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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **KATONAH SCHOOL TEACHER CHARGED IN RAPE INVESTIGATION** *County Police Special Victims Unit Assists Local Police*

The Westchester County Police Department of Public Safety have arrested Thomas Giordano, 23 years old, for Rape in the Third Degree, for having sexual relations with a 16 year-old female student in the Katonah-Lewisboro School District. Giordano is a first year English teacher at John Jay High School in Katonah. The attack allegedly took place in Hawthorne.

The allegations were brought to the attention of the County Police Special Victims Investigations Team (SVIT) by the superintendent of the Katonah-Lewisboro School District. The SVIT contacted the Town of Lewisboro Police and a joint investigation was conducted on Wednesday, resulting in today's arrest. Giordano surrendered to County Police detectives at County Police Headquarters and was later arraigned in Mount Pleasant Town Court. He was released in lieu of \$5,000 cash bail and is due back in Mount Pleasant Court on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Special Victims Investigation Team has played an integral role in a number of recent investigations, when their assistance was called for by several local agencies, as well as the New York State Police. In early May, the team assisted the State Police in the arrest of a Cortlandt bus driver charged with molesting a 14 year-old student on a school bus. As a result of that investigation, 57 year-old John Ohrlein was charged with sexual Abuse in the First Degree. Last week, the SVIT was called in by Mount Kisco Police for an investigation that resulted in the arrest of 30 year-old Steven Davydov who was charged with Assault in the Second Degree for biting the face of his 2 year-old daughter. That investigation also involved the Department of Social Services as well. In another case, the team worked with Child Protective Services in the investigation of an assault against a 12 year-old female at the Coachman Hotel in White Plains. The child's mother, 35 year-old Michele Simmons, was arrested and charged with Assault in the Third Degree.