



HIGH POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

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Chief of Police Kenneth J Shultz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lieutenant C. Cheeks III
Public Information Officer
336-870-6710

INCIDENT TYPE – INSTAGRAM SCAM / FRAUD (ARREST)

HIGH POINT, NC – High Point Police Investigators became aware of a social media scam being conducted by a suspect based on an investigation conducted by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Police Department. During their investigation, **Kevin A Kerney W/M 32 of Denton** was identified as the offender and subsequently charged by UNC-G Investigators.

During the scam, the suspect would contact a female victim on Instagram by direct message and tell them about a modeling opportunity referring her (and sometimes other females recruited by the initial victim) to a female named “Kayla” at one of 2 email addresses. “Kayla” would then provide the victim with fictitious modeling shoot information and request their height, weight, measurements, sizes, and the like before asking them to submit a series of photographs including topless and or nude photographs. The victim would send the photographs and the scammer would then reveal that the modeling opportunity was a scam, that “Kayla” is actually a male, who is going to send the photographs to everyone the victim knows unless she gives him her Instagram information including the password. The suspect would also tell the victims that there is no use in calling the police because he would not be caught.

High Point Police Investigators conducted a case review of open incidents involving the same method of operation and identified (6) six victims from incidents during the time span of February 26, 2017, and October 31, 2018. During those incidents, each victim was threatened repeatedly with the dissemination of nude photographs to family, friends, social media contacts and other acquaintances.



Crimestoppers of High Point pays cash rewards for information that leads to arrests, seizures or solving serious crimes. Callers with successful tips remain anonymous and receive rewards up to \$5,000. Contact Crimestoppers at 336-889-4000 or text Keyword: Cashtips and your tip to 274637

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On today's date (January 10, 2019) High Point Police Investigators obtained additional Warrants for Arrest for **Kevin A Kerney W/M 32 of Denton** for (6) six counts of Felony Extortion and (6) six counts of Misdemeanor Cyberstalking. Kerney was served with those warrants and remains in the custody of the Guilford County Jail.



The High Point Police Department remains diligent in identifying those persons involved in criminal activity in High Point and holding them and their associates responsible for their actions. Anyone with information related to these incidents or who may have been a victim to this scam is asked to contact Detective Yokely at 336-887-7860.

Case Report Number(s): 2018-44514, 41500, 34552, and 34844

Press Release prepared by Lieutenant C.H.Cheeks III

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