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NYC RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY FOLLOWING ONGOING RCDAO STING OPERATION TARGETING ONLINE PREDATORS

Rockland County District Attorney Thomas E. Walsh II announced today that Dylan Choe, a 24-year-old male from New York City has pleaded guilty to disseminating indecent material to minors in the first degree for attempting to meet a minor.

In January of 2023, Choe engaged in an online conversation with a Rockland County District Attorney's Office undercover investigator on a social media platform. The undercover investigator claimed to be a thirteen-year-old female from Rockland County. The defendant proceeded to have a sexually explicit conversation with the investigator, whom he thought was a minor. As conversations advanced, Choe made arrangements for the two to meet at a Rockland County hotel.

On January 19, 2023, Choe checked into a Rockland hotel and waited for the individual he believed to be a thirteen-year-old girl. Choe was arrested and charged with disseminating indecent materials to minors in the first degree.

Rockland County District Attorney Walsh said, "Our office remains committed to ensuring the safety of innocent children in our community. This case is a clear warning to all that predatory behavior will be pursued relentlessly and brought to justice."

Today's announced guilty plea is the latest action in an ongoing cybercrime sting operation first launched by the Rockland County District Attorney's Office in 2022. Last December, Rockland County District Attorney's Office investigators arrested seven men for sex crimes following a separate operation called "Operation Catfish."

The Rockland County District Attorney's Office has been a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) since 2020. The ICAC is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces, representing over 5,400 federal, state, and local law enforcement, dedicated to investigating, prosecuting and developing effective responses to internet crimes against children.

The defendant pleaded guilty on October 16, 2023 before the Honorable Kevin F. Russo. Choe is scheduled to be sentenced on January 17, 2024. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Delohery.