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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

## Norristown Man Arrested For Distribution of Child Pornography



Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Abington Township Police Chief William J. Kelly announce the arrest of Victor William Bennett, Jr., 30, of Norristown, for crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children in the form of: 81 counts of Distribution of Child Pornography, 31 counts of Possession of Child Pornography and Criminal Use of a Communication Facility.

In cooperation with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, the Montgomery County Detective Bureau and the Abington Township Police have combined efforts in protecting children from internet predators. In addition to his regular duties as an Abington Township Police Department Detective, Richard Beaghley is sworn as a Special Montgomery County Detective by District Attorney Ferman. His specific enforcement focus relating to ICAC involves detecting and arresting child predators.

On Saturday April 18, 2015, Detective Beaghley became involved in an undercover, electronic communication exchange over the Internet. During this exchange, another user shared 44 movie and 37 image files with Detective Beaghley. These files consisted of images of children involved in sexual acts and/or sexual poses.

On Thursday, June 18, 2015, Detective Beaghley, Montgomery County Detectives, Officers from the Norristown Police Department and other members of the ICAC Task Force served a search warrant on Bennett's home. Detective Beaghley seized a number of computer-related items during this search.

Montgomery County Detective David Schanes conducted a forensic examination of a laptop computer seized from Bennett's bedroom. Additional video files and image files were located on the hard drive, including numerous files containing child pornography.

On Friday, September 4, 2015, Bennett was arrested. He faced preliminary arraignment before Magisterial District Judge Margaret Hunsicker of Norristown. Bail was set at \$50,000 unsecured. Bennett immediately waived his right to a preliminary hearing. His formal arraignment is pending in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas.

Approved for release.

Risa Vetri Ferman

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.