



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 6, 2017

**MARTINEZ RESIDENT AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER MICHAEL BARTEL
CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE COUNTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD,
ARRANGING TO MEET A MINOR FOR SEX AND POSSESSION AND
DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

On Friday November 3rd, 2017, investigators from the Martinez Police Department, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, and District Attorney's Office arrested 33-year-old Martinez resident Michael Bartel for sexual assault of a child and arranging to meet a minor for sex. Bartel was booked Friday evening at the Martinez Detention Facility. His bail was set at 16 million dollars. Bartel is a science teacher at Walnut Creek Intermediate in Walnut Creek. There is currently no indication Bartel victimized a student at the school.

Bartel's arrest was a result of an investigation initiated by the Martinez Police Department. Martinez police detectives learned Bartel was talking online with others and had made statements about molesting children. Martinez police detectives, along with investigators from the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force launched an investigation to determine if the statements were true. After a weeklong investigation, Bartel was arrested during a traffic stop at approximately 1:30pm on Friday afternoon at the intersection of Danville Blvd and Camille Lane in Alamo.

Friday afternoon investigators from the Walnut Creek Police Department executed a search warrant at Bartel's classroom at Walnut Creek Intermediate and notified the school administration of the arrest. Later that afternoon, investigators from the Martinez Police Department with substantial assistance from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, Contra Costa County Crime Lab and District Attorney's Office searched Bartel's home in Martinez.

On Monday November 6th, 2017, the District Attorney's Office filed a 16 count criminal complaint against Bartel. The charges include multiple sex offenses committed against a child under the age of 10 including oral copulation, arranging to meet a minor for sex and possession and distribution of child pornography. Bartel will make his first appearance in court on Tuesday November 7th, 2017, at 8:45am in front of the Honorable John Laettner for arraignment. Bartel remains in the custody of the Contra Costa County Sheriff.

Anyone with investigative information should contact Senior Inspector Darryl Holcombe, Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, at 925-957-2263.

Press Contact: Senior Deputy District Attorney Paul Graves: 925-957-8731