



**Office of the Washington
County Attorney**

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County Attorney

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY DOUG JOHNSON

For immediate release – October 18, 2007

BAYPORT MAN CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT OF TEENAGE GIRL

Washington County Attorney Doug Johnson announced that his office has filed a criminal complaint charging Michael James Bergum (d.o.b. 8/08/1972) with one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Third Degree, a felony offense which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years and/or \$30,000 fine, and one count of Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor, a gross misdemeanor offense, with a maximum penalty of one year in jail and \$3,000 fine.

The complaint alleges that on the weekend of July 14, 2007, a 16 year old girlfriend of Bergum's daughter stayed overnight at Bergum's home in Bayport. The following afternoon Bergum provided beer to the girl and her 17 year old boyfriend at Bergum's home around 4:00 p.m. Bergum was drinking with the teenagers. The girl recalls having 4 – 6 beers between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. Around 11:00 p.m. the girl said Bergum began mixing drinks for them, consisting of vodka and cranberry juice. Within an hour the girl said that she and her boyfriend had two mixed drinks with Bergum in his kitchen. Later that evening, while in Bergum's garage with her boyfriend, the girl said Bergum offered the two of them a liquid he called "gorilla", which was a clear liquid he had in a water bottle. Both minors were given a cap full of this liquid by Bergum. The girl then began feeling dizzy and "out of it" as she was walked back to the house with Bergum. She said that Bergum was "very touchy" with her and grabbed her breasts as they walked back into the kitchen. Then around 1:00 a.m. Bergum's daughter was going to drive the girl and her boyfriend to Taco Bell to get something to eat. As the girl was getting into the car in Bergum's driveway, sitting on her boyfriend's lap and reaching over to the car radio, Bergum came running over and digitally penetrated her. She became upset, jumped into the backseat of the car and began to cry. She then got out of the car and ran inside the house to the downstairs bedroom to hide and go to sleep. A short time later, Bergum came in to the bedroom and tried to apologize. He touched her "butt" and lay down next to her. The boyfriend told him to leave the room, which he eventually did. Later that night she said she became very sick from the alcohol she had consumed. A copy of the complaint is attached.

For further information, please contact Doug Johnson or Susan Harris at the Washington County Attorney's Office, 651-430-6115.