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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KEVIN BARRON, 21, OF HORSHAM, ARRESTED FOR SEXUALLY EXPLICIT SNAPCHAT AND INSTAGRAM CONVERSATIONS WITH 12-YEAR-OLD BOY



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (April 2, 2018) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Hatboro Police Chief James E. Gardner announce the arrest of Kevin Patrick Barron, 21, of Horsham, for two counts of Corruption of a Minor following sexually explicit Snapchat and Instagram conversations involving a photo.

On Jan. 29, 2018, the mother of a 12-year-old boy arrived at the Hatboro Police Department with her son's cell phone to report that someone had reached out to her son via Snapchat and Instagram and was having sexually explicit conversations with him. The mother learned of these conversations the night before, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, when her son was acting strangely while using his phone. She took the phone and saw a message regarding her son's penis. The defendant had requested a photo of the boy's genitalia, and the boy had sent one.

Hatboro and Montgomery County Detectives began an investigation and learned that the defendant had reached out to the boy following one of the boy's basketball games on Dec. 17, 2017, that the defendant had refereed. The conversations began about basketball and the boy's performance; over time, they turned sexual in nature, culminating in the request for a sexually explicit photo from the boy. Detectives also learned that the defendant attends college at Campbell University in Bules Creek, North Carolina, where as part of his major of elementary education, he is student teaching at an elementary school. When in Montgomery County, the defendant has been a volunteer for youth sports in the Hatboro and Horsham area.

“Someone looking to prey on children often uses the Internet and various cell phone applications to contact children and groom them for future encounters. It's a way to privately contact the child. Like this mother, parents must be vigilant when it comes to their children's cell phone use and periodically look at what's happening with it, who the child is communicating with and what's being said,” said Steele. “Our children are trusting of adults, and while we don't want to make children fearful, we do want to teach them to be wary of someone they don't know who reaches out to them via these applications.”

Barron was arrested and arraigned on March 29, 2018, before Magisterial District Judge Marc Alfarano, who released the defendant on his own recognizance, along with a condition of “no contact with minors except as required for classes at Campbell University and such contact be supervised by a staff member at all times.” A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., April 19, 2018, in front of Magisterial District Judge Paul Leo.

Anyone with any information regarding suspicious interactions with the defendant is asked to call Montgomery County Detective Bureau at 610-278-3368.

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.