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Mass. resident charged with child pornography; FBI Internet sting leads to arrest in Catonsville

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An unemployed Massachusetts man who did volunteer work for his local sheriff's department is being held without bail after his arrest last week in Catonsville on a charge of shipping child pornography across state lines.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Beth P. Gesner said at a detention hearing yesterday that there was no other way to assure the future appearances of Robert J. Leveille or to protect the public from him.

Leveille, 31, of Feeding Hills was arrested by FBI agents Thursday after traveling to Maryland to photograph sex acts with someone he believed to be a 12-year-old girl he met over the Internet, but who was actually an FBI agent, a federal prosecutor said.

Previously, Leveille had sent four pornographic images over the Internet to the agent he knew as "Jackie," assistant U.S. attorney Andrew G. W. Norman said.

A search of Leveille's car turned up a video and still camera, whips, handcuffs, pepper spray and a stuffed animal he was going to give "Jackie." Norman said.

Leveille's attorney, Public Defender Ricardo D. Zwaig, said many of the items found were used by Leveille in his volunteer work with the Hampshire County, Mass., Sheriff's Department. Leveille had helped out in parades and other ceremonies and also assisted in search and rescue operations for 13 years, Zwaig said.

"For all intents and purposes, this is an aberration," Zwaig said of Leveille's arrest.

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