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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
JULY 23, 2015

Former Rydal Elementary School PTO President Arrested For Theft and Related Charges



Kimesha Chong-Wing

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Abington Township Police Chief William J. Kelly announce the arrest of Kimesha Chong-Wing for the theft of \$19,797.76 from the Rydal Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization. The thefts occurred while Chong-Wing was President of the Rydal Parent Teacher Organization and spanned from September 2014, until they were detected in June 2015.

The Defendant began as PTO President in September 2014. As a common practice, the PTO used a Wells Fargo business bank account to handle the funds generated from student and parent fundraising. As acting President, the Defendant was issued an ATM card for the PTO business account in order to assist in subsidizing special school events, teachers' gifts, and other student-related activities. Throughout her term as President of the PTO, the Defendant withdrew money from ATM machines and conducted point of sale transactions for personal gain using the PTO's Wells Fargo Bank card. Between September 2014 and June 2015, she made forty-two unauthorized cash withdrawals from the PTO account totaling approximately \$11,400, as well as grocery store purchases totaling approximately \$4,100.00. In December 2014, the Defendant traveled to Florida and completed fourteen unauthorized transactions totaling over \$2,000. In January and February 2015, she used the PTO account to purchase an international airline ticket with travel insurance for a relative for \$900 and eyeglasses for herself for \$350. She has since resigned as President of the PTO.

The Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and the Montgomery County Controllers Office have community outreach presentations directed at maintaining financial controls in youth **sports organizations and local organizations. Too often these organizations have become the target of criminal offenders, who in their capacity as program volunteers; embezzle funds through fraud and deception. The presentations focus on establishing financial checks and balances** by segregation of duties and the creation of internal controls. The programs also provide guidance on ways to ensure accurate bookkeeping and outline proactive measures to prevent and deter theft and fraudulent activity. Please contact our office or the Controller's Office if you are interested in scheduling a program.

The defendant was arrested today and arraigned before Magisterial District Judge John D. Kessler. Bail was set at \$25,000 unsecured with the condition the defendant is to have no contact with Abington School District or Rydal Elementary School PTO Board members. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for August 5, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

This case against defendant Chong-Wing will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Meghan Carney of the Economic Crimes Unit.

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.