

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

COUNTY OF WARREN

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PRESS RELEASE

SENTENCED:

Gary A. Ricker, Jr.

DOB 4/24/1989

Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

On January 31, 2022, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office received a cyber-tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploitation Children that an individual in the Phillipsburg area had distributed Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) through the messaging application KIK. Further investigation identified the perpetrator as Phillipsburg Police Officer Gary Ricker and a search warrant was executed on his home on February 24, 2022. Ricker was found to be in possession of 39 files, both pictures and videos, containing Child Sexual Abuse Material. Additional investigation revealed that he distributed pornographic images of an adult victim without her consent.

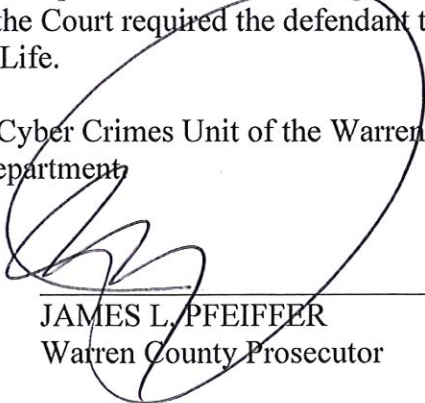
On February 15, 2023, the defendant plead guilty to the following offenses:

- 1) Endangering the Welfare of a Child, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(b)(5)(a)(i), a second degree offense, for distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Material.
- 2) Cyber Harassment, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4.1, a fourth degree offense.

On November 30, 2023, the Court sentenced the defendant to a three (3) years New Jersey State Prison on the second degree charge and 18 months state prison on the fourth degree offense, with the sentences to run concurrent to one another. Additionally, the Court required the defendant to comply with provisions of Megan's Law and Parole Supervision for Life.

This case was investigated by the Cyber Crimes Unit of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office with assistance from the Phillipsburg Police Department

Approved by:



JAMES L. PFEIFFER
Warren County Prosecutor

Date: December 7, 2023