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CHRISTINE CUSHMAN OF DOUGLASSVILLE CHARGED WITH STEALING NEARLY \$1 MILLION FROM HER EMPLOYER



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Aug. 7, 2017)—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and East Norriton Township Police Chief Karyl J. Kates announce the arrest of Christine Cushman, 31, of Douglassville, Pa., on felony charges of Theft by Unlawful Taking, Receiving Stolen Property and Identity Theft for stealing \$919,301 from her employer, HighPoint Solutions, LLC, in East Norriton.

HighPoint Solutions was alerted to the potential thefts by its payroll company, after a bank officer had noticed suspicious multiple direct deposits of significant size going into the defendant's personal account. The company's chief financial officer met with East Norriton Township Detective Anthony Caso on July 4, 2017, about the potential theft. The ensuing investigation revealed that Cushman, who was HighPoint Solutions' director of human resources, was issuing fraudulent payroll checks in the names of four former subcontractors who no longer did business with the company. Cushman's responsibilities included preparing and reviewing the payroll information before it was submitted to the outside payroll company. The 45 thefts occurred between May 5, 2015 and June 15, 2017 and totaled \$919,301.

“Nearly \$1 million was stolen from this company by a senior-level, trusted employee. This breach of trust is something that needs to be guarded against by other companies,” said Steele. “Unfortunately, corporate theft is all too prevalent and requires a system of checks and balances within the corporate system to make sure this doesn’t happen.”

Cushman was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Ester J. Casillo on Aug. 2, 2017, who set bail at \$10,000. She posted bail and was released. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10:15 a.m., Aug. 22, 2017, in front of Judge Casillo. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Daniels 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.