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Press Release

Brighton man who peered into Brookline windows, photographed children gets 8 to 10 years in prison

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In August 2010, Brookline police arrested a Brighton man for lurking in his old neighborhood and photographing young children through the windows of their homes as they undressed. Today, (November 30, 2011), that 48-year old pled guilty to child pornography, wiretap and other indictments against him and was taken away to prison, Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey announced.

“This was a very disturbing case, for residents of Brookline and frankly anyone with small children,” Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said after Robert E. Higgins Jr. admitted his guilt in 14 indictments in Norfolk Superior Court in Dedham.

“We asked for a stiff sentence and we got it,” District Attorney Morrissey said. Higgins was sentenced to 4 to 5 years in State Prison on one count of possession of child pornography and 4 to 5 years in State Prison to run CONSECUTIVE to the first sentence, according to the District Attorney.

Higgins was also sentenced to 10 years of probation after he finishes his 8 to 10 years in prison and shorter CONCURRENT sentences on the other indictments, , violating the wiretap statute, photographing an unsuspecting person in the nude, dissemination of child pornography and other charges, District Attorney Morrissey said.

“The court also granted our request that during the decade he is on probation, he get sex offender treatment, undergo a mental health evaluation and follow any resulting recommendations, stay away from all victims, stay out of Brookline, have no unsupervised contact or employment with children, wear a GPS device, submit a DNA sample and register as a sex offender,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “He also has to submit to random unannounced searches of any computers he has access to and must provide necessary passwords to probation to conduct those searches.”

Morrissey praised the Brookline Police department for the investigation that led to catching Higgins in the act of peeping through a window. “The follow-up investigation led by Sgt. William Riley and Detective Thomas O’Leary, working with State Police Sgt. David McSweeney, the computer forensics specialist in the detective unit attached to the DA’s office, was an exceptional example of law enforcement cooperation and persistence. They did excellent work here and put together a strong case that resulted in this lengthy state prison sentence on a defendant who had never done committed time before,” Morrissey said.

Any and all defendants mentioned are legally innocent until proven guilty.