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County of Warren _____

PRESS RELEASE

Charged: **Melissa C. Petersen**
 L/K/A 225 Red School Lane
 Phillipsburg, NJ
 12/08/1987

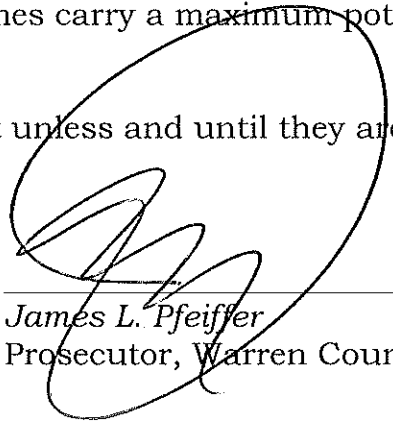
On Sunday, July 17, 2022, the Lopatcong Township Police responded to a report of a possible armed robbery. The victim reported that Melissa Petersen threatened them with a large kitchen knife and demanded that they send her money through a mobile payment application.

After the victim sent Petersen the money, Petersen left the apartment. An arrest warrant was issued for Petersen after she was unable to be located. On Friday, July 22, 2022, Petersen turned herself in at the Lopatcong Township Police Department. Petersen was charged with the following crimes and lodged at the Warren County Correctional Center pending a detention hearing.

Count I: Robbery, First Degree, N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1(a)2
Count II: Possession of Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, Third Degree
 N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4(d)

First Degree crimes carry a maximum potential sentence of twenty (20) years in New Jersey State Prison. Third Degree crimes carry a maximum potential sentence of five (5) years in New Jersey State Prison.

The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty.



James L. Pfeiffer
Prosecutor, Warren County

Dated: July 25, 2022