having sex with a boy who appeared to be about 10.

Following the exchange, FBI agents searched Brooks' home on Jan. 13. The complaint alleges that during the search, Brooks "admitted that he had been downloading and sharing child pornography for approximately seven years." He also "indicated that he had collected and saved over 1,000 digital files on his computer containing child pornography," the complaint adds. If convicted of producing child porn, Brooks faces a minimum 15 years in prison."

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.'s

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## U.S. Court Bars Two in Alabama from Preparing Federal Tax Returns

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 9:28 AM February 8, 2012

A federal court has permanently barred Paul E. Foster Jr. and Sheree McDade, both of Montgomery, Ala., from preparing federal tax returns for others, the Justice Department announced today.

#### Florida Resident Sentenced to Year in Prison in Connection with Selling Fraudulent Business Opportunities to Consumers

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 10:52 AM February 8, 2012 James Cummings, a resident of Boca Raton, Fla., has been sentenced for committing fraud in connection with a coffee machine business opportunity scheme, the Justice Department and U.S. Postal Inspection Service announced today.

#### Florida Jury Holds Tax Preparer Liable for \$135,000 in Penalties for False Tax Returns

(USDOJ: Justice News)

Submitted at 12:22 PM February 8, 2012 An eight-member jury has unanimously found that a former Jackson Hewitt tax preparer, Frances Carlson of Bradenton, Fla., prepared 27 federal tax returns that she knew would understate her customers' tax liabilities, the Justice Department announced today.