



Division of Capitol Police

News Release

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Capitol Police revenge porn case results in conviction

RICHMOND – A man was convicted Tuesday as a result of a Virginia Capitol Police investigation of a so-called revenge pornography case in which the victim, his estranged wife, was working for a member of the General Assembly.

Capitol Police in March arrested William Tyler Sims, 23, of Norfolk, on seven misdemeanor counts, each of which is punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$2,500 fine. Sims was charged with three counts of harassment by computer, for sending three emails to a General Assembly member; two counts of computer trespass, for the unauthorized use of the victim's email; and two of unlawful dissemination or sale of images of another.

In an appearance Tuesday in Richmond General District Court, Sims agreed to plead no contest to one count of computer trespass and one of computer harassment. Substitute Judge Robert D. Laney convicted Sims on the two counts, fined him \$100 for each and sentenced him to 12 months in jail for each count, with the terms suspended for three years. The judge also ordered Sims to have no contact with the victim except when necessary for their divorce proceedings.

In exchange for his pleas, prosecutors elected against pursuing the other five charges.

The case stemmed from an incident on Jan. 17, 2018, when a member of the Virginia General Assembly received sexually suggestive messages and images of the victim, who was serving as an intern for the member at the time. The images were sent using the victim's email, and they purported to have been sent by her. However, an investigation by Capitol Police resulted in the discovery that the images had been sent by Sims using an email account belonging to his estranged wife.

“I’d like to thank our investigators for their response and hard work to help bring this case to a conviction,” said Col. Anthony S. Pike, the Capitol Police chief. “Employees shouldn’t have to worry about invasion of privacy or harassment when they come to work.”



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