



# Staten Island cop bragged of being a gangsta on MySpace

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One of the two city cops accused of dumping a 14-year-old boy at a Staten Island swamp to teach him a lesson brags about being a "gangsta" on a personal Web page.

A gleeful photo of Officer Thomas Elliassen shows him sitting between two curvy women.

"Damn it feels good to be a gangsta," the MySpace page declares.

The main headline on the Web site screams, "LET'S DO LINES OFF A STRIPPERS A--!!!" - an apparent reference to drug use.

Three of Elliassen's neighbors identified him as the man in the photograph. The MySpace page also notes he is 28, lives on Staten Island and last logged onto the site on Halloween.

That was the day Elliassen and his partner and roommate, Officer Richard Danese, also 28, allegedly caught Port Richmond High School freshman Rayshawn Moreno throwing eggs at cars.

Rather than arrest him, the cops packed the boy into their squad car and dumped him at a desolate swamp 2 miles away, police said. The cops later told supervisors they were trying to scare the teen and drove back to find him minutes after dropping him off, police said.

But Rayshawn already had walked to a nearby strip mall and asked a security guard to call his parents for help.

Elliassen and Danese, who both joined the NYPD in 2004, were arrested Thursday and charged with endangering the welfare of a child and second-degree unlawful imprisonment, both misdemeanors.

Elliassen's MySpace page is registered as "shouldhavebeenfamous."

Rayshawn's lawyer, Jason Leventhal, said the personal Web page "says it all."

"It speaks for itself. This is a young officer who's not trained properly and has no respect for his shield and the authority that goes with it," Leventhal said. "To think it's all right for a police officer to publicize himself like this, it's scary."

Rayshawn's dad, James Hazel, told the Daily News Thursday that the cops had stripped off most of the teen's clothes, leaving him in only boxer shorts and socks.

"He was scared to death," Leventhal said. "He told me he sprinted down railroad tracks at 9 p.m. because he was terrified that they would come back."

Police sources said the cops deny they made the boy undress or manhandled him.

Leventhal said the officers, who were placed on modified duty, should be hit with more serious criminal charges.

"That sounds like kidnapping and official misconduct to me," the lawyer said. "I am not happy that they were charged with low-level misdemeanors."

Hazel said yesterday his son was too traumatized to go back to school. "He's trying to get back to doing normal children's activities," he said.

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