



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

SAMUEL J. GALLEN

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

JESSE S. KING

CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX

COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090

(610) 278-3095

(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREASURER CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE FELONIES FOR THEFT OF MORE THAN \$43,000 FROM WEST END FIRE COMPANY



KENGRA TAYLOR

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Aug. 26, 2020) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and West Pottsgrove Township Police Chief Matthew Stofflet announced the arrest of Kengra S. Taylor, 46, of Mont Clare, Pa., on multiple felonies for the theft and misappropriation of more than \$43,000 from the West End Fire Company accounts while she was serving as the volunteer treasurer.

Taylor is charged with felony counts of Dealing in Proceeds of Unlawful Activities and Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Access Device Fraud, Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds Received and Receiving Stolen Property.

Taylor, a member of the all-volunteer West End Fire Company and its treasurer, was solely responsible for the oversight of four bank accounts belonging to the fire company. On Sept. 12, 2019, the West End Fire chief and president reported to the West Pottsgrove Police a theft of funds from their company bank accounts. West Pottsgrove Police began an investigation, which found that Taylor had opened an unauthorized credit card account in the name of the fire company and used that credit card as well as funds from the four fire company bank accounts for her own personal use from January 2019 until the theft was discovered in September 2019. The

defendant used the fire company's funds to pay for personal expenses in 87 transactions totaling \$43,137.78 that included vacations, purchases and services at two Harley Davidson dealerships, auto loans, and purchases at retail locations including Wine & Spirit stores, Costco and the U.S. Postal Service.

"This volunteer fire company serving its community was taken advantage of by one of its own members, who they trusted. It's unfortunate, but sadly, not completely uncommon," said Steele. "This theft serves as a reminder that non-profit organizations of any kind—whether it's a fire company or a kids' baseball team—needs to have checks on any volunteer treasurer such as having a different volunteer reconcile the bank account each month or requiring two signatures on all checks. It's the only way to be assured the organization's money is safe."

Taylor was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge James P. Gallagher, who set bail at \$25,000 unsecured, and Taylor was released. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 1 p.m., Sept. 17, 2020, in front of Magisterial District Judge Scott T. Palladino.

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.