

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CASE NO.: 2024-007863-CA-01

CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION

**MAURICIO ANDRES RUIZ VARELA,
an individual,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**WPLG, INC., a Delaware corporation;
THE DAILY CALLER, INC., a Delaware
corporation; and AOL MEDIA LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company.**

Defendants.

_____ /

**AMENDED COMPLAINT AND
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff, MAURICIO ANDRES RUIZ VARELA, through his counsel, sues Defendants WPLG, INC., a Delaware corporation; THE DAILY CALLER, INC., a Delaware corporation; and AOL MEDIA LLC, a Delaware limited liability company.

In support, Plaintiff states as follows:

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This is an action for damages in excess of \$50,000.00, exclusive of interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

2. This Court has jurisdiction under Article V, section 5 of the Florida Constitution and Fla. Stat. § 26.012.

3. Venue is appropriate in Miami-Dade County, Florida because of events giving rise to this action that occurred in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

4. All conditions precedent to bringing this action have occurred, have been waived, or would be a useless act and are accordingly waived.

5. Plaintiff retained the undersigned law firm and agreed to pay the undersigned law firm a reasonable fee to prosecute this action.

II. PARTIES

6. Plaintiff, MAURICIO ANDRES RUIZ VARELA (“Plaintiff”), is an individual over the age of 18 years old, and resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

7. Defendant, WPLG, INC. (“WPLG”), is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 3401 West Hallandale Beach Boulevard, Pembroke Park, Florida 33023, and is *sui juris*. WPLG runs the ABC affiliate television station in South Florida as well as its related news and information website, Local10.com, which publishes content that is viewed by third parties within Florida and other places.

8. Defendant THE DAILY CALLER, INC. (“The Daily Caller”), is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 1775 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 1150-290, Washington, DC 20006, and is *sui juris*. The Daily Caller runs a news website under the URL of DailyCaller.com, which publishes content that is viewed by third parties within Florida and other places.

9. Defendant AOL MEDIA LLC (“AOL”), is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at 11955 Democracy Drive, 14th Floor, Reston, Virginia 20190, and is *sui juris*. AOL runs the news and information website, AOL.com, which publishes content that is viewed by third parties within Florida and other places.

III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

The Dismissed Charges Against Plaintiff

10. On or about December 9, 2023, the Plaintiff, Mauricio *Andres* Ruiz Varela (D.O.B. 4/20/1991), was charged with a misdemeanor count of battery in connection with Miami-Dade Case No. M-23-024530. **Exhibit A.**

11. During the course of this action, the Plaintiff appeared before a judge, which appearance was apparently videorecorded by the court.

12. Thereafter, on or about January 8, 2024, the case was closed. The docket provides that a discharge certificate was issued on January 10, 2024, and the action’s disposition is stated as “No Action.”

The Charges Against Mauricio Alexander Ruiz

13. Separately, on or about December 9, 2023, another person, Mauricio *Alexander* Ruiz (D.O.B. 12/12/1993), was charged with a felony count of offense against a student by an authority figure in connection with Miami-Dade Case No. F-23-024215. **Exhibit B.**

14. According to publicly available information and news reports, Mauricio Alexander Ruiz was employed as a Miami-Dade County Public Schools teacher and was arrested on December 8, 2023 by the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department in connection with allegations that he had exchanged sexually explicit media and was otherwise engaged in an improper relationship with a 13-year-old student.

15. In that regard, Florida Statute § 800.101 prohibits “authority figures,” *i.e.* persons 18 years of age or older who are employed by, volunteering at, or under contract with a school, including school resource officers, from soliciting or engaging in sexual conduct, a relationship of a romantic nature, or lewd conduct with a student.

WPLG Defames Plaintiff

16. On or about December 11, 2023, WPLG aired a television news segment that was viewed by the public throughout South Florida, including in Miami-Dade County, and elsewhere throughout the world, about the charges and allegations asserted against Mauricio *Alexander* Ruiz. However, rather than depicting imagery of Mauricio *Alexander* Ruiz, WPLG instead depicted imagery of Plaintiff (the “First TV News Segment”).

17. The First TV News Segment is defamatory in its entirety. It included, among other things, a mugshot of Plaintiff superimposed over video of blue and red police sirens, as well as videotaped footage of him appearing before a judge in an orange jumpsuit, presumably in connection with the now-dropped misdemeanor battery charge against him in December 2023.

18. The First TV News Segment would lead any viewer to conclude that Plaintiff was arrested and charged with a felony stemming from alleged pedophilia, and that he did or likely did abuse a position of authority to inflict emotional, sexual, and other abuse upon a minor child. The following is a screenshot of the First TV News Segment:



19. Additionally, on or about December 11, 2023, WPLG posted a defamatory article to its website, Local10.com, titled “Miami-Dade middle school teacher accused of sending money to student in exchange for explicit photos” and located at <https://www.local10.com/news/local/2023/12/11/miami-dade-middle-school-teacher-accused-of-sending-money-to-student-in-exchange-for-explicit-photos/> (the “Local10.com Article”). The Local10.com Article was viewed by a mass of people throughout Florida and the world. This article, which is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**, is defamatory in its entirety. The article reports on the arrest of Mauricio *Alexander* Ruiz. However, the article contained an image of Plaintiff’s mugshot, and also included an embedded video of the First TV News Segment.

20. The Local10.com Article, which included images of Plaintiff, was immediately disseminated across the Internet.

21. At some point after the First TV News Segment and the Local10.com Article were published, WPLG apparently realized that it had incorrectly published the mugshot of Plaintiff, instead of Mauricio *Alexander* Ruiz. Accordingly, WPLG released a new television news segment, which omitted any photographs or videos of Mauricio *Andres* Ruiz. WPLG also revised the Local10.com Article, to contain the following “Update and Correction” after the conclusion of the article:

***Updated and CORRECTED: December 11, 2023 at 5:16pm. We have corrected this report to include the correct mugshot for the person arrested after we inadvertently had used a mugshot of another person with the same name. We apologize for any confusion.*

22. However, this Update and Correction was insufficient. First, as discussed above, WPLG’s originally posted media reports had already been broadly disseminated across the Internet by the time the Correction and Update was made, and as a result, the defamatory photographs of Plaintiff continued to be posted alongside this news story well after WPLG issued its Update and Correction to the Local10.com Article. Plaintiff attempted to have WPLG remove this defamatory content, to no avail.

23. Second, despite the supposed Update and Correction, WPLG failed to actually remove both the images of Plaintiff’s mugshot and the First TV News Segment, and in fact both continued to be posted and visible on the Local10.com Article well into March 2024, when Plaintiff’s counsel sent a pre-suit demand to

WPLG. The following thumbnail was downloaded from the Local10.com Article on February 29, 2024:



24. In fact, this image of Plaintiff's mugshot displayed on the Local10.com Article's webpage immediately upon loading, and it represented that the First TV News Segment continued to be the second embedded video that automatically played on WPLG's media player on the Local10.com Article's website, as shown below:



25. The following is a screenshot of the First TV News Segment playing on the Local10.com Article's webpage on March 2, 2024:



26. Both prior and subsequent to WPLG publishing its Update and Correction on the Local10.com Article, WPLG knew, or recklessly failed to check, that its publication that identified Plaintiff's image as being that of Mauricio Alexander Ruiz was false.

27. Nevertheless, WPLG intentionally and/or unreasonably failed to remove defamatory matter that it knew, or had good reason to know, to be exhibited on its website that was within its possession and under its control.

The Daily Caller Defames Plaintiff

28. On or about December 11, 2023 at 12:25 p.m., a user of the X social media platform (formerly known as Twitter) using the handle @ASecondChance tweeted the Local10.com Article. In addition to linking to the Local10.com Article, the

tweet contained an image of Plaintiff's mugshot and the added caption "Here's another winner ladies , A #Miami Dade County middle school teacher #MauricioAlexanderRuiz was arrested last week on a charge of offenses against a student by an authority figure, #MauricioRuiz #DadeCounty" (the "Second Chance Tweet").

29. Thereafter, The Daily Caller published an article to its website, titled "REPORT: Florida Middle School Teacher Allegedly Sent \$50 To 13-Year-Old Student For Nude Pictures" which was located at <https://dailycaller.com/2023/12/11/maurico-alexander-ruiz-money-minor-student-nude-pictures-sext/> (the "Daily Caller Article"). The Daily Caller Article was viewed by a mass of people throughout Florida and the world.

30. The Daily Caller Article, which is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**, is defamatory in its entirety. The article reports on the arrest of Mauricio *Alexander* Ruiz. However, The Daily Caller Article contains a link to the defamatory Local10.com Article. The Daily Caller Article also embeds the Second Chance Tweet, and contains a large image of Plaintiff, which The Daily Caller actively published in the middle of The Daily Caller Article.

31. The information provided to The Daily Caller was done in a capacity unrelated to any function as a provider or user of interactive computer services, and there was no active role, within the meaning of the Communications Decency Act, 47 U.S.C. § 230, *et seq.*, by WPLG, Twitter, or any third party in supplying the material to a provider or user of an interactive computer service. The Daily Caller did not

passively display the defamatory material from WPLG, Twitter, or any other third parties who actively provided it to The Daily Caller in the capacity as a user or provider of interactive computer services. Rather, The Daily Caller actively selected for publication the Second Chance Tweet and its photograph of Plaintiff, as part of the Daily Caller Article, and presented them as newsworthy instead of doing its own journalistic investigation, thereby actively and deliberately outsourcing its news reporting to Twitter users for commercial purposes. *See W. Sugar Coop. v. Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.*, CV113473CBMAJWX, 2015 WL 12683192, at *8 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2015).

32. Even well after WPLG published its Update and Correction on the Local10.com Article, which made clear that its initial reporting, upon which The Daily Caller had relied, “had used a mugshot of another person with the same name,” The Daily Caller acted in a negligent, reckless, and/or careless manner by continuing to publish Plaintiff’s mugshot in connection with its reporting about Mauricio Alexander Ruiz.

33. Especially after WPLG published its Update and Correction on the Local10.com Article, The Daily Caller knew, or recklessly failed to check, that its publication that identified Plaintiff’s image as being that of Mauricio Alexander Ruiz was false.

34. Nevertheless, The Daily Caller intentionally and/or unreasonably failed to remove defamatory matter that it knew, or had good reason to know, to be exhibited on its website that was within its possession and under its control.

35. The Daily Caller article appeared as follows well into March 2024:

REPORT: Florida Middle School Teacher Allegedly Sent \$50 To 13-Year-Old Student For Nude Pictures




Image not from the story ©Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [r](#)

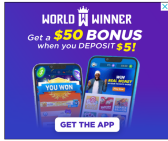
ALEXANDER PEASE
CONTRIBUTOR

December 11, 2023
4:34 PM ET

FONT SIZE: + -

Police reportedly arrested a mathematics middle school teacher Friday morning at a Miami-Dade County, Florida, school for allegedly sending an underage student money for nude pictures.

Miami-Dade Schools Police arrested Mauricio Alexander Ruiz, 29, at his place of employment, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, for allegations dating back to 2021, [Local 10](#) reported. The arrest report detailed the allegations stemmed from a "relationship" the teacher allegedly had with a then 13-year-old sixth-grade female student, per the outlet. While the two were reportedly **in contact**, Police said Ruiz allegedly asked the girl to send him nude pictures of herself for \$50, according to Local 10.



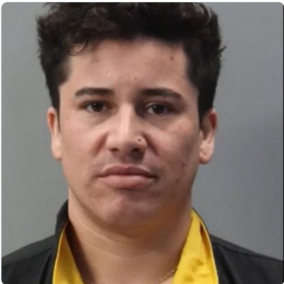
WORLD WINNER
Get a **\$50 BONUS**
When you deposit \$25
GET THE APP

ASecondChanceAround @ASecondChance Follow

Here's another winner ladies ,

A #Miami Dade County middle school teacher #MauricioAlexanderRuiz was arrested last week on a charge of offenses against a student by an authority figure.
#MauricioRuiz #DadeCounty

local10.com/news/local/2023-12-11-miami-dade-county-middle-school-teacher-arrested-for-offenses-against-a-student-by-an-authority-figure/



12:25 PM - Dec 11, 2023

Reply Copy link

Read 1 reply

Ruiz allegedly first made contact with the young girl in 2021, allegedly requesting to follow the minor on Instagram, reportedly chatting with her on video calls and sexting the 13-year-old, according to a police report obtained by the outlet. Ruiz allegedly paid the girl to send him explicit images of herself and allegedly offered to send her images of his genitalia as well, according to Local 10. **(RELATED: California High School Teacher Accused Of Offering \$140 For Sex Act With Minor)**

AOL Defames Plaintiff

36. The Local10.com Article was also disseminated to AOL. Thus, the Local10.com Article was republished by AOL, believed to be at the following URL: <https://www.aol.com/m/0f5e6713-2229-310c-995e-0daf552cd655/miami-dade-middle-school.html> (the “AOL Article”) and included Plaintiff’s mugshot. The AOL Article was viewed by a mass of people throughout Florida and the world.

37. The information provided to AOL was done in a capacity unrelated to any function as a provider or user of interactive computer services, and there was no active role, within the meaning of the Communications Decency Act, 47 U.S.C. § 230, *et seq.*, by WPLG or any third party in supplying the material to a provider or user of an interactive computer service. AOL did not passively display the Local10.com Article from WPLG or any other third parties who actively provided it to AOL in the capacity as a user or provider of interactive computer services. Rather, AOL actively published the Local10.com Article as part of its larger efforts to expand its commercial news reporting capabilities not through the creation of original content but instead through active and deliberate republication of articles from media outlets across the Internet. *See W. Sugar Coop.*, 2015 WL 12683192, at *8.

38. Even well after WPLG published its Update and Correction on the Local10.com Article, which made clear that its initial reporting, upon which AOL had relied, “had used a mugshot of another person with the same name,” AOL acted in a negligent, reckless, and/or careless manner by continuing to publish the AOL Article,

including Plaintiff's mugshot, in connection with its reporting about Mauricio Alexander Ruiz.

39. Especially after WPLG published its Update and Correction on the Local10.com Article, AOL knew, or recklessly failed to check, that its publication that identified Plaintiff's image as being that of Mauricio Alexander Ruiz was false.

40. Nevertheless, for weeks, AOL intentionally and/or unreasonably failed to remove defamatory matter that it knew, or had good reason to know, to be exhibited on its website that was within its possession and under its control.

41. The AOL Article appears to have been removed some time in approximately January or February 2024, and Plaintiff is not presently in possession of a complete copy of the AOL Article. However, the following is a screenshot of a portion of the article taken on or about December 17, 2023:

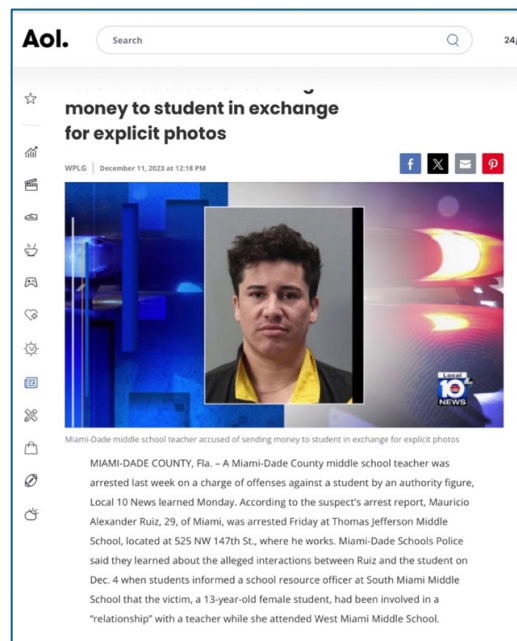


Exhibit E.

***Plaintiff's Counsel Send Pre-Suit
Demand Letters to the Defendants***

42. On March 5, 2024, Plaintiff's counsel sent pre-suit demand letters to each of WPLG, The Daily Caller, and AOL, in accordance with Section 770.01, Florida Statutes.

43. After receiving Plaintiff's pre-suit demand letter, WPLG aired a television broadcast, which it also posted to Local10.com, in which it stated as follows:

Further update and correction: Last December we told you about a Miami middle school teacher named Mauricio Alexander Ruiz whom police arrested for allegedly having an inappropriate relationship with a student. In that report we mistakenly showed a mugshot and bond court video of another man who was arrested the same day on an unrelated misdemeanor battery charge. The mugshot and bond court video we inadvertently showed is of Mauricio Andres Ruiz who had no connection to the other Ruiz and whose own battery charge was dropped shortly afterward. We apologize for the error.

44. After receiving Plaintiff's pre-suit demand letter, The Daily Caller removed the Second Chance Tweet and Plaintiff's photograph from its article, and added the following Editorial Note:

Editorial Note: The original story from WPLG upon which we relied was corrected to properly identify the accused teacher. We have made the similar correction and apologize to anyone who believed they were wrongly identified in the original story.

45. However, it does not appear that AOL took any remedial actions after receiving Plaintiff's pre-suit demand letter.

46. It is not yet known what other media outlets, if any, may have published or re-published the defamatory material about Plaintiff.

Plaintiff Has Suffered Severe Damages

47. Due to his having been falsely held out in the media as an actual or alleged pedophile, Plaintiff has suffered severe damages.

48. Plaintiff's reputation and good name have been eviscerated. Accordingly, Plaintiff has been shunned by many in society who believe him to be a sex offender and child predator who should be subject to law enforcement and jailing.

49. Plaintiff has lost his ability to earn a living.

50. Plaintiff has lost his living accommodations and was forced to live in his car.

51. Plaintiff has suffered severe emotional distress and torment.

COUNT I – DEFAMATION

AGAINST WPLG, THE DAILY CALLER, AND AOL

52. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges the allegations of Paragraphs 1-51 as if fully set forth herein.

53. Each of WPLG, The Daily Caller, and AOL defamed Plaintiff.

54. Each of WPLG, The Daily Caller, and AOL published false statement(s) about Plaintiff to unprivileged third parties that caused countless people from across Florida and the world to believe that Plaintiff has been arrested for alleged pedophilia and abuse of authority over a minor.

55. Each of WPLG, The Daily Caller, and AOL acted with knowledge or reckless disregard as to the falsity of the statement(s), or at least negligently concerning these matters involving Plaintiff, who is a private person.

56. The statement(s) were defamatory.

57. As a result of the defamation, Plaintiff sustained, and continues to sustain, actual damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff MAURICIO ANDRES RUIZ VARELA respectfully demands judgment against Defendants WPLG, INC., THE DAILY CALLER, INC., and AOL MEDIA LLC, for all allowable damages, including nominal damages, compensatory damages; consequential damages; special damages including all past, present, and future medical, psychological/counseling/emotional distress, and pharmaceutical/medicinal damages as well as lost wages and income in the past and continuing into the future, and all other damages flowing from the Defendants' conduct; all taxable costs allowable by law; and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as appropriate; together with such other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II – DEFAMATION *PER SE*

AGAINST WPLG, THE DAILY CALLER, AND AOL

58. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges the allegations of Paragraphs 1-51 as if fully set forth herein.

59. Each of WPLG, The Daily Caller, and AOL defamed Plaintiff.

60. Each of WPLG, The Daily Caller, and AOL published false statement(s) about Plaintiff to unprivileged third parties that caused countless people from across Florida and the world to believe that Plaintiff has been arrested for alleged pedophilia and abuse of authority over a minor.

61. Each of WPLG, The Daily Caller, and AOL acted with knowledge or reckless disregard as to the falsity of the statement(s), or at least negligently concerning these matters involving Plaintiff, who is a private person.

62. The statement(s) were defamatory.

63. One or more of the false statement(s) rose to the level of being defamatory *per se* insofar as they, among other things, impute Plaintiff with the commission of one or more infamous crimes and/or subject him to hatred, distrust, ridicule, or contempt.

64. As a result of the defamation, Plaintiff sustained, and continues to sustain, actual damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff MAURICIO ANDRES RUIZ VARELA respectfully demands judgment against Defendants WPLG, INC., THE DAILY CALLER, INC., and AOL MEDIA LLC, for all allowable damages, including nominal damages, compensatory damages; consequential damages; special damages including all past, present, and future medical, psychological/counseling/emotional distress, and pharmaceutical/medicinal damages as well as lost wages and income in the past and continuing into the future, and all other damages flowing from the Defendants' conduct; all taxable costs allowable by law; and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as appropriate; together with such other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

**COUNT III – DECLARATORY JUDGMENT
AGAINST THE DAILY CALLER AND AOL**

65. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges the allegations of Paragraphs 1-51 as if fully set forth herein.

66. A bona fide dispute exists between the parties.

67. Plaintiff has a substantial interest in the rights and obligations relating to his claims against re-publishers and/or subsequent publishers of defamatory content in light of the Communications Decency Act, 47 U.S.C. § 230, *et seq.*, and requires judicial confirmation as to the associated rights, title, status, and interests, and is entitled to have his rights validated by the Court.

68. There is a bona fide, actual, present practical need for the declaration.

69. The declaration involves a present, ascertained, or ascertainable state of facts or present controversy as described in this Complaint.

70. The powers, privileges, or rights of the Plaintiff are dependent upon the facts and the law applicable to the facts as set forth in this Complaint.

71. The Defendants – through actions, practice, and expressed positions – have shown an interest that is actual, present, adverse, and antagonistic to the Plaintiff's rights and interests described in the Complaint.

72. The Defendants' antagonistic and adverse interests are before the Court by proper process.

73. The relief sought is not merely the giving of legal advice by the courts or the answer to questions propounded from curiosity.

74. A declaratory judgment is in the public interest.

75. Declaratory relief preserves rights under Florida and other applicable law.

76. Plaintiff seeks entry of a declaratory judgment declaring that the Communications Decency Act, 47 U.S.C. § 230, *et seq.*, does not bar suit against The Daily Caller and/ or AOL as re-publishers and/or subsequent publishers of defamatory material about the Plaintiff under the facts of this case.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff MAURICIO ANDRES RUIZ VARELA respectfully demands a declaratory judgment against Defendants THE DAILY CALLER, INC. and AOL MEDIA LLC that the Communications Decency Act, 47 U.S.C. § 230, *et seq.*, does not bar suit against them as re-publishers and/or subsequent publishers of defamatory material about the Plaintiff under the facts of this case, as well as any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

IV. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

77. Plaintiff respectfully demands a trial by jury for all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BURTON FIRM, P.A.

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Mauricio Andres Ruiz Varela

2875 N.E. 191st Street, Suite 403

Aventura, Florida 33180

(305) 705-0888 phone

pleadings@theburtonfirm.com

By: /s/ Marc A. Burton

Marc A. Burton, Esq. F.B.N. 95318

Richard J. Burton, Esq. F.B.N. 179337

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I **HEREBY CERTIFY** that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was e-mailed on July 23, 2024 to:

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Karen Williams Kammer, Esq.
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By: /s/ Marc A. Burton
Marc A. Burton, Esq. F.B.N. 95318

EXHIBIT A

CASE INFORMATION

Court Case No.: M23024530	State Case No.: 132023MM024530000104	
Name: RUIZ, MAURICIO ANDRES	Date of Birth: 04/20/1991	
Date Filed: 12/09/2023	Date Closed: 01/08/2024	Warrant Type:
Assessment Amount: \$50.00	Balance Due: \$50.00	Stay Due Date:
Previous Case:	Next Case:	
Judge: LORENZO KLUKAS, YARA	Defense Attorney:	
Bfile Section: M087	File Location: FILE ROOM	Box Number:
Arresting Agency: MIAMI	Arrest Date: 12/08/2023	

HEARING

There are no scheduled hearings.

CHARGES

Seq No.	Charge	Charge Type	Disposition
1	BATT- DOMESTIC VIO	MISDEMEANOR	NO ACTION

DOCKETS

DIN Date	Book/Page	Docket
17	01/10/2024	DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE ISSUED OSI610075217
16	01/08/2024	ORDER TERMINATING PRE-TRIAL RELEASE CONDITIONS
15	01/08/2024	CLOSING JUDGE ESPINOSA, ELISABETH M
14	01/08/2024	OSI AMT/ 1000 DISCHARGED 01/08/2024 POWER/OSI610075217
13	12/15/2023	INTAKE PROS. ASSIGNED: STEIN, JACOB
12	12/14/2023	BOND RECEIVED OSI610075217
11	12/11/2023	ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF APPOINTMENT & WRITTEN PLEA OF NOT GUILTY NOTICE OF DISCOVERYDEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL WAIVER OF PRETRIAL CONFERE
10	12/11/2023	INTAKE UNIT ASSIGNED: MISD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
9	12/11/2023	INTAKE PROS. ASSIGNED: VEGA-MENDEZ, DAYSI
8	12/11/2023	AFFIDAVIT FOR INDIGENT STATUS - NOT INDIGENT
5	12/09/2023	OSI AMT/ 1000 ISSUED 12/09/2023 POWER/OSI610075217
4	12/09/2023	ARRAIGNMENT HEARING SCHEDULED FOR 01/08/2024 AT 09:00
3	12/09/2023	STAY AWAY ORDER - PRE TRIAL CONDITIONAL NO CONTACT ALLOWED
2	12/09/2023	CURRENT BOND STATUS \$1000
1	12/09/2023	FIRST APPEARANCE/D.V. JAIL ARRAIGNMENT

EXHIBIT B

CASE INFORMATION

Court Case No.: F23024215	State Case No.: 132023CF024215000101	
Name: RUIZ, MAURICIO ALEXANDER	Date of Birth: 12/12/1993	
Date Filed: 12/09/2023	Date Closed:	Warrant Type:
Assessment Amount: \$0.00	Balance Due: \$0.00	Stay Due Date:
Previous Case:	Next Case:	
Judge: MILIAN, ALBERTO	Defense Attorney: PIOTROWSKI, CHAD	
Bfile Section: F018	File Location: FILE ROOM	Box Number:
Arresting Agency: MIAMI DADE SCHOOLS POLI	Arrest Date: 12/08/2023	

HEARING

Hearing Date: 05/20/2024	Hearing Time: 09:30	Hearing Type: T
Court Room: REGJB - JUSTICE BUILDING, ROOM No.: 7-2		
Address: 1351 N.W. 12 ST		

CHARGES

Seq No.	Charge	Charge Type	Disposition
1	OFFENSES AGA/STU/AUT	FELONY	

DOCKETS

DIN Date	Book/Page	Docket
41	04/22/2024	E-SUBPOENA: MONTIEL, ARMANDO ID: 063-01032 FOR: TRIAL ON 05/20/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 04/22/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 04/22/2024 ACKN: S
40	04/22/2024	E-SUBPOENA: DEL SOL, VICENTE ID: 063-00999 FOR: TRIAL ON 05/20/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 04/22/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 04/22/2024 ACKN: 04/29/2024 S
39	04/22/2024	E-SUBPOENA: RUIZ, JANIELLE ID: 063-00859 FOR: TRIAL ON 05/20/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 04/22/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 04/22/2024 ACKN: 04/22/2024 S
38	04/22/2024	E-SUBPOENA: RHODES, DAVID ID: 063-00665 FOR: TRIAL ON 05/20/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 04/22/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 04/22/2024 ACKN: 04/22/2024 S
37	04/22/2024	E-SUBPOENA: ROVIRA, STEVEN ID: 063-00648 FOR: TRIAL ON 05/20/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 04/22/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 04/22/2024 ACKN: 04/22/2024 S
36	03/26/2024	ORDER GRANTING AUTHORIZING SERVICES OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST
35	03/25/2024	MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE FILED 03/25/2024 ORAL SET FOR 03/25/2024 AT 16:07 GRANTED DEFS
34	03/25/2024	TRIAL HEARING SCHEDULED FOR 05/20/2024 AT 09:30
33	03/25/2024	AMENDED DISCOVERY EXHIBIT
31	02/26/2024	E-SUBPOENA: MONTIEL, ARMANDO ID: 063-01032 FOR: TRIAL ON 03/25/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 02/26/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 02/26/2024 ACKN: 02/28/2024 S
30	02/26/2024	E-SUBPOENA: DEL SOL, VICENTE ID: 063-00999 FOR: TRIAL ON 03/25/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 02/26/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 02/26/2024 ACKN: 03/04/2024 S
29	02/26/2024	E-SUBPOENA: RUIZ, JANIELLE ID: 063-00859 FOR: TRIAL ON 03/25/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 02/26/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 02/26/2024 ACKN: 02/27/2024 S
		E-SUBPOENA: RHODES, DAVID ID: 063-00665 FOR: TRIAL ON 03/25/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED

28	02/26/2024	BY: CJIS SENT: 02/26/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 02/26/2024 ACKN: S
27	02/26/2024	E-SUBPOENA: ROVIRA, STEVEN ID: 063-00648 FOR: TRIAL ON 03/25/2024 AT 09:30 ISSUED BY: CJIS SENT: 02/26/2024 RECD/NOTFD: 02/26/2024 ACKN: 02/26/2024 S
26	02/14/2024	EX PARTE SEALED ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
25	02/08/2024	SEALED ORDER
24	02/02/2024	EX PARTE SEALED ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
23	01/23/2024	TRIAL HEARING SCHEDULED FOR 03/25/2024 AT 09:30
22	01/16/2024	AMENDED DISCOVERY EXHIBIT
21	01/16/2024	DISC EXHIBIT: STATE'S DEMAND FOR DEFN DISCV/DEMAND FOR ALIBI AND DEMAND FOR NOTICE OF SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM
18	01/08/2024	NOTICE OF APPEARANCE AND PLEA CHAD PIOTROWSKI ESQ DEMAND FOR JURY TRIALDEMAND FOR DISCOVER Y
17	01/08/2024	ARRAIGNMENT HEARING SCHEDULED FOR 01/23/2024 AT 09:30
16	01/08/2024	REPORT RE: TRIAL DATE SET FOR 01/23/2024 AT 09:30
15	01/08/2024	INFORMATION FILED
14	01/08/2024	INFORMATION FILED BY STATE
12	12/14/2023	BOND RECEIVED PSE151118953
10	12/11/2023	INTAKE UNIT ASSIGNED: SEXUAL BATTERY/CHILD ABUSE
9	12/11/2023	INTAKE PROS. ASSIGNED: LORENZ, JARED
8	12/11/2023	TRIAL PROS. ASSIGNED: LORENZ, JARED
3	12/11/2023	ARRAIGNMENT HEARING SCHEDULED FOR 01/08/2024 AT 09:30
7	12/09/2023	REDACTED RECORDS A-FORM
6	12/09/2023	CURRENT BOND STATUS BOND OUT PER CORRECTIONS
5	12/09/2023	FIRST APPEARANCE/BOND HEARING - P.M.
4	12/09/2023	INTAKE UNIT ASSIGNED: SEXUAL BATTERY/CHILD ABUSE
1	12/09/2023	COMPLAINT/ ARREST AFFIDAVIT (A-FORM)
11	12/08/2023	PSC AMT/ 7500 ISSUED 12/08/2023 POWER/PSE151118953

EXHIBIT C

[My husband] has very serious heart issues and our Medicare Advantage plan takes care of all the extra medications that we need." - TERRY, MA BENEFICIARY

BETTER MEDICARE PROTECT MA

LOCAL NEWS

Amanda Batchelor, Digital Executive Producer
Layron Livingston, Reporter

Published: December 11, 2023 at 12:18 PM
 Updated: December 19, 2023 at 7:44 PM

Tags: Miami-Dade County, Crime, Education

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Miami-Dade middle school teacher accused of sending money to student in exchange for explicit photos



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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. - A Miami-Dade County middle school teacher was arrested last week on a charge of offenses against a student by an authority figure, Local 10 News learned Monday.

According to the suspect's arrest report, Mauricio Alexander Ruiz, 29, of Miami, was arrested Friday at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, located at 525 NW 147th St., where he works.

Miami-Dade Schools Police said they learned about the alleged interactions between Ruiz and the student on Dec. 4 when students informed a school resource officer at South Miami Middle School that the victim, a 13-year-old female student, had been involved in a "relationship" with a teacher while she attended West Miami Middle School.

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According to the report, Ruiz friend requested the victim on Instagram in 2021 while she was in the sixth grade and their interactions escalated to video calls, sending explicit photos and sending the victim money via Cash App in exchange for her photos.

Police said the victim told them she "had feelings" for Ruiz and claimed that she didn't know he was a teacher until he replaced her sixth grade math teacher.

According to the report, the girl said Ruiz repeatedly asked her to meet him outside her home and would send her photos of his genitals and ask for naked photos of her.

She said he sent her \$50 via Cash App in exchange for the photos and provided the Cash App receipt to police, authorities said.

Police said she also claimed that Ruiz would ask her to sit in the back of his math class so he could "tutor" her and, while sitting next to her, would place his hand on her inner thigh.

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According to the report, Ruiz was taken into custody Friday morning at the school where he is currently employed.

Police said he acknowledged being a former math teacher at the school where the victim attended, but it's unclear whether he admitted to anything else.

Ruiz was transported to the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center, but has since bonded out of jail.

On Monday, Local 10 News' Layron Livingston went to Ruiz's home.

He did not make a statement, other than saying he was innocent until proven guilty.

The school district released the following statement Monday: "Miami-Dade County Public Schools is deeply troubled by the disturbing allegations made against this individual. After a thorough investigation by the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department and, as per the State Attorney's Office, the individual was subsequently arrested. Conduct such as the one the employee is accused of will not be tolerated. As such, his employment with the District has been terminated and the individual is precluded from seeking future employment with Miami-Dade County Public Schools."

***Updated and CORRECTED: December 11, 2023 at 5:16pm. We have corrected this report to include the correct mugshot for the person arrested after we inadvertently had used a mugshot of another person with the same name. We apologize for any confusion.*

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS:



Amanda Batchelor

Amanda Batchelor is the Digital Executive Producer for Local10.com.

[email](#)



Layron Livingston

Layron Livingston made the move from Ohio's Miami Valley to Miami, Florida, to join the Local 10 News team.

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ALL COMMENTS 19

NEWEST



Hartless.T · DECEMBER 12, 2023

Another one...

REPLY 0 0



Beavis' Friend · DECEMBER 11, 2023

This creep just threw away a very good -- even if thankless -- career.

My second thought is -- where were the girls PARENTS? A perv is sending your kid \$50 by CashApp, and you don't know it? And he probably did that more than once.

REPLY 4 1



Randall · DECEMBER 11, 2023

No problem. The Walt Disney Company has advised the citizens and legislature of Florida that educators possess all the required credentials to covertly counsel their students on issues of human sexuality and gender fluidity.

REPLY 2 1



CONTENT REMOVED

3 REPLIES



RS New · DECEMBER 11, 2023

Reply to Davidson

Sick deflections from this evil teacher and others is what your "needs" are.

REPLY 2 0



GladesGator · DECEMBER 12, 2023

Reply to Davidson

This didn't age well.

REPLY 0 0



beautiful angel · DECEMBER 12, 2023

Reply to Davidson

Wow, like they said in the security guard article, how they all look alikkkke!

REPLY 0 0



CONTENT REMOVED

2 REPLIES



RS New · DECEMBER 11, 2023

Reply to Davidson

Sick "need" of yours

REPLY 2 0



Beavis' Friend · DECEMBER 11, 2023

Reply to Davidson

Silly, childish, totally irrelevant post.

REPLY 2 0



NamasteQbano · DECEMBER 11, 2023

Are there any teachers that haven't or aren't abusing kids left? Florida has always been a "special" state...

REPLY 1 REPLY 0 2



Beavis' Friend · DECEMBER 11, 2023

Reply to NamasteQbano

Every profession has its share of losers. The vast majority of teachers are wonderful, honest, ethical and moral people.

REPLY 3 0



Add your reply



DavidDavid · DECEMBER 11, 2023

Does anyone still want their kids in public schools?

REPLY 1 1



Skink · DECEMBER 11, 2023

Social media is as dangerous as these predators.

REPLY 2 1

ES **Eiboni Styles** · DECEMBER 11, 2023
Throw the whole system Away.....Disgusting!!!
REPLY 1 0 1

SH **shecares** · DECEMBER 11, 2023
why would a 6th grade student be sent those type of pictures - or anyone for that matter?
Ughh - this is a serously disturbed pedaphile and predator
....and I can't believe the BOND is only 7,500.00
Unbelievable.... again!!! :(
I am as many others are - disgusted to read this.....
REPLY 1 REPLY 0 0

TS **Tangelia's Subconscious** · DECEMBER 11, 2023
Reply to **shecares**
Because she's human?
REPLY 0 1

 Add your reply

 **RS New** · DECEMBER 11, 2023
It's apparent that the modern-day Internet and social media. Are allies with these and other criminals.
REPLY 1 REPLY 3 1


SH **shecares** · DECEMBER 11, 2023
Reply to **RS New**
Technology is causing more harm than good - hasn't it become apparent yet?
And AI will continue to take many many many jobs..... **EDITED**
REPLY 2 1

 Add your reply

 **Paradise Lost** · DECEMBER 11, 2023
Now this guy can get an apple with his sack lunch when he arrives at jail...
REPLY 5 0

BO **BoyntonSteve** · DECEMBER 11, 2023
Guess it's too much to ask these days. Having teachers that are smarter than the students.
REPLY 3 0

ACTIVE CONVERSATIONS

 Prosecutors press judge for summer trial for Trump in classified docs case, but no date set
51

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E EDUCATION

REPORT: Florida Middle School Teacher Allegedly Sent \$50 To 13-Year-Old Student For Nude Pictures



Image not from the story (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)



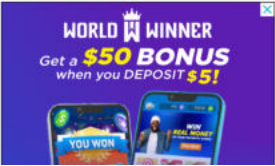
ALEXANDER PEASE
CONTRIBUTOR

December 11, 2023
4:34 PM ET

FONT SIZE: + -

Police reportedly arrested a mathematics middle school teacher Friday morning at a Miami-Dade County, Florida, school for allegedly sending an underage student money for nude pictures.

Miami-Dade Schools Police arrested Mauricio Alexander Ruiz, 29, at his place of employment, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, for allegations dating back to 2021, **Local 10** reported. The arrest report detailed the allegations stemmed from a "relationship" the teacher allegedly had with a then 13-year-old sixth-grade female student, per the outlet. While the two were reportedly **in contact**, Police said Ruiz allegedly asked the girl to send him nude pictures of herself for \$50, according to Local 10.





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Here's another winner ladies ,

A #Miami Dade County middle school teacher #MauricioAlexanderRuiz was arrested last week on a charge of offenses against a student by an authority figure, #MauricioRuiz #DadeCounty

[local10.com/news/local/2023...](https://www.local10.com/news/local/2023-12-11-miami-dade-middle-school-teacher-arrested-for-offenses-against-a-student-by-an-authority-figure/)



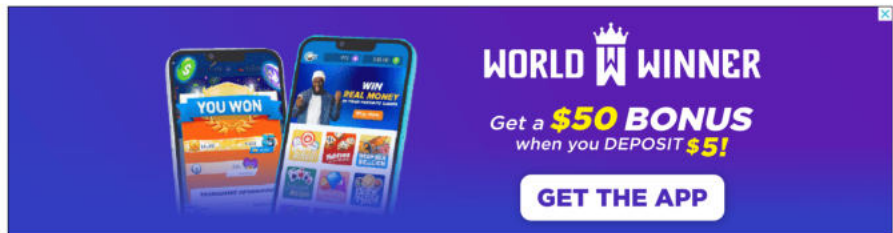
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Ruiz allegedly first made contact with the young girl in 2021, allegedly requesting to follow the minor on Instagram, reportedly chatting with her on video calls and sexting the 13-year-old, according to a police report obtained by the outlet. Ruiz allegedly paid the girl to send him explicit images of herself and allegedly offered to send her images of his genitalia as well, according to Local 10. **(RELATED: California High School Teacher Accused Of Offering \$140 For Sex Act With Minor)**

Miami-Dade Schools Police said the young girl provided a \$50 receipt from CashApp to officers, documenting a payment the middle school teacher allegedly made in exchange for the explicit photos, Local 10 reported.



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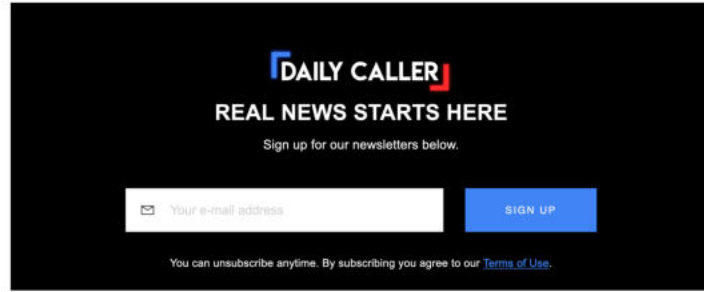
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The **middle school math instructor** allegedly asked to meet her on multiple occasions during their time talking to each other, according to the police report obtained by the outlet. Police said the unnamed underage victim told cops she “had feelings” for Ruiz, Local 10 reported.

During math class, the girl also told cops Ruiz would ask her to sit toward the back of the **classroom** to “tutor” her — and while doing so would allegedly place his hand on her thigh, Local 10 said.

Ruiz was taken to the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center after his arrest at the middle school but is now reportedly released on bond. In a Monday statement, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools announced Ruiz had been

terminated, according to Local 10. **(RELATED: Teacher On Leave For Reportedly Teaching Students About Sex Toys, 'Buty Hole' Stimulation)**



Thomas Jefferson Middle School and the Miami-Dade Schools Police did not immediately respond to the Daily Caller's requests for comment.

Tags : education florida miami dade county middle school sexting



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ALEXANDER PEASE

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- RW Riley Walsh** 11 December, 2023
Teachers should be barred from any relationship with an individual student outside of school. There is no good reason for a teacher to follow a students social media.
Reply 2 Share 1 reply
- DH Dennis H** 12 December, 2023
These democrats won't leave these kids alone.
Reply 2 Share
- JG Joe Greenwell** 12 December, 2023
Public Schools are a danger to our children.
Reply Share
- DJ David Jennings** 12 December, 2023
Somebody give her my address. But, I'll have to warn her, I'm no push over. I want \$75
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EXHIBIT E



money to student in exchange for explicit photos



WPLG | December 11, 2023 at 12:18 PM



Miami-Dade middle school teacher accused of sending money to student in exchange for explicit photos



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. – A Miami-Dade County middle school teacher was arrested last week on a charge of offenses against a student by an authority figure, Local 10 News learned Monday. According to the suspect's arrest report, Mauricio Alexander Ruiz, 29, of Miami, was arrested Friday at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, located at 525 NW 147th St., where he works. Miami-Dade Schools Police said they learned about the alleged interactions between Ruiz and the student on Dec. 4 when students informed a school resource officer at South Miami Middle School that the victim, a 13-year-old female student, had been involved in a "relationship" with a teacher while she attended West Miami Middle School.

