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PRESS RELEASE

Charged: Frank McVey
489 Corliss Avenue
Phillipsburg, N.J. 08865
DOB: 10/26/1964

On August 13, 2021, Frank McVey, Council President for the Town of Phillipsburg, sent an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request to the Phillipsburg Town Business Administrator. Under OPRA, the town would have seven (7) business days to respond. Hours after the request was made, McVey sent an email to a number of Phillipsburg Town employees stating: "Maybe most of you...work Monday through Friday 7-3 but I don't with this position. Somebody give me an answer and respect the \$.35 an hour that I'm getting for this job. If I don't receive correspondence by 6PM I will be calling 911 asking for an officer to come to my house and to give me an answer on this inquiry."

At approximately 6 P.M., McVey called the 911 emergency telephone system, acknowledged that his call was not an emergency, identified himself, and requested a "welfare check" on the Mayor and Police Chief, from whom he had not heard in "twelve hours." He stated that if an officer wanted to come by his house, he would be on his porch. A Phillipsburg Police officer contacted McVey, who advised the officer that he had not heard from the Police Chief or Mayor in "12 hours" and then began discussing the Mayor and Police Chief's salaries.

McVey then stated that he wanted to make sure the town was "safe" before stating that, since town leadership was either away or non-responsive, he was "in charge". The Officer advised McVey that the 911 system is strictly for emergency

purposes and offered to provide McVey with the non-emergency telephone number, though McVey stated that he would "figure it out later".

It is an offense to knowingly place a call to a 911 emergency telephone system without the purpose of reporting the need for 911 service.

Therefore, on August 18, 2021, Frank McVey was charged with the following offense pending a First Appearance in Superior Court:

1. False Public Alarms (Misuse of 911 System), Fourth Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-3(e).

Fourth Degree offenses carry a maximum penalty of eighteen (18) months in New Jersey State Prison.

The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until he is proven guilty.



Anthony J. Robinson
First Assistant Prosecutor, Warren County

Dated: August 18, 2021