

NEW YORK POST

NEW RAP VS. 'KID-DUMP' COP

By PHILIP MESSING

February 14, 2008 -- An NYPD cop, already in hot water for abandoning a 14-year-old Staten Island boy miles from his home after a Halloween egg-throwing incident, was charged yesterday with misusing a police computer to try to dig up dirt on the youngster's dad, sources said.

Richard Danese, 28, who was working at the Brooklyn Gang Squad while stripped of his badge and gun, allegedly tried to access information about James Hazel.

Danese and his partner, Thomas Elliassen, were arrested in November for dumping Hazel's son, Rayshawn Moreno, at a desolate swamp.

Danese was busted yesterday on charges of accessing a confidential database, which contained personal information about Hazel.

"He printed out pages of information and someone said something about it," said one source.

Jason Levanthal, the lawyer representing Moreno's family, said of Danese, "Clearly, he has no moral compass."

Danese, charged with computer trespass and official misconduct, was released without bail at his arraignment last night; an order of protection also was issued.

On Halloween, Danese and Elliassen were allegedly trying to teach Moreno a lesson when they took him to a desolate area miles from his home and abandoned him after they caught him egging cars.

They said they were only trying to scare him and drove back a few minutes later to try to pick him up.

Moreno, who is black, accused the officers of using racial slurs.

He said he was so frightened that he stripped to keep the cops from identifying him if they returned.

Danese and Elliassen were charged with misdemeanors, but the Staten Island DA has empaneled a grand jury weighing kidnapping charges, sources said.

Additional reporting by Josh Gordon

[Home](#)

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