

Former Westfield schools maintenance worker charged after trying to meet teenage boy

Updated 3:53 PM; Posted 3:49 PM

Carl Bezo was caught in an amateur sting operation attempting to meet a 14-year-old boy after chatting online. (*Pop Squad*)

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A former maintenance worker at North Middle School in Westfield, Massachusetts, has turned himself in after an online sting operation caught him attempting to meet a 14-year-old boy in a Connecticut department store.



Carl Bezo, 50, gave himself up to Southington, Conn., police on Friday after learning that there was an outstanding warrant for his arrest, [NBC Connecticut reported](#). He was scheduled for arraignment today on a charge of causing risk of injury to a minor.

In September, Bezo [was captured on video](#) attempting to meet a child by the operator of Pop Squad, an anonymous child exploitation investigator who impersonates children online, meets and films encounters with alleged predators and posts those videos on the internet.

In Bezo's case, he allegedly believed he was speaking to a 14-year-old boy and asked about the boy's sexual experiences and his address before arranging a meeting at the store, [Pop Squad told MassLive when the video was released](#).

Bezo told Pop Squad he was from Westfield and worked performing building maintenance at a school. In September, Westfield police told MassLive action had been taken and there was no risk to Westfield school children, and North Middle School Principal Katie Borque said she could not comment on the case.

"The district has received notice of the allegations and is following policies and protocols in such matters," Borque said at the time. "I can assure that all students are safe."

Westfield Public Schools confirmed Friday that Bezo is no longer employed by the district.

In their conversation, Bezo initially denies wrongdoing before admitting that he should not have pursued a minor. He also claims it was the first time he chatted with a child online, though backs down when the investigator says he has a second set of chat logs from April.

Pop Squad's videos have already led to multiple arrests in Connecticut. A [former school photographer](#) and a [former Plainville High School special education teacher](#) were both charged after the vigilante site posted videos of them attempting to meet minors.

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2018/01/one-time_westfield_schools_mai.html#incart_river_home