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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PALM, Pa. MAN ARRESTED ON FELONY CHARGES OF POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY



MATTHEW REISS

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (May 26, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announce the arrest of Matthew Reiss, 47, of Palm., Pa. in Upper Hanover Township, on felony charges of possessing child pornography.

On April 16, 2021, the Montgomery County Detective Bureau received a cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding the upload of two child sexual abuse images to a Google email account. The IP address for the gmail account was traced to the defendant's residence in Palm, Pa., in Upper Hanover Township in Montgomery County. In addition, the cellphone number associated with the gmail account was a known phone number of the defendant's.

Detectives served a search warrant on Google for information about the gmail account. On May 19, 2021, the investigation received 660 images, which included 10 images that were of child pornography, depicting children under the age of 13 in various stages of undress, in sexual poses and being sexually assaulted. As part of the search warrant, chats were also provided to investigators. In one chat, the defendant notes that he works for a local government entity. (He is a police officer with the Hilltown

Township Police Department in Bucks County; however, the investigation found no connection between the child pornography and his employment.)

Reiss was arrested and charged with 10 felony counts of possessing child pornography. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Albert J. Augustine, who set bail at \$75,000 cash. The defendant posted bail and was released. A preliminary hearing was set for 10:30 a.m., June 7, 2021 before Magisterial District Judge Maureen Coggins. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nichola Beeson, captain of the Family Protection Unit.

The Hilltown Township Police Department and Bucks County District Attorney's Office assisted with this investigation. Since his arrest, the police department has placed Reiss on administrative leave.

Special Victims Unit Detectives of the Montgomery County Detective Bureau, along with specially trained and sworn detectives from police departments in Montgomery County, routinely work with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force to protect children from Internet predators by aggressively and proactively investigating Internet crimes that exploit children.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

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