



Division of Capitol Police

News Release

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Capitol Police arrest man in revenge porn case

RICHMOND -- A Virginia Capitol Police investigation has resulted in the arrest of a man on seven charges related to a so-called revenge pornography case in which the victim was working for a member of the General Assembly.

William Tyler Sims, 23, of Norfolk, was being held by the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office for an unrelated driving-under-the-influence conviction when authorities noticed Tuesday that he was wanted by Capitol Police on seven warrants related to the pornography case.

That Capitol Police 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 the victim, who was Sims' estranged wife.

"As we continue to see this type of unwanted criminal activity, it's important that our investigators respond as efficiently as they did," said Col. Anthony S. Pike, the Capitol Police chief. "This criminal conduct not only disrupts the safety of people in the workplace, but it destroys the reputation of victims."

Capitol Police obtained warrants for seven misdemeanors, 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 the 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.

"I'd like to thank our investigators for their hard work on behalf of the constituents we serve daily at the seat of state government," Pike said.

A booking photo of Tyler is attached.



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