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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BRIAN GROO OF HORSHAM CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTING, POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**



**BRIAN GROO**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Dec. 3, 2019) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Abington Township Police Chief Patrick Molloy and the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force announce the arrest of Brian Groo, 19, of Horsham, for 167 felony counts related to distributing and possessing child pornography.

The investigation began on Sept. 17, 2019, when an ICAC investigator was assigned to review a CyberTip received from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children. The tip reported that a customer of the file hosting service Dropbox had uploaded a video and a still photo file that depicted sex acts between an adult and a child who appeared to be 10 years old. The investigation traced the computer IP address first to a residence in the Willow Grove, then after the family moved, to the 200 block of Maple Avenue in Horsham, where the defendant lives. A search warrant was executed on Oct. 10, 2019, by Horsham Township Police and Montgomery County ICAC Task Force members. The defendant's cell phone was seized. A forensic examination of the phone found more than 499 images depicting children under the age of 18 years old engaging in sexual acts and/or poses and were determined to be

child pornography. The investigation also executed a search warrant on the defendant's Dropbox account, which found 37 image files and 32 video files that were also depicting children pornography.

Groo was arrested and charged with 65 second-degree felony counts of dissemination of child pornography, 100 second-degree felony counts of possessing child pornography, as well as criminal use of a communications facility. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Harry J. Nesbitt III, who set bail at \$100,000 cash. He was also ordered to have no unsupervised contact with minors and no internet usage or social media usage. The defendant was unable to post bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 11:15 a.m., Dec. 4, 2019, before Judge Nesbitt.

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.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant Chief of Trials Brianna Ringwood, who oversees the Family Protection Unit.

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.*