

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Ridge Foster parent charged in 17-count indictment alleging sex crimes**

A 59 year old foster parent pleaded not guilty this morning in Suffolk County court to a 17-count indictment alleging he sexually abused seven young boys in his care, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said today.

Judge Barbara Kahn set cash bail for Cesar Gonzales-Mugaburu of Ridge, at \$500,000 cash or one million dollars bond.

Of the seven victims in the indictment, five are foster children and two were adopted by Mugaburu. District Attorney Spota said the investigation has found Mugaburu has fostered approximately 140 children, all male, over the past 19 years. "He received as much as \$2,200 to \$2,400 per month for each child, and the investigation has established he housed six to eight children at any time," DA Spota said.

"We believe there are many more victims and we are asking them to come forward, even if the crimes happened many years ago," Spota said. "In some cases, depending on the facts, a prosecution may still be possible, and all of the information we can gather will be helpful to the investigation."

Victims and others with knowledge helpful to the investigation are urged to call the Suffolk County Police Department Special Victims Unit at (631) 852-6175. All calls are confidential.

Suffolk police Special Victims Unit detectives arrested Mugaburu on January 20 on endangering the welfare of a child and sexual misconduct charges when a caseworker informed police that two of his foster children, ages 11 and 13, complained he was regularly making sexually inappropriate remarks to them including graphic descriptions of sexual acts.

The indictment unsealed today charged the defendant with two counts of Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree, one count of Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree, five counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the Second Degree, five counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and one count of Sexual Misconduct.

If convicted of all charges, Mugaburu faces 50 years' incarceration in a state correctional facility, District Attorney Spota said.

In interviews with the children, SCPD detectives learned the foster children lived under a strict set of rules enforced by the defendant.

"The boys told detectives they were not permitted access to phones, and as they got older, they were not permitted to have girlfriends or any visitors. They were only permitted two meals per day – which they were required to eat while sitting on the floor, and Mugaburu disciplined the children by forcing them to stand outside in the cold and rain," DA Spota said.

District Attorney Spota said the investigation continues in unraveling the placement of children with the defendant. Information developed thus far indicates most of the foster children placed in the Ridge house were from New York City. The NYC Administration for Children's Services contracted with St. Christopher Otilie for placement, and the Suffolk County Office of Child Protective Services did not place foster children with Mugaburu after 2001.



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Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.