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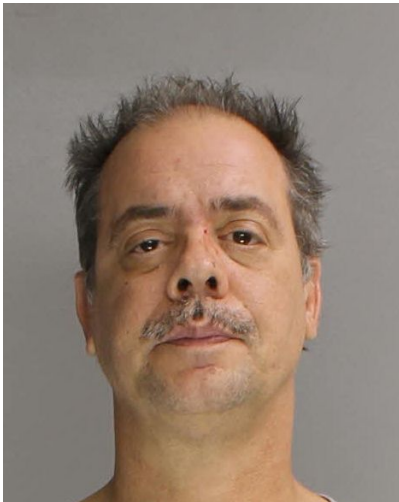
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOWER PROVIDENCE MAN ARRESTED ON 100 COUNTS OF POSSESSING AND DISTRIBUTING SEXUALLY EXPLICIT IMAGES OF CHILDREN



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 13, 2017) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Abington Township Police Chief John Livingood, Lower Providence Chief Stanley M. Turtle and the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force announce the arrest of Warren G. Southard, 56, of Lower Providence, for 100 felony counts each of Dissemination of Child Pornography, Sexual Abuse of Children/Child Pornography and Criminal Use of a Communication Facility.

On Sept. 5, 2017, Abington Township Detective Rick Beaghley was conducting an electronic communications operation on the Internet to identify those possessing and sharing pornography. The investigation located a computer on a file sharing network that was specifically configured to anonymously share files with others. When Detective Beaghley directly connected to this computer, he electronically received 158 sexually explicit images and 14 sexually explicit video files. The files were downloaded between Sept. 5 and Sept. 27, 2017. Upon review, the files were determined to depict children under the age of 18 engaged in sexual acts and/or sexually explicit poses. Among the image files were numerous images of infants and toddlers being sexually assaulted by adult males.

The investigation traced the computer to the defendant's residence with a mailing address in Norristown. A search warrant was executed on the property and Southard's phone and laptop computer was seized. Forensic examination of the computer found sexually explicit images and videos of child pornography.

Southard was arrested Oct. 12, 2017 and arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Cathleen Kelly Rebar, who set bail at \$100,000. He was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility after failing to post bail. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., Oct. 18, 2017 before Judge Rebar.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney M. Stewart Ryan.

Major Crimes Detectives of the Montgomery County Detective Bureau, along with specially trained and sworn detectives from police departments in Montgomery County, 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:

Kevin R. Steele

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