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SIX FORMER CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ARRESTED AND CHARGED IN TWO ASSAULTS AT THE COUNTY PRISON



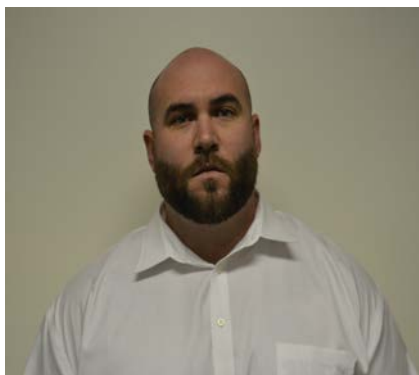
Edwin Negron



Darin Collins



Alfred Gregory, Jr.



Anthony Saxby



Randall Sims



Jason Marshall

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (May 12, 2017) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced criminal charges today against six former correctional officers after a lengthy investigation that included reviewing evidence and compelling testimony before the Montgomery

County Investigating Grand Jury. The Grand Jury returned a presentment regarding Investigation No. 52, which recommended charges related to assaults of two inmates on Feb. 14, 2017 that took place at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF).

The investigation began when MCCF officials were informed by correctional officers that they used physical force on an inmate, which required the submission of reports as well as video surveillance footage taken of the incident. The initial internal review found that the officers may have used excessive force and then took steps to minimize or destroy available surveillance footage. On Feb. 17, 2017, prison officials referred the matter to the Montgomery County Detective Bureau for criminal investigation.

The Detective Bureau's Major Crimes Unit launched an investigation, then sought the services of the Grand Jury. Testimony revealed that on the morning of Feb. 14, six correctional officers assaulted inmates Derrick Houlihan, who wears a prosthetic leg, and Matthew Ruffings in two high-security areas of the prison. Houlihan was initially assaulted in his cell #430, taken for medical treatment, then assaulted again in a common area of the K-6 section of the prison. The video shows that Houlihan did not fight back. Later that morning, Ruffings was assaulted in his cell with punches to his face by several officers. Additionally, three officers who were wearing body cameras during the incident did not activate them or took actions to destroy the video that was captured.

The former correctional officers arrested are: Edwin Negron, formerly a Captain; Darin Collins, formerly a Lieutenant; and former Correctional Officers Alfred Gregory, Jr.; Anthony Saxby; Randall Sims; and Jason Marshall. Each defendant was charged with Aggravated Assault, Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution, Official Oppression and Obstructing Administration of Law or Other Governmental Function.

One other correctional officer's possible involvement with the assaults was investigated but the Grand Jury did not recommend charges against him. All seven correctional officers were placed on administrative leave immediately after the incidents were reported and were subsequently fired following the prison's internal investigation.

The six defendants were arrested and arraigned today before Magisterial District Judge Cathleen Rebar, who set bail at \$50,000 unsecured for each defendant. Their preliminary hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m., June 2, 2017 before Judge Rebar.

The case will be prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Edward F. McCann, Jr., and Assistant District Attorney Kelly S. Lloyd.

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.