

Affidavit in Support of Probable Cause
(Pursuant to Rule 3G)
Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force Case # 2023-103-183

Primary Suspect:



Name: Slade SOHMER
R.M.V. [REDACTED]
CLEAR-[REDACTED], East Otis MA
D.O.B.- [REDACTED]
S.S#-[REDACTED]

Charges:

Chapter 272, Section 29C - Possession of Child Pornography [**2 Counts**]
Chapter 272, Section 29B - Dissemination of Child Pornography, [**2 Counts**]

Introduction

The Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force has conducted a comprehensive criminal investigation into the possession and dissemination of child pornography involving Slade SOHMER ([REDACTED]). As a result of investigative steps taken to date, probable cause was established that:

- On October 18, 2023, Slade SOHMER violated Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 272, Section 29C - *Possession of Child Pornography* [**2 counts**] as child pornography videos were found on two (2) of his cell phones (evidence item #s: **2023-103-183.3** and **2023-103-183.12**) in the town of Otis, Ma.
- On the dates of October 6, 2021, and November 6, 2021, Slade SOHMER violated Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 272, Section 29B - *Dissemination of Child Pornography* [**2 Counts**] as he electronically transmitted at least two (2) videos containing child pornography using the Telegram Messenger application (evidence item #**2023-103-183.12**) from the town of Otis, Ma.

The facts and circumstances establishing said probable cause can be observed below.

Cyber Tip # 135780039 from NCMEC

1. On June 16, 2023, the Berkshire County State Police Detective Unit and the Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force began an investigation into Cyber Tip Report #135780039 issued

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by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). I, Sergeant Elizabeth Zipp, of the Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force was assigned to the case. NCMEC serves as a clearinghouse of information about missing and exploited children, and operates a “Cyber Tipline” that the public may use to report internet-related child sexual exploitation. Upon reviewing the Cyber Tip we made the following observations:

- A. It was assigned numbered #135780039.
- B. The report had been filed with NCMEC by Snapchat.
- C. NCMEC received the report on 09-30-2022 17:11:59 UTC.
- D. The Snapchat suspect username was “[REDACTED]”.
- E. The Cyber Tip outlined that on 09-30-2022 13:13:21 UTC someone utilized Snapchat to upload 1 video that depicted child pornography. This user utilized the IP address of: “[REDACTED]”
- F. We viewed the video and found it to be child pornography.
- G. In total there was (1) video uploaded through Snapchat depicting apparent child pornography. The file name and description associated with these images is as follows:
 - [REDACTED].mp4
 - MD5: [REDACTED]
 - **09-30-2022 13:13:21 UTC this timestamp is when the user saved, shared, or uploaded this media file**
 - *Description: The video file depicted a nude boy approximately 11-12 years of age masturbating in the shower.*
- H. As noted above, Snapchat provided the date, time, and IP address information for this transmission. Snapchat also provided the respective file associated with this transmission. Therefore, it can be stated that the IP address listed above was an originating IP address for an illegal child pornographic video file upload.
- I. Based upon the assigned IP address of [REDACTED]”, on the date and time indicated above, the NCMEC CyberTip was originally directed from NCMEC to the Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit which is a member of the Massachusetts Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

2. Based on this information, the case was reassigned from the Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit to the Berkshire State Police Detective Unit.

Electronic Service Provider Listed Suspect (Provided by Snap.inc)

DOB: [REDACTED]

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Screen/User Name: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

IP Address: [REDACTED] 09-30-2022 10:58:49 UT

Identified Subscriber of IP Address

3. Through investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit it was learned that the IP address of [REDACTED]” came back registered to City of Westfield Gas and Electric Light Department. Pursuant to a subpoena request filed by Christopher W. Kelly Assistant Attorney General Director, Digital Evidence Laboratory Criminal Bureau, on October 29th, 2022, the following was provided:

- IP Address: [REDACTED]
- Account Holder: Slade Sohmer
- Service Address: [REDACTED], East Otis, MA 01029
- Mailing Address: [REDACTED], East Otis, MA 01029
- Email: [REDACTED]
- Phone #: [REDACTED]
- Length of Service: 10/1/2021 – Current
- Type of Service: Internet Phone number: [REDACTED]
- Account Number: [REDACTED]
- MAC: [REDACTED]
- Lease Log: Start Date: 12/18/2021 08:57 PM End Date: 09/16/2022 02:50 PM
- Equipment Details CM MAC: [REDACTED]

Execution of Original Search Warrant at [REDACTED], East Otis, MA.

4. On Tuesday, October 17, 2023, I authored a search warrant affidavit (ORIGINAL WARRANT) for the search of [REDACTED] East Otis Massachusetts. The search warrant was signed and authorized by Central Berkshire District Court Clerk Magistrate Christopher Speranzo.

5. On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at approximately 1625 hours, members of the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit - Berkshire (BSPDU), State Police Crime Scene Services Section (CSSS), Massachusetts State Police Lee Barracks (B1), and Berkshire Law Enforcement Task Force (BLETF), executed the search warrant at [REDACTED] East Otis, Massachusetts. The residence was searched and all evidence was logged and seized. At the

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conclusion of the search warrant, all items seized were secured by The Berkshire County State Police Detective Unit.

6. Trooper Johnson was assigned as the evidence officer and documented the collection of evidence. Trooper Karella documented the evidence collection with digital photographs. Please refer to the below search inventory list for a complete record of all items seized during the search warrant execution:

Item #	Found By:	Time Found:	Description of Item:	Where Found:
1	Gero	1635	Gray iPhone, [REDACTED] Passcode: [REDACTED]	Rear living room on Tupperware container
2	Gero	1635	Silver Apple Watch, [REDACTED]	On person of [REDACTED]
3	Zipp	1638	Purple iPhone, Slade Sohmer, Passcode: [REDACTED]	On person of Slade Sohmer
4	Johnson	1648	Silver iPad, Passcode: [REDACTED]	Rear living room closet
5	Hicks	1700	iPad with white case, Passcode [REDACTED]	Main living room of coffee table
6	Gero	1708	Apple Macmini	Rear living room kitchen table
7	Gero	1708	Apple Macbook Air	Rear living room kitchen table
8	Boszko	1720	Apple Macbook Pro "The Recount" sticker	Rear living room closet on shelf
9	Zipp	1721	Apple Macbook Air, "Slade" username with charger	Upstairs gaming room on desk
10	Zipp	1721	Apple Macbook Pro	Upstairs gaming room in desk
11	Zipp	1726	Black Apple Macbook, [REDACTED] username with charger	Northwest upstairs office on desk
12	Gero	1820	Black iPhone with cord	Upstairs bedroom in nightstand

7. At approximately 1625 hours members of law enforcement conducted a soft approach to the residence, knocked on the rear door of the residence and waited for someone to answer the door. [REDACTED] answered the door. The search warrant was presented and explained to [REDACTED] (who said his name for legal purposes is [REDACTED] but he goes by "Sam") (DOB: [REDACTED]) and resides at that address. This initial approach was captured on Lieutenant Bruneau's and Sergeant Gero's body cameras. Once the search warrant was presented, investigators entered the residence to begin the search. I read [REDACTED] his Miranda rights from a printed card, and he acknowledged that he understood his rights and agreed to speak. I asked him if he recognized the Snapchat account, Google account or phone number on Exhibit A and

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██████████ said that it was his phone number but he did not recognize the accounts. He also provided Sergeant Zipp a passcode to his cell phone and iPad.

8. **Slade SOHMER** (DOB: ██████████) arrived on scene after the search began and I presented the search warrant to him and explained it to him. I read him his Miranda Rights from the same card, and he acknowledged that he understood them. **SOHMER** also provided me with a passcode to his cellphone. **SOHMER** then requested an attorney and questioning was stopped. **SOHMER** asked me to use a phone to call a friend who is an attorney but not a licensed attorney in Massachusetts. I allowed him to use my work cell phone numerous times to speak with this individual who advised them to not speak with law enforcement. At approximately 1846 hours, the search was concluded, and the scene was released by law enforcement.

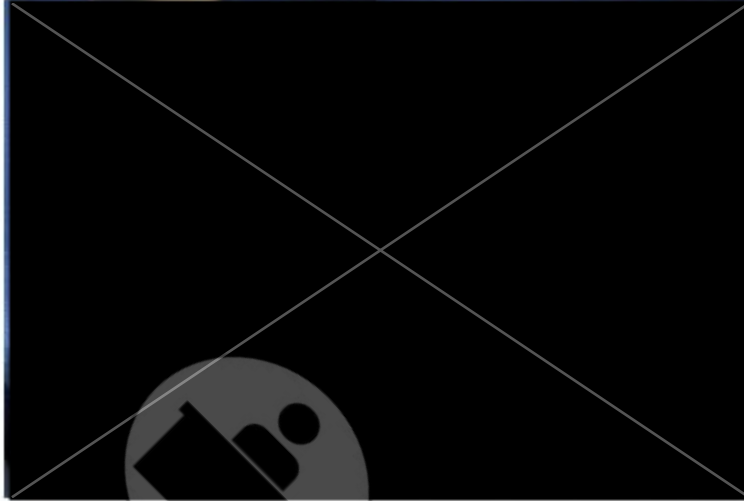
Preliminary Forensic Review of Slade SOHMER's Cell Phone's (evidence item #2023-103-183.3)

9. On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at approximately 1725 hours, Trooper Matthew Mozzi Of the State Police Detective Unit- Berkshire Digital Evidence Unit conducted a cellular examination on an Apple iPhone 14 Pro Max with assigned IMEI –

██████████ Below is a summary of Trooper Mozzi's observations:

- A. The phone was seized during the search warrant execution of ██████████ Otis, MA in furtherance of Sergeant Elizabeth Zipp's investigation into the possession and dissemination of child pornography.
- B. The owner of the phone was identified as the primary target of this investigation, Slade Sohmer (DOB ██████████). The phone is being examined pursuant to the search warrant obtained by Sergeant Zipp. The phone was located by Sergeant Zipp on the person of Sohmer.
- C. The phone was powered on and placed into airplane mode upon examination. There was no damage observed to the device and photographs were taken. The passcode for the device was provided by the owner as (██████). Below are the images obtained of the device

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D. Using Graykey for the extraction of the device and Cellebrite Physical Analyzer to parse and review the data, Trooper Mozzi began a review of the data for evidence related to the possession and dissemination of child pornography. Trooper Mozzi tagged a total of 8 images and 9 videos as “Child Exploitation Material/Age-Difficult.” One of the videos was tagged additionally as evidence of apparent child pornography.

One of the 9 videos is described below:

File Name: [REDACTED].mov
File Path: [REDACTED].mov
Created: 1/21/2023 8:15:55 PM (UTC+0)
MD5: [REDACTED]
Image Description: *This video depicts a nude juvenile boy (approximately 12-14 years of age) masturbating in a bathroom. The video is 11:01 minutes in length. The juvenile boy is standing in front of a camera, videotaping himself masturbating in various positions.*

Preliminary Forensic Review of Slade SOHMER’s Cell Phone’s (evidence item #2023-103-183.12)

10. On October 23, 2023, pursuant to the case search warrant/s, Sergeant Mauer of the Berkshire Digital Evidence Unit (Massachusetts State Police), commenced with the forensic examination of evidence item #2023-103-183.12, a cell phone belonging to suspect, Slade

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Sohmer. The phone, a black iPhone 11, was located in the upstairs bedroom nightstand. While on scene, Sohmer provided a passcode of "[REDACTED]" for the device to investigators which Sergeant Maurer later noted successfully unlocked the device (see images below).



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11. Sergeant Mauer utilized Graykey (OS Version: 1.17.5.25971943, App Bundle: 3.26.0.25911452) where a full file system extraction took place. Sergeant Mauer reported that the device contained a large amount of data (approximately 300 GB). Cellebrite Physical Analyzer along with Magnet Forensics AXIOM were utilized to parse and view the data. Sergeant Mauer provided the following information relative to the extraction.

Summary

[REDACTED]	
Department	Berkshire Digital Evidence Unit
Organization	Massachusetts State Police
Investigator	Sgt. Zipp
Crime type	Obscene Material

Device Information

Name	Value
Legacy	
Phone Settings	
Message Retention Duration	Forever
Automatic date & time	True
Automatic time zone	True
Location Services Enabled	True
Find my iPhone enabled	True
Tethering	
[REDACTED]	
Last Cloud Backup Date	11/21/2021 5:31:26 AM(UTC+0)
Apple ID	slade.sohmer@gmail.com
[REDACTED]	
Device Name	Slade's iPhone
Detected model	iPhone11
[REDACTED]	

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Executive Summary

Child Pornography Possession

Sergeant Mauer reported that the examination/review of the device is ongoing due to the large amount of data, however, it became very apparent early on that the device contained hundreds of child pornography images and videos in violation of Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.). Utilizing Magnet AXIOM's content filter/tag for "Possible Child Abuse Content" Sergeant Mauer was alerted to the presence of (1,315) images and (92) videos. Of note: Sergeant Mauer reported that this is not inclusive of a multitude of videos located within Sohmer's Telegram account. In viewing those filtered items, Sergeant Mauer noted that not all of the images and videos were in violation of M.G.L. relating to child pornography **but hundreds were**. Specifically, Sergeant Mauer made note of the following two videos:

File Name: [REDACTED]

Creation Date: 10/26/2021 1:37:21 PM (EST)

Last Accessed Date: 11/15/2021 6:15:27 PM (EST)

MD5 Hash Value: [REDACTED]

File Path: [REDACTED]

Location: None Available

Description: A (47) second video showing the exposed anus of a boy between the approximate age of 4-6 being anally raped by an adult male until the adult male ejaculates in/on the boy's anus. The boy is devoid of any pubic hair and his physical size would not suggest that he is any older. The boy's face is never shown. Based upon Sergeant Mauer's training and experience, this video is a violation of M.G.L. Child Pornography.

File Name: [REDACTED]

Creation Date: 10/9/2021 2:45:51 PM (EST)

Last Accessed Date: 11/15/2021 7:17:11 PM (EST)

MD5 Hash Value: [REDACTED]

File Path: [REDACTED]

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Location: None Available

Description: A 4 minute and 49 second video compilation showing upwards of 20 separate prepubescent boys in various stages of nudity, some of which are being anally raped, giving or receiving oral sex, bound and/or gagged by adult men. Based upon the physical size, lack of pubic hair and other characteristics would not suggest they were any older. At least one boy was as young as approximately 3-4 years of age. Based upon Sergeant Mauer's training and experience, this video is a violation of M.G.L. Child Pornography

Child Pornography Distribution

Sergeant Mauer reported that there is other evidence indicating that multiple child pornography images/videos were unlawfully disseminated also in violation of M.G.L. Using Cellebrite Physical Analyzer Sergeant Mauer navigated to "Videos" and filtered for "sent" videos. A total of 536 videos were noted. In viewing the 536 videos, Sergeant Mauer noted a consistent theme of pornography geared towards prepubescent boys to teenaged boys. Sergeant Mauer tagged (53) "sent" videos as potential child pornography. Sergeant Mauer then exported the related hash values into a CSV file. This file was created in an effort to cross reference against known child pornography files through National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

On Monday, November 6, 2023, at approximately 1100 hours, Sergeant Mauer submitted the above 53 hash values to the NCMEC Law Enforcement Service Portal hash search tool which is a service of the Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP). Please see information in italics below.

[Note: The Hash Search tool is a service of the Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) and assists law enforcement officers and prosecutors in performing an initial assessment during child pornography investigations. Law enforcement can use the Hash Search function to compare MD5 or SHA1 hash values calculated from suspected child pornography images and videos with hash values stored in the CVIP system. Once the hash values are submitted to LESP, a report is generated which categorizes submitted hashes as follows:

-Identified Child

Identified Child: These hash values may be associated with apparent child pornography images/videos as well as files that do not contain apparent child pornography.

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-Recognized Hash Values

These exact hash values are associated with files previously submitted to NCMEC's Child Recognition and Identification System. NCMEC has no additional information regarding these files, which may or may not contain apparent child pornography or depict identified children. As a result, these hash values will not be listed in the pdf version of the NCMEC Initial Hash Value Comparison Report.]

-Unrecognized Hash Values

These exact hash values are associated with images/videos that have not yet been submitted to NCMEC's Child Recognition and Identification System.

The NCMEC returned a PDF report which indicated that **eight (8) of the submitted fifty-three "sent" video hash values matched at least one identified child.** There were nine (9) recognized hash values and thirty-six (36) unrecognized hash values.

[of note: specific identifying information about the child is available through NCMEC upon request.]

In viewing the eight video files, Sergeant Mauer reported that it is apparent that each of the eight (8) videos are of the same child and were created/sent on the same day (11/06/2021). There were at least six (6) additional sent videos presumed to be that of the same "identified child" based upon the physical characteristics of the boy. One of those additional six (6) had a different created/sent date (09/10/2021). Please see information below which details one of the eight (8) sent videos for reference.

File Name: [REDACTED]

Creation Date: 11/6/2021 7:58:07 PM (EST)

Last Accessed Date: 11/15/2021 7:13:41 PM (EST)

MD5 Hash Value: [REDACTED]

File Path: [REDACTED]

Location: None Available

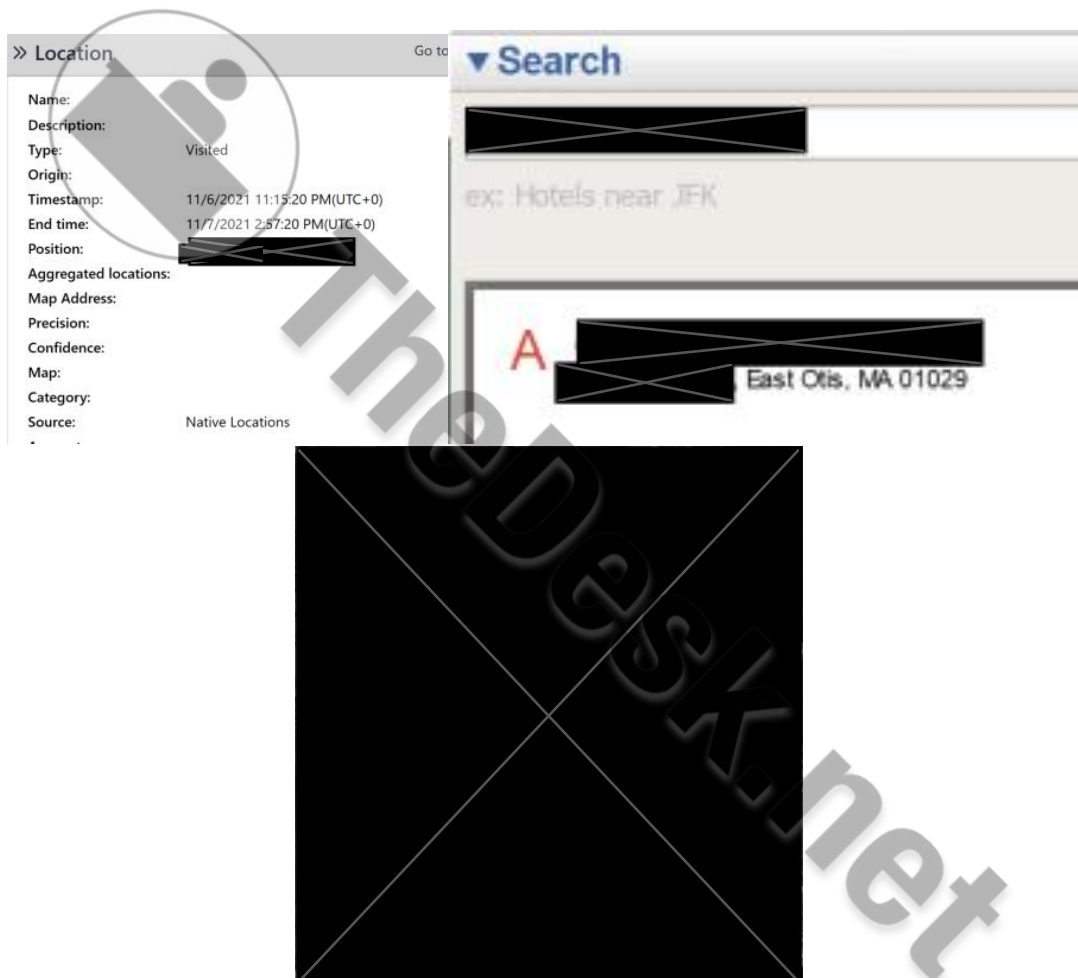
Description: A one minute and 38 second video showing a fully nude boy between the approximate age of 11-14 fully nude kneeling with legs spread on a carpeted floor. He is observed repeatedly inserting a red phallic object into his anus. Sergeant Mauer noted the presence of some pubic hair. His physical size and characteristics would suggest that he is not

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any older. Based upon Sergeant Mauer's training and experience, this video is a violation of M.G.L. Child Pornography.

Device Location Data: In an effort to ascertain the location of the device around the time of the video referenced above, Sergeant Mauer conducted a query of "locations" within the Cellebrite report. In doing so, Sergeant Mauer noted a location ("native locations") for the same day on November 6, 2021 at 7:15:20 PM (EST) of [REDACTED]. According to Google Earth, this resolves to Otis, Ma. This is evidence to suggest that the device/Sohmer was in southern Berkshire County at the time of the unlawful dissemination.



File Name: [REDACTED]

Creation Date: 10/6/2021 3:40:59 PM (EST)

Last Accessed Date: 11/15/2021 7:17:46 PM (EST)

MD5 Hash Value: [REDACTED]

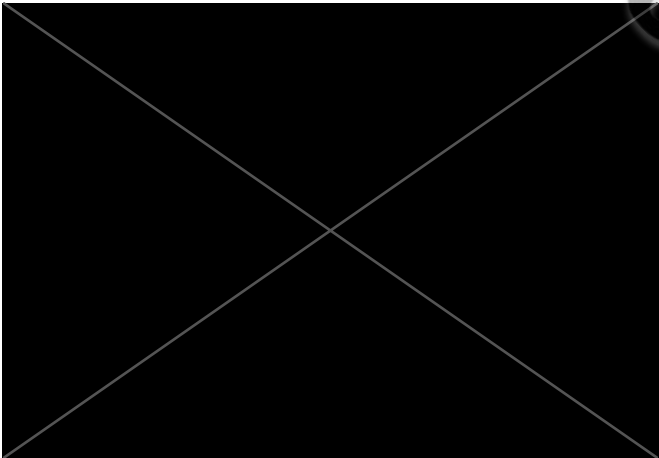
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File Path: [REDACTED]

Location: None Available

Description: A (30) second video showing a fully nude boy between the approximate age of 8-12 masturbating in an apparent bathroom. The boy is devoid of any pubic hair and his physical size would suggest that he is any older. Based upon my training and experience, this video is a violation of M.G.L. Child Pornography.

Device Location Data: In an effort to ascertain the location of the device around the time of the video referenced above, Sergeant Mauer conducted a query of “locations” within the Cellebrite report. In doing so, Sergeant Mauer noted a location (“native locations”) for the same day on October 6, 2021, at 1:52:29 PM (EST) of [REDACTED]. According to Google Earth, this resolves to Otis, Ma. This is evidence to suggest that the device/Sohmer was in southern Berkshire County at the time of the unlawful dissemination.



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Search Terms

In an effort to locate files associated with the targeted Cybertip, using Cellebrite’s “All Projects” search function, Sergeant Mauer conducted searches for the following terms all of which yielded negative results:

- EMAIL: “[REDACTED]”
- USERNAME: “[REDACTED]”
- MD5 Hash Value: “[REDACTED]”
- IP ADDRESS: “[REDACTED]”
- FILE NAME: “[REDACTED].mp4”
- DOB: “[REDACTED]”

Timeline

In an effort to identify the approximate date/time this device was actively being used, using Cellebrite’s timeline feature, Sergeant Mauer navigated to beginning and end of the likely user initiated activity. In doing so, Sergeant Mauer made note of the following:

- A bulk of the user initiated activity begins in approximately **September 2019 and ends in November 2021.**

Telegram Communication Application

12. Telegram Messenger, commonly known as Telegram, is an encrypted, cloud-based, cross-platform instant messaging service. It allows users to exchange messages, share media and files, live location and hold private and group voice or video calls, as well public livestreams. In viewing the associated data, it became very apparent that Sohmer utilized the Telegram application to possess and share much of his child pornography images and videos. A multitude of chat threads were identified in which the topic of discussion revolved around sexual exploits of young boys. For the purposes of this report, Sergeant Mauer highlighted one particular thread between Sohmer and an unidentified male party (see information below).

Account Name: “S”

Account Owner: **Slade Sohmer**

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Telegram User ID: 1858459334

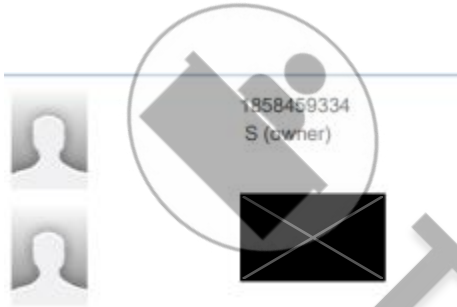
Text Bubble Color: GREEN

Account Name: [REDACTED]

Account Owner: Unknown

Telegram User ID: [REDACTED]

Text Bubble Color: BLUE



13. In this thread **SOHMER** and the unidentified male party are messaging back and forth. They are discussing their sexual preferences and preferred age groups. They also both shared hundreds of images and videos of apparent child pornography. While sharing these images and videos they are discussing that they want to “rape” these children. The highlighted thread is 743 pages long the first message was sent by **SOHMER** on 8/31/2021 12:58:03 AM and the last message was sent by **SOHMER** on 11/20/2021 9:21:46 PM. Below are some parts of the conversation.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
8/31/2021 1:45:46 AM (UTC +0)	[REDACTED]	SOHMER	“I love em young”
8/31/2021 1:45:55 AM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	[REDACTED]	“What’s your ideal age range”
8/31/2021 1:46:50 AM (UTC +0)	[REDACTED]	SOHMER	“All ages but ideal 8-14”
8/31/2021 1:47:07 AM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	[REDACTED]	“Ok I’m 13-16”
8/31/2021 10:44:00 PM (UTC +0)	[REDACTED]	SOHMER	“How young would u go?”
8/31/2021 10:44:08 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	[REDACTED]	“13 prob”
8/31/2021 10:44:45 PM (UTC +0)	[REDACTED]	SOHMER	“Mmmm I’d take any boy available”

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8/31/2021 10:45:06 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“That first blond boy who looks like Payton is prob youngest I’d go”
8/31/2021 10:45:12 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“He looks 12/13”

- Above, SOHMER asks “████” what his ideal age range is and SOHMER tells █████ that his is 13-16 and the youngest that he would go is 13.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
9/2/2021 3:52:56 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“I baited this horny str8 boy”
9/2/2021 3:53:29 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Nice!”
9/2/2021 3:54:05 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“Horny boys will do anything”
9/2/2021 3:56:43 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Yeea”
9/2/2021 4:08:38 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Yeah.. Imagine luring him somewhere promising he’ll get girls to peg him and its us”
9/2/2021 4:08:45 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	(No message content)
9/2/2021 4:08:55 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Then we fuck him for hours”
9/2/2021 4:08:58 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“Yeah instead we fuck both his holes”
9/2/21 4:09:03 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“Spitroast him for hours”
9/2/2021 5:38:48 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Make a girl profile in that age range and look for him”
9/2/2021 5:39:04 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Maybe u can set up a date”
9/2/2021 5:39:43 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“He wants to get pegged”
9/2/2021 5:39:54 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“A couple years back I was in a str8 teen chat room and chatted as a girl to this boy who happened to be in my neighborhood. He sent a couple nudes. Was SO CUTE. 14 and horny af.”
9/2/2021 5:40:04 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“I told him to meet me on a street corner”
9/2/2021 5:40:26 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“Where I knew there was a public park bathroom”

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9/2/2021 5:40:39 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“And I showed up and he was there in gray sweats bulging Bc he was so horny”
9/2/2021 5:40:46 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“But I chickened out”
9/2/2021 5:40:54 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Damn”
9/2/2021 5:41:09 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Do u think he’d have fucked u willingly?”
9/2/2021 5:41:48 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“No he said he was 100% str8”
9/2/2021 5:44:08 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“I got nervous”
9/2/2021 5:44:27 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“I woulda sucked his cock til he had to cum then pulled off and turned him around and fucked his hole right there”
9/2/2021 5:44:40 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Bend him over the toilet and railed him”

- The above images are from a part of the conversation where **SOHMER** tells █████ that he “baited” a 14-year-old buy by posing as a girl. The boy was in **SOHMER**’s neighborhood and **SOHMER** told him to meet him at a street corner. **SOHMER** describes seeing the boy but says that he “chickened out”.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
9/10/2021 6:30:12 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“This is me on cam with a 15yo German sub”
9/10/2021 6:35:11 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Hot vid”
9/10/2021 6:35:59 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“He was a good boy”
9/10/2021 6:41:52 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Bet he was”
9/10/2021 6:42:15 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Wish he was younger and near u so u could fuck him”
9/10/2021 6:42:30 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“Would love that”
9/10/2021 6:42:48 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Fuckk yeah”
9/10/2021 6:43:08 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“How did u find him?”
9/10/2021	SOHMER	████	“Snap I think”

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6:43:14 PM (UTC +0)			
9/10/2021 6:43:19 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“Then took it to Skype”

- Above, **SOHMER** tells █████ that he found a boy on Snap (Snapchat) then took it to Skype and was on camera with him. **SOHMER** sends a video of this to █████, the video appears to contain apparent child pornography, and **SOHMER** appears to have created the video.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
9/22/2021 2:46:19 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“I wanna promise him \$1000 if he comes over to get gangbanged. Then we spitroast him for hours. Fuck him raw. Fun down his throat. Take a couple dozen loads. Then we blindfold and drop him on the side of the road without paying him”
9/22/2021 2:46:53 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Hahahahaha yessss”
9/22/2021 2:47:08 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Naked in the street”

- Above, **SOHMER** talks about promising someone money in exchange for sexual services and then when they are done they want to blindfold him and drop him on the side of the road and not pay him.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
9/24/2021 8:09:32 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Needs to get baited”
9/24/2021 8:09:46 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“Needs to get raped”
9/24/2021 8:10:58 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	“Oh yesss”

- Above, **SOHMER** states that someone, “needs to get raped”.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
9/25/2021 1:00:50 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	“I’d love to show up outside his school and force him into our car and take him to a hotel and just use him for 48 hours”

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9/25/2021 1:02:38 PM (UTC +0)	██████	SOHMER	“Yeah I’m trying to find out so u can do just that!”
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- Above, **SOHMER** says he wants to show up to a school and force “him” into his car and take him to a hotel and use him for 48 hours.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
10/10/2021 6:56:15 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“Then take turns raping him”
10/10/2021 6:56:24 PM (UTC +0)	██████	SOHMER	“Like a proper gangrape of a kid”
10/10/2021 6:57:05 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“You go first and last”
10/10/2021 6:57:09 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“Rape him twice”
10/10/2021 6:58:55 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“Leave him a cum stained piss smelling mess of a boy”
10/10/2021 6:59:16 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“We’ll call his dad to come pick him up”
10/10/2021 6:59:24 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“So he can find his son like that”
10/10/2021 7:11:31 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“He deserves to be violently raped”

- Above, **SOHMER** talks about raping a kid and having his dad find him, he also says that he, “deserves to be violently raped”.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
10/14/2021 10:36:24 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“Random hot boy I found on snap once”
10/14/2021 10:36:47 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“He watched me jerk off and then called me a perv an blocked me lol”
10/14/2021 10:37:27 PM (UTC +0)	██████	SOHMER	“Haha idk about you but when young boys call be a pedo I get soo hard”
10/14/2021 10:37:33 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“Yupppp”
10/14/2021 10:37:47 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“It’s so hot”
10/14/2021 10:40:43 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	██████	“My fav was this 13yo boy on snap who was in the backseat of his parents car on a road trip”

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10/14/2021 10:41:01 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	"I made him go live and watch me cum"
10/14/2021 10:41:13 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	"I moaned so loud"

- Above, **SOHMER** talks about two different boy's he found on Snap (Snapchat), one was 13 and he made them watch him masturbate.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
10/16/2021 8:02:03 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	"Rape his tight hairless hole"

- Above, is another message where **SOHMER** is talking about raping someone. In the conversation they often use the lack of hair that a child would have as one of the things that attract them to children.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
10/25/2021 11:58:43 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	"I wanna rape his virgin hole"
10/25/2021 11:59:56 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	"I'll rape him after u"

- Above, is another message where **SOHMER** talks about wanting to rape someone.

Time:	Sender:	Receiver:	Content
10/26/2021 6:42:05 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	"I wanna use him"
10/26/2021 7:12:14 PM (UTC +0)	████	SOHMER	"Mmmm yesss and abuse him"
10/26/2021 7:12:21 PM (UTC +0)	SOHMER	████	"Rape him"

Above, is another part of the conversation where **SOHMER** talks about using and raping someone.

Summary of Probable Cause

14. The following factors establish probable cause exists that the crimes of Possession of Child Pornography, a violation of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 272, Section 29C and Dissemination of Child Pornography, a violation of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 272, Section 29B was committed by **Slade SOHMER**:

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- One Cyber Tip was generated by Snapchat Inc. and the information was subsequently forwarded to the ICAC database. Subpoena results filed by the Attorney General's Office determined that the file was transmitted from IP address [REDACTED].
- IP address [REDACTED] at the time of the video upload resolved back to [REDACTED] East Otis, MA and to City of Westfield Gas and Electric Light Department account [REDACTED] registered to **Slade SOHMER**.
- Someone, likely **Slade SOHMER**, uploaded said video file to Snapchat Inc. infrastructure using **Slade SOHMER's** registered City of Westfield Gas and Electric Light Department account [REDACTED] and IP address of [REDACTED]. This account is believed by investigators to be associated with **Slade SOHMER**. Snapchat Inc., being a direct messaging, photograph and video file sharing service, can be accessed by almost any electronic device capable of connecting to the internet. Furthermore, it is likely that the video file uploaded to Snapchat Inc. and sent, is stored, or a record of its prior existence exists, on a device, or devices owned by **Slade SOHMER**, and located at [REDACTED] **East Otis, MA**.
- Additionally, the fact that an illicit video upload implies that whichever suspect uploaded or sent it, served as a source of the image, not just a consumer, or recipient. This also implies that the suspect will possess a permanent copy of the video(s)/image(s) at his or her disposal. Said permanent copy could be stored on any digital media device, including, but not limited to, computers, tablets, cellular telephones, external hard drives, thumb drives, SD and Micro SD cards, etc.
- **Slade SOHMER**, D.O.B. [REDACTED] was identified as the suspects attached to this investigation.
- Information gathered from several databases and surveillance during this investigation determined that **Slade SOHMER** resides at [REDACTED] East Otis, MA (the targeted residence). Therefore, probable cause exists that the evidence of the crimes under investigation were located at the target residence, and also on the person's residing in the residence, as investigators know that cellular telephones that are commonly used for Snapchat Inc. applications are known to be carried on one's person.
- Cyber-Tip #135780039 reported that Snapchat Inc. account with user name [REDACTED] with email address [REDACTED] was used to upload the videos. Cyber-Tip #135780039 reported that Snapchat Inc.

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- A WIFI sniff of wireless networks [REDACTED] East Otis, MA found one network and it was secured and requiring a password to utilize. This indicates that most likely the network specifically belongs to [REDACTED] that it is utilized by a resident of the house such as **Slade SOHMER** or [REDACTED] (Sam) [REDACTED].
- The Apple iPhone 14 Pro Max with assigned IMEI – [REDACTED] located on the person of **Slade SOHMER** has approximately one (1) video consistent with child pornography that was located on the device and tagged as evidence of apparent child pornography.
- The Apple iPhone 11 with assigned IMEI- [REDACTED] located in the upstairs bedroom nightstand. The name of the iPhone was listed as Slades phone and email associated with the phone was slade.sohmer@gmail.com. Utilizing Magnet AXIOM's content filter/tag for "Possible Child Abuse Content" Sergeant Mauer was alerted to the presence of (1,315) images and (92) videos. Of note: Sergeant Mauer reported that this is not inclusive of a multitude of videos located within Sohmer's Telegram account. In viewing those filtered items, Sergeant Mauer noted that not all of the images and videos were in violation of M.G.L. relating to child pornography **but hundreds were.** Specifically, Sergeant Mauer made note of two videos of apparent child pornography.
- Sergeant Mauer reported that there is other evidence indicating that multiple child pornography images/videos were unlawfully disseminated also in violation of M.G.L. Using Cellebrite Physical Analyzer Sergeant Mauer navigated to "Videos" and filtered for "sent" videos. A total of 536 videos were noted. In viewing the 536 videos, Sergeant Mauer noted a consistent theme of pornography geared towards prepubescent boys to teenaged boys. Sergeant Mauer tagged (53) "sent" videos as potential child pornography. Sergeant Mauer then exported the related hash values into a CSV file. This file was created in an effort to cross reference against known child pornography files through National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).
- Sergeant Mauer submitted the above 53 hash values to the NCMEC Law Enforcement Service Portal hash search tool which is a service of the Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP). The NCMEC returned a PDF report which indicated that **eight (8) of the submitted fifty-three "sent" video hash values matched at least one identified child.** There were nine (9) recognized hash values and thirty-six (36) unrecognized hash values. In viewing the eight video files, Sergeant Mauer reported that it is apparent that each of the eight (8) videos are of the same child and were created/sent on the same day (11/06/2021). There were at least six (6) additional sent videos presumed to be that of the

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same “identified child” based upon the physical characteristics of the boy. One of those additional six (6) had a different created/sent date (09/10/2021).

- In an effort to ascertain the location of the device around the time of the video’s referenced above, Sergeant Mauer conducted a query of “locations” within the Cellebrite report. In doing so, Sergeant Mauer noted a location (“native locations”) for the same day of (XXXXXXXXXX). According to Google Earth, this resolves to Otis, Ma. This is evidence to suggest that the device/SOEMER was in southern Berkshire County at the time of the unlawful dissemination.
- **Slade SOEMER** utilized the Telegram application to possess and share much of his child pornography images and videos. A multitude of chat threads were identified in which the topic of discussion revolved around sexual exploits of young boys. In one particular thread **Slade SOEMER** and the unidentified male party are messaging back and forth. They are discussing their sexual preferences and preferred age groups. They also both shared hundreds of images and videos of apparent child pornography. While sharing these images and videos they are discussing that they want to “rape” these children.
- In the conversation on Telegram **Slade SOEMER** indicates that he uses “Snap” (a common name used for Snapchat). Snapchat being the source of the original CyberTip.

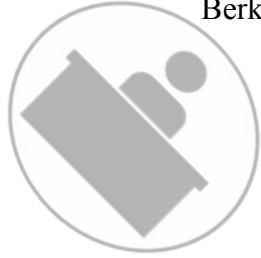
15. Given these above facts there is probable cause to support the charges of 2 counts of **Possession of Child Pornography, a violation of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 272, Section 29C and Dissemination of Child Pornography, a violation of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 272, Section 29B** against **Slade SOEMER (XXXXXXXXXX)**. This Probable Cause report is not an overall investigative report for this incident, rather a filing to support probable cause for the charges listed above.

16. After a forensic download of **SOEMER’S** devices, more specifically past locations of his devices, Sergeant Mauer has confirmed that **SOEMER** has ties outside of Berkshire County / Massachusetts. Additionally given the content of the above identified messages, it has been determined by investigators that **SOEMER** poses a threat to public safety with respect to young boys. Wherefore your affiant requests that the court issue an arrest warrant to bring **SOEMER** before the honorable court.

FINAL REPORT TO FOLLOW

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Sergeant Elizabeth Zipp
Hinsdale Police Department
Berkshire County Law Enforcement Task Force



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