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IAN JALBERT OF POTTSTOWN ARRESTED FOR SOLICITING SEXUAL ACTS WITH A MINOR ON THE INTERNET



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (May 9, 2017) —Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Upper Providence Township Police Chief Mark A. Toomey and the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force announce the arrest of Ian Jalbert, 46, of Pottstown, for the felony charges of Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Criminal Attempt to Commit Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse and Criminal Use of a Communication Facility.

On April 28, 2017, Upper Providence Township Det. Sgt. Raymond D. Bechtel was conducting an undercover investigation on the Internet related to illegal solicitations of minors for sexual contact. He replied to a Craigslist advertisement posing as a 14-year old boy, and within minutes, the defendant responded to Bechtel's email with a request for a sexually explicit photo. Electronic communications with the defendant continued over the course of a week, via email and text messaging, and on multiple occasions, the detective stated that he was only 14 years old.

Despite receiving messages about being a minor, the defendant continued to send sexually explicit communications and arranged a meeting to engage in sexual acts.

On May 3, 2017, shortly after 10 a.m., Jalbert arrived at the Providence Town Center in Upper Providence Township, which was the designated meeting place. The detective texted Jalbert that he had arrived on a bicycle and had parked it on the east side of a store. After receiving this message, Jalbert exited his vehicle and walked toward the bike. At 10:20 a.m., Jalbert was arrested and taken into custody.

The defendant was arraigned May 4, 2017 before Magisterial District Judge Walter F. Gadzicki, Jr., who set bail at \$50,000 cash. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 2 p.m., May 16, 2017 before Judge Gadzicki.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney James Price.

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

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann, Jr.
First Assistant District Attorney

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