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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Preventing Fraud in Youth Sports Organizations

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and County Controller Stewart J. Greenleaf, Jr. announce a series of community outreach presentations directed at maintaining financial controls in youth sports organizations. The series of six approximate one-hour long presentations will kick off at the West Pottsgrove Township Building on September 8, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The presentations are a partnership between Ferman and Greenleaf in a joint effort to raise public awareness on establishing financial checks and balances through segregation of duties and the creation of internal controls. They will also provide guidance on ways to ensure accurate bookkeeping and outline proactive measures to prevent and deter theft and fraudulent activity. These organizations have become the target of criminal offenders, who in their capacity as program volunteers; embezzle funds through fraud and deception.

"As prosecutors we have seen youth sports organizations, local scout troops and PTO's fall victim of theft by the very people who they have trusted to protect their assets," said District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman. "If we can help these groups find ways to self-police and create financial checks and balances, we can hopefully prevent these types of thefts from occurring."

"Youth sports groups all too often fall victim to theft and fraud perpetrated by trusted volunteers," said Controller Stewart J. Greenleaf, Jr. "These presentations are intended to share knowledge and expertise with youth sports groups in the county so that they can protect their own funds and the children the funds are meant to benefit."

The approximately one-hour long presentations will be open to the public and will focus on preventing theft and identifying the financial weaknesses in these organizations. The presentations will further address the need for child abuse clearance and criminal background checks for program volunteers.

There will be six presentations scheduled throughout the county:

- Tuesday, September 8th from 6:30 to 8 pm at the West Pottsgrove Township Building.
- Wednesday, September 9th from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Gladwyne VFW.

- Monday, September 14th from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Lower Moreland Community Hall, across from the township building.
- Tuesday, September 15th from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building.
- Wednesday, September 16th from 6:30 to 8 pm at the West Norriton Township Building.
- Monday, September 21st from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Limerick Township Building.

Approved for Release:

Kevin R. Steele