## OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR COUNTY OF WARREN

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## PRESS RELEASE

Brett M. Wyatt, Jr. DOB: 2/27/1995 Phillipsburg, NJ

The subject of the investigation has been identified as: Brett M. Wyatt, Jr. – age 28 – (DOB: 2/27/1995) of Phillipsburg, NJ.

On December 12, 2023, at approximately 2:45pm, the Lopatcong Police were dispatched to the area of Uniontown Road for a report of a male party who had fired shots at a parked truck. The passenger side window of the truck, as well as the passenger side tires, were found to have been damaged by gun fire. The caller described the vehicle as a yellow hatchback sedan. While responding to the scene, an officer observed the described vehicle traveling west on Rt. 57 near the intersection with Rt. 519.

The investigation revealed that the subject continued west on Rt. 57 where he stopped in traffic at a temporary construction zone near the intersection of Rt. 57 and Stryker's Road. While stopped, the subject fired shots at two occupied vehicles. The subject pulled onto the shoulder and next to a Tesla that was stopped in the construction zone at which time he fired three shots into the passenger side of the Tesla, which also was traveling west on Rt. 57. The gun fire struck the car on the passenger side rear quarter panel, the passenger side door just below the door handle and the passenger side front fender. The driver of that car was the sole occupant and was not injured. The subject then fired upon a Chevrolet sedan traveling east on Rt. 57. That vehicle was struck on the driver side door just above the door handle. The driver of that vehicle was the sole occupant and was not injured.

The subject then continued west on Rt. 57, entering Rt. 22, thereafter exiting onto South Fifth Street at which time he was confronted by a Lopatcong patrol vehicle who was responding.

The subject then proceeded through the Speedway gas station and reentered Rt. 22 west at a high rate of speed. The officer pursued the subject vehicle, as it proceeded to drive recklessly in and out of traffic, and into the opposite lane of travel, traveling west in the east bound lanes of Rt. 22 before returning to Rt. 22 west. The pursuit continued on Rt. 22 west and into Pennsylvania via the toll bridge. As the subject proceeded west on Rt. 22 in Pennsylvania, the subject continued weaving in and out of traffic and passing vehicles on the shoulder at speeds in excess of 100mph. Due to traffic, the pursuit was terminated by the Lopatcong Police near Rt. 33 exit at approximately 2:52pm. A BOLO was issued with a description of the subject vehicle and partial plate information.

At approximately 3:15pm, a Pennsylvania State Trooper, who was positioned in the grass median of the Schoenersville Road exit from Rt. 22, observed a vehicle meeting the description of the suspect vehicle exiting Rt. 22 onto Schoenersville Road. The Trooper confirmed the identification of the vehicle and attempted a stop, however the subject fled onto Rt. 22 east, weaving in and out of traffic and traveling on the shoulders of the roadway at speeds in excess of 100mph. The vehicle came back into New Jersey as the subject was being pursued by Pennsylvania State Police. While traveling at a high rate of speed, the subject lost control of his vehicle on the curve by the Phillipsburg Post Office and crashed into a school bus on Rt. 22 east near Morris Street. Wyatt suffered major injuries and was flown to St. Luke's Fountain Hill, Bethlehem, Pa..

A search of the vehicle revealed that the suspect was in possession of three (3) guns – a 9mm Glock hand gun, a 10mm Glock handgun and a Kel-Tec 9mm Carbine with hundreds of rounds of ammunition for both the 9mm and 10mm guns. The investigation revealed that the 10mm Glock had miss fired and a round was found jammed in the gun. Neither the 9mm Glock nor the Kel-Tec 9mm Carbine were loaded. A quantity of a suspicious substance was also recovered from the vehicle. The substance has been submitted to the New Jersey State Police Laboratory for testing.

The investigation continues with the filing of criminal charges pending. Wyatt remains hospitalized.

Please be advised that any charges are merely accusations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and if proven guilty at trial beyond a reasonable doubt.

JAMES L. PFEIFFER

Warren County Prosecutor

Approved by:

Dated: December 15, 2023