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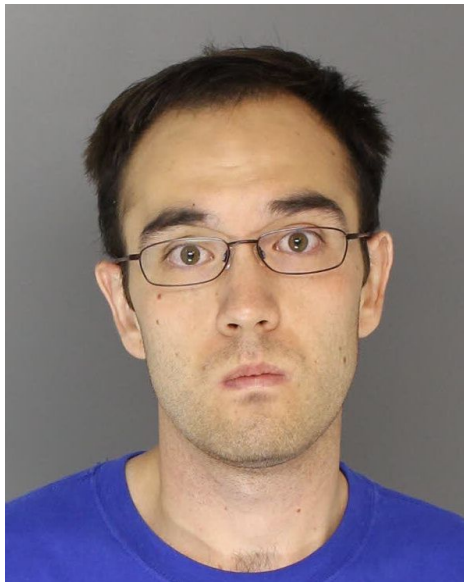
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 8, 2015

High School Audio Visual Technician Arrested for Sexual Relationship With Student



Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Whitemarsh Township Police Chief T. Michael Beaty announce the arrest of Michael Evan Morse for Institutional Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact With Minor, Corruption of Minors, and Tampering With or Fabricating Physical Evidence.

On June 5, 2015 a report was made to Whitemarsh Township Police regarding a Colonial School District employee having inappropriate communications with a 12th grade student. Law enforcement began an investigation that revealed Michael Evan Morse had engaged in sexual intercourse with a 12th grade female student during the school year while he was employed at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School as an audio visual technician.

Investigation included the analysis of cellular telephone records, which uncovered substantial cell phone communication between Morse and the student from December 2014 through June 2015. This included thousands of text messages—many of which occurred during school hours—and daily phone calls. Much of this communication was sexual in nature. The communication occurred, in part, at times when the student was under the age of 18.

An initial examination of the student's cell phone showed that many of the text messages were deleted. The student admitted that this was done at the direction of Morse. However, police were still able to recover the deleted text messages that ultimately corroborated the account provided by the student.

DA Ferman thanked the Colonial School District for their cooperation and collaboration. "As soon as the school district became aware of the inappropriate behavior, the individual was placed on administrative leave and the information was referred to the local police. The district continued to cooperate fully with the investigation." The defendant has since resigned his employment with the school district.

If any citizen has any information relating to Morse, they are encouraged to call the Whitemarsh Township Police (610) 825-6530 or the Montgomery County Detective Bureau (610) 278-3368.

Morse was arraigned on July 8, 2015 by Magisterial District Judge Deborah Lukens and remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. Bail was set at \$50,000, 10%. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 22, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. before Magisterial District Judge Deborah Lukens.

Assistant District Attorney Stew Ryan is assigned to prosecute the defendant.

Approved for Release:

Risa Vetri Ferman

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