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County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

Arrested: Paul F. Handibode
124A Mercer Street
Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865

Date of Birth: December 17, 1977

The above-named individual was arrested Wednesday, July 22, 2020 on one (1) count of First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault (victim less than 13 yoa), in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2(A)1, one (1) count First Degree Attempted Aggravated Sexual Assault (victim less than 13 yoa), in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5/1/2C:14-2(A)1, two (2) counts Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child (sexual conduct), in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4A(1), one (1) count Fourth Degree Possession of Prohibited Weapons, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3(j), and one (1) count Fourth Degree Certain Persons Not to Possess Weapons, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-7(a).

Aggravated Sexual Assault where the victim is less than 13 yoa is a First Degree Crime subject to life in New Jersey State Prison under the "Jessica Lunsford Act". Endangering the Welfare of a Child (sexual conduct), in a non-caretaking role, is a Third Degree Crimes punishable by up to five (5) years in New Jersey State Prison. All of these crimes are subject to Megan's Law Registration and Parole Supervision for Life.

Possession of Prohibited Weapons and Certain Persons Not to Possess Weapons are Fourth Degree crimes punishable by up to 18 months in New Jersey State Prison.

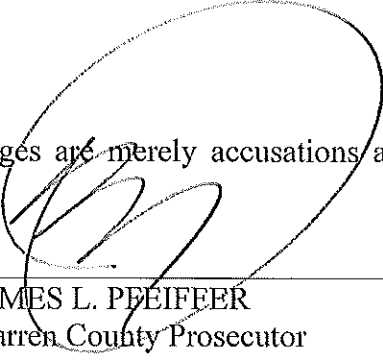
The complaint alleges that the defendant committed an act of sexual penetration upon a child, when said child was under thirteen (13) years old and committed an attempted act of sexual penetration upon the same victim. The complaint also alleges that the defendant endangered the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct with a second victim. The complaint further alleges that the defendant was in possession of a high capacity gun magazine as well as a machete, hatchet, and two (2) hunting knives in his bedroom after being previously convicted of aggravated assault in the State of New York.

The defendant's first appearance will take place on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. The State filed a Motion for Pretrial Detention, which is scheduled to be heard on Monday, July 27, 2020. The defendant remains lodged at Warren County Correctional Center.

The Warren County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit, along with the Phillipsburg Township Police Department conducted the investigation and were assisted by the Warren County Tactical Response Team.

Please be advised that the charges are merely accusations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty.

Approved by:



JAMES L. PFEIFFER
Warren County Prosecutor

Date: July 22, 2020