



DENNIS CALO  
Acting Bergen County Prosecutor

# Office of the County Prosecutor

ROBERT ANZILOTTI  
Chief of Detectives

**\*\* For Immediate Release \*\***

**Headline: "Staying Safe in Cyberspace – Internet Safety for Parents"**

**Contacts: Lieutenant Jeffery Angermeyer 201-226-5797 JAngermeyer@BCPO.net**

**Acting Bergen County Prosecutor Dennis Calo is proud to announce the following:**

The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Cyber Crimes Unit will be presenting an in-depth presentation on Internet Safety, hosted by the Fort Lee Police Department in cooperation with the Fort Lee Board of Education on February 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Fort Lee Elementary School #1 (250 Hoym Street, Fort Lee). The presentation, entitled "*Staying Safe in Cyberspace – Internet Safety for Parents*," is a comprehensive examination of today's Internet and the dangers that lurk inside chat rooms, instant messages, e-mail and blogs. This presentation is an integral function of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Cyber Crimes Unit. Through education and outreach to the community, the Computer Crimes Unit hopes to raise parents' awareness of online predators and the dangerous content that is only a mouse-click away from their child's grasp.

Through their dynamic, intriguing and eye-opening presentation, complete with vivid graphics and streaming video clips, the Cyber Crimes Detectives hope to educate parents about the seedier side of the Internet. The goals of this presentation are to discuss the basic functions of social media, to highlight current Internet trends and to illustrate the associated risks facing children of all ages. After what will be an informative display of the dangers associated with online communication, they will turn to preventative measures and effective solutions to protect children, many of whom know more about the Internet than the average parent.

"The explosion of social media has proven to be most influential with the youngest of generations, namely our children," said Acting Bergen County Prosecutor Dennis Calo. He continued, "Protecting them online while they are using 'apps' on smart devices, a truly unregulated atmosphere, is a tremendous task that needs to begin at home."

With the advent of the smartphone and tablet as principal components of today's household, the World Wide Web, social media, and all of its users are essentially invited into the privacy of every home in Bergen County. Parents seldom realize the depth and breadth of a limitless link to the rest of the globe via a seemingly harmless Internet connection in their own living room.

The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office Cyber Crimes Unit, including the complementary Bergen County Computer Crimes Task Force, consists of Investigators from around the County and has the vast responsibility of deterring and detecting Internet crime. Many of their cases involve predators who target children through the Internet. To that end, Detectives who combat Internet crime have recognized that their approach must also include a strong education initiative involving parents and children who surf the Web. This proactive mechanism is in place in order to prevent children in Bergen County from stumbling into areas of the Internet where they can fall prey to an online predator.

Acting Prosecutor Dennis and Chief of Detectives Robert Anzilotti urge all parents and guardians to attend this Internet Safety Presentation. It is their hope that by having skilled, well-versed cybercrimes investigators, coupled with parents armed with a working knowledge of the Internet and its pitfalls, the children of this County are well-protected while exploring the Internet.



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