

Ex-officer sentenced to year in jail: Forced prostitute to perform sex

March 14, 2007 “In an emotional appeal to a federal judge yesterday, former Boston police officer Michael LoPriore said he was "not a bad person" and was depressed over his divorce and bankruptcy when he flashed his badge and **forced a prostitute to perform sex on him three years ago.**

"I wasn't thinking clearly," said LoPriore, 37, of Everett, urging the judge to place him on probation. "I hope you can give me a chance to lead a good life, like a normal human being, and just move forward."

But US District Judge Douglas P. Woodlock sentenced LoPriore **to a year in prison**, saying he had violated the victim's rights and broken the public's trust by **using his position as a police officer to commit a serious crime.** He also ordered LoPriore to pay a \$2,000 fine. The former officer was ordered to report to prison April 20.

"When the government becomes the lawbreaker, we are all at risk," said Woodlock, calling the prosecution's recommendation that LoPriore spend a year behind bars both fair and just punishment.

The 12-year veteran of the Boston Police Department pleaded guilty in December to a **federal misdemeanor** charge of depriving the victim of her civil rights. As part of a plea agreement, he resigned from the force and agreed never to seek another job as a police officer in Massachusetts. **[but what about other states? he could become an officer there, and do this to more prostitutes]**

Prosecutors said LoPriore spotted the 19-year-old prostitute with a customer in Boston in September 2004 while he was off duty, flashed his badge, and ordered her to get into his car. After driving the woman to Quincy, **LoPriore forced her to perform sex on him or face arrest and then drove her back to Boston.**

The teenager, fearing that no one would believe her, took LoPriore's badge during the encounter and brought it to a lawyer, who contacted the FBI, according to the lawyer, John Swomley. The FBI secretly recorded telephone calls between the woman and LoPriore, who negotiated to try to get his badge back.

Assistant US Attorney George Vien said the government believed that prison time was necessary for LoPriore, both to punish him and to deter other officers from doing the same thing...”

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/03/14/ex_officer_sentenced_to_year_in_jail/

If it is a ‘serious crime’ to rape prostitutes, why did this convicted rapist receive only a one year sentence?