



Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

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NEWS

Contact: Robert L. Taylor
County Prosecutor

For Immediate Release – March 14, 2011

Cape May Court House, New Jersey - Cape May County Prosecutor Robert L. Taylor announced the arrest of 29 year old Rick Racela of the Villas section of Lower Township

Racela was charged as a result of a month-long investigation by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit into allegations by the Cape May County Herald news organization that their on-line website was illegally compromised by an unknown person which resulted in the loss of the Herald's internet posted news articles and advertisements. In addition, the "hacker" ran an unauthorized program on the Herald's computer system that further disrupted the website.

Detectives from the Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit were able to conduct a forensic analysis of the website and related computers and were able to conclude that Racela, a former employee of the Herald news organization, purposely accessed the Herald's website without authorization and ran a program with the intent to disrupt the website.

Prosecutor Taylor advises that Racela's actions constitutes two counts of Computer Criminal Activity, one count being a crime of the second degree, and one count being a crime of the third degree. Racela surrendered to the Prosecutor's Office and was served with the charges and released on his own recognizance.

Persons convicted of a crime of the second degree can result in a prison term of five to ten years in New Jersey State Prison, and persons convicted of a crime of the third degree can result in a term of imprisonment of three to five years.

Prosecutor Taylor commends the work of the Computer Crimes Unit and advises that the Prosecutor's Office will continue to aggressively investigate and prosecute computer related crime.

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