

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

VS.

DEFENDANT:

(NAME and ADDRESS):

Magisterial District Number: 08-2-01
MDJ: Hon. William Cole
Address: 150 S. Market Street
Mount Carmel, PA 17851

DAMON
First Name

DANIEL
Middle Name

DOWKUS
Last Name

1212 Poplar Street, Kulpmont, PA 17834
DEFENDANT NEEDS PROCESSING

NCIC Extradition Code Type

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Felony Full	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-Felony Pending Extradition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C-Misdemeanor Surrounding States	<input type="checkbox"/> Distance: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2-Felony Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-Felony Pending Extradition Deferm.	<input type="checkbox"/> D-Misdemeanor No Extradition	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Felony Surrounding States	<input type="checkbox"/> A-Misdemeanor Full	<input type="checkbox"/> E-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-Felony No Extradition	<input type="checkbox"/> B-Misdemeanor Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> F-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition	

DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Docket Number CR- - 22	Date Filed 12/08/2022	OTN/ LiveScan Number R 399727-6	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407	Request Lab Services? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
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GENDER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	DOB 09/24/2001	POB / /	Additional DOB / /	Co-Defendant(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Gen.
AKA				

RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Hair Color <input type="checkbox"/> GRY (Gray) <input type="checkbox"/> RED (Red/Aubn.) <input type="checkbox"/> SDY (Sandy) <input type="checkbox"/> BLU (Blue) <input type="checkbox"/> PLE (Purple) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BRO (Brown) <input type="checkbox"/> BLK (Black) <input type="checkbox"/> ONG (Orange) <input type="checkbox"/> WHI (White) <input type="checkbox"/> XXX (Unk./Bald) <input type="checkbox"/> GRN (Green) <input type="checkbox"/> PNK (Pink) <input type="checkbox"/> BLN (Blonde / Strawberry)	

Eye Color <input type="checkbox"/> BLK (Black) <input type="checkbox"/> BLU (Blue) <input type="checkbox"/> BRO (Brown) <input type="checkbox"/> GRN (Green) <input type="checkbox"/> GRY (Gray) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAZ (Hazel) <input type="checkbox"/> MAR (Maroon) <input type="checkbox"/> PNK (Pink) <input type="checkbox"/> MUL (Multicolored) <input type="checkbox"/> XXX (Unknown)

DNA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	DNA Location	WEIGHT (lbs.)
FBI Number	MNU Number	
Defendant Fingerprinted <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		FL HEIGHT In.
Fingerprint Classification:		5 10

DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION

Plate #	State	Haz mat <input type="checkbox"/>	Registration Sticker (MM/YY) /	Comm'l Veh. Ind. <input type="checkbox"/>	School Veh. <input type="checkbox"/>	Oth. NCIC Veh. Code	Reg. same as Def. <input type="checkbox"/>
VIN	Year	Make	Model	Style	Color		

Office of the attorney for the Commonwealth Approved Disapproved because:

(The attorney for the Commonwealth may require that the complaint, arrest warrant affidavit, or both be approved by the attorney for the Commonwealth prior to filing. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 507).

Joseph M. Sembrot, SDAG
(Name of the attorney for the Commonwealth)

[Signature]
(Signature of the attorney for the Commonwealth)

12/16/2022
(Date)

I, S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO 595
(Name of the Affiant) (PSP/MPOETC -Assigned Affiant ID Number & Badge #)

of Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General PA0222400
(Identify Department or Agency Represented and Political Subdivision) (Police Agency ORI Number)

do hereby state: (check appropriate box)

- I accuse the above named defendant who lives at the address set forth above
 I accuse the defendant whose name is unknown to me but who is described as _____

I accuse the defendant whose name and popular designation or nickname are unknown to me and whom I have therefore designated as John Doe or Jane Doe with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at [210] 212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel Township, Kulpmont, Pa 17834 (Subdivision Code) (Place-Political Subdivision)

in NORTHUMBERLAND [49] on or about 09/23/2020 and 09/30/2020
County (County Code)



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/10/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: DAMON	Middle: DANIEL	Last: DOWKUS

The acts committed by the accused are described below with each Act of Assembly or statute allegedly violated, if appropriate. When there is more than one offense, each offense should be numbered chronologically. (Set forth a brief summary of the facts sufficient to advise the defendant of the nature of the offense(s) charged. A citation to the statute(s) allegedly violated, without more, is not sufficient. In a summary case, you must cite the specific section(s) and subsection(s) of the statute(s) or ordinance(s) allegedly violated. The age of the victim at the time of the offense may be included if known. In addition, social security numbers and financial information (e.g. PINs) should not be listed. If the identity of an account must be established, list only the last four digits. 204 PA Code §§ 213.1 - 213.7.)

Inchoate Offense:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2701	(a)(1)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M2		
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone
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Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 2701(A)(1): SIMPLE ASSAULT

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above dates and at the above location, attempted to cause or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly caused bodily injury to another. To wit: defendant intentionally burned nine different male victims on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick and/or sparkler, causing the victims pain from these burns; seven of the victims suffered scarring as a result. ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR SECOND DEGREE.

Inchoate Offense:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	2	4952	(a)(1)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M2	
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone
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Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 4952(A)(1): INTIMIDATION OF WITNESSES OR VICTIMS

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above dates and at the above location, with the intent to or with the knowledge that his conduct will obstruct, impede, impair, prevent or interfere with the administration of criminal justice, he intimidates or attempts to intimidate any witness or victim to refrain from informing or reporting to any law enforcement officer, prosecuting official or judge concerning any information, document or thing relating to the commission of a crime. To wit: after committing the crimes of Simple Assault and Hazing, the defendant told the victims: "What happens here, stays here...Don't say anything...Nothing leaves here...If we go down, we go down altogether." Defendant also told a victim to say that he voluntarily got burned and it was his choice. ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR SECOND DEGREE.

Inchoate Offense:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2802	(a)(3)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M3	
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone
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Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 2802(A)(3): HAZING

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above dates and at the above location, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding. To wit: the defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated nine male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick and/or sparkler, causing burns and pain to all nine victims; seven of the victims sustained scarring as a result. ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR THIRD DEGREE.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12 08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: DAMON	Middle: DANIEL	Last: DOWKUS

- I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons be issued and that the defendant be required to answer the charges I have made.
- I verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S. § 4904) relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.
- This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 14.
- I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

The acts committed by the accused, as listed and hereafter, were against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and were contrary to the Act(s) of the Assembly, or in violation of the statutes cited.
(Before a warrant of arrest can be issued, an affidavit of probable cause must be completed, sworn to before the issuing authority, and attached.)

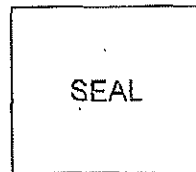
(Date) December 8, (Year) 2022

David W. Archibald
 (Signature of Affiant)

AND NOW, on this date 12-12-22 I certify that the complaint has been properly completed and verified.
 An affidavit of probable cause must be completed before a warrant can be issued.

 (Magisterial District Court Number)

[Signature]
 (Issuing Authority)



**POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: DAMON	Middle: DANIEL	Last: DOWKUS

AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE

On 10/6/2020, Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Daniel Politza was assigned to a complaint from the Northumberland County Children & Youth. This complaint was concerning a Child Line referral that was received from a mandated reporter. This referral was regarding a possible hazing incident involving the Mount Carmel Area High School football players. It was reported that players were burned by punks (a burning stick usually used to keep bugs away) and sparklers on their buttocks. Juvenile victim #1 was reportedly burned by other football players.

Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Brian Carnuccio, who is also the School Resource Officer for the High School, took over the investigation and followed up on the complaint. Officer Carnuccio stated he learned that the incident in which juvenile victim #1 was burned on his buttocks with punks and sparklers occurred on Wednesday, 9/30/2020, at football team captain Reed Witkoski's residence in Northumberland County at 212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel Township, Kulpmont, PA. Officer Carnuccio learned that seniors and new starters were invited to watch game footage from the week before at the Witkoski's house as part of a "football watch party". Officer Carnuccio observed a picture of the burns on juvenile victim #1's buttocks.

Officer Carnuccio met with the parents of additional juvenile victims: #2 and #3. He obtained photos of burn marks that they sustained as a result of the initiation. He saw that juvenile victim #2 was burned on his buttocks and juvenile victim #3 was burned on the back of his neck.

Officer Carnuccio indicated that there was little to no amount of cooperation in his investigation from the parents of other victims. He said he reached out to about 20 parents. Officer Carnuccio also said he learned that the perpetrators were the team captains: Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1. Also, he learned that other perpetrators may have been Tyler Owens, and juvenile perpetrator #2. Juvenile perpetrator #3 and Michael Balichik were also present.

In addition to having photos of the burn marks sustained by the juvenile victims #1, 2, and 3, Officer Carnuccio had copies of two social media posts from Instagram. They were photos of Reed Witkoski and juvenile victim #4 posing together. On the bottom, it read: "No Asses were harmed in the making of this post"; and "reedwitkoski".

On 10/23/2020, Officer Carnuccio obtained search warrants and he seized the following football players' cell phones on 10/24/2020: Reed Witkoski; juvenile perpetrator #1; Tyler Owens; Damon Dowkus; juvenile perpetrators #2 and 3; and Michael Balichik. These were older players whom he identified as being present during the incidents and they were not burned. On 10/30/2020, these cell phones were taken to the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations Computer Crime Unit for analysis.

The head football coach for the Mount Carmel Area High School football team was John Darrah. Darrah stated he learned of the Child Line complaint about hazing through a meeting with Officer Carnuccio and the athletic director, Greg Sacavage. Darrah said he saw a picture of someone with an injury and he could tell it was serious. Practices were canceled and the school board was notified. Darrah said there was a team meeting on that Thursday night and the players were given until noon on that Friday to come in and tell what had happened. Darrah said no one came in, so they canceled the game that was supposed to be on that Saturday. Darrah subsequently met with juvenile victim #1. He



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: <i>12-08-2022</i>	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BOC200407
Defendant Name	First: DAMON	Middle: DANIEL	Last: DOWKUS

learned that the football watch parties occurred, and juvenile victim #1 went to one on 9/30/2020, when he and other victims were burned with punks and sparklers by older members of the football team. Darrah said that, after speaking with juvenile victim #1 and being provided a list of victims, he filed a Child Line report.

Darrah then met with juvenile victim #2 and his parents. Juvenile victim #2 also related to him that he was a victim of being burned. Darrah also said that juvenile victim #2 told him that Damon Dowkus called him from his sister's phone and told him: "You can tell people that you were here, but don't tell them... you didn't know you were going to be burned before you came." Darrah said juvenile victim #2 said he was blindfolded, asked to pull his pants down, and he was burned. Darrah said that juvenile victim #2 also had a severe burn on his leg. Darrah said juvenile victim #2 provided names of victims and perpetrators.

Darrah also stated that he met with juvenile victim #3 at his house. Juvenile victim #3 would not tell him anything at that time, but he came to Darrah's office that following Monday and spoke to Darrah. Juvenile victim #3 told him he was burned on the neck.

Darrah said he tried to speak to other players, but they would not cooperate. At some point, the school's investigation ended with the rest of the football season being canceled.

On 10/30/2020, Northumberland County District Attorney Anthony Matulewicz referred this case to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. On 11/13/2020, your affiant, Special Agent David Scicchitano from the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, was assigned to this case and took over this investigation. Your affiant obtained and reviewed the files from Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Brian Carnuccio. On 2/18/2021, after receiving the results back on the cell phones that were searched, your affiant started to review this information.

Juvenile perpetrator #2 had messaging on his phone which included conversations with his mother and father. His mother questioned him on 10/12/2020 as to why Officer Carnuccio was trying to reach her and if it was about the "hazing thing." On 10/15/2020, his father wanted to know if juvenile perpetrator #2 wanted to know "who ratted on the team." Juvenile perpetrator #2 responded: "Ya."

Tyler Owens' phone had a chat on it between Owens and a female identified as his girlfriend. On 10/7/2020, Owens wrote: "We're gonna be in so much trouble we think someone snitched about the punks at reeds". Owens wrote: "...someone snitched... (juvenile victim 1's name) without a doubt". When the female asked about what was snitched on, Owens said: "Burning their asses with punks at reeds". Owens also said, "...we're getting arrested." When the female asked why, Owens responded: "Hazing." On 10/9/2020, Owens continued his chat with this female. He continued talking about "hazing", and he described it as: "Initiation and stuff like that".

Your affiant subsequently served search warrants on social media accounts belonging to participants in this investigation. Your affiant found the following.

Michael Balichik's Facebook records had a group chat that included the following individuals from this investigation who were current Mount Carmel High School football players: Damon Dowkus; Reed



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complain/Incident Number: BCC200407
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Witkoski; juvenile perpetrator #4; juvenile victim #4; Michael Balichik; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3. There were also other individuals in this chat who were alumni and past football players. Starting on 9/25/2020, there was a conversation of note. Juvenile perpetrator #4 said: "anyone have anything we can use to punk the new kids". Juvenile perpetrator #3 sent a reply. However, the records showed that the message was removed by sender on 10/24/2020. It should be noted that the Mt. Carmel Township Police (Officer Carnuccio) obtained a search warrant and seized juvenile perpetrator #3's phone on 10/24/2020 and the football season had been canceled at this point due to this incident. Additional messages from juvenile perpetrator #3 were also removed by sender. A male told juvenile perpetrator #3: "I have some". This male said: "I only have like 6". This male then sent a photo of someone's hand holding 7 punk sticks.

Tyler Owens' Snapchat records showed that he communicated with his girlfriend on 10/13/2020. Owens wrote his girlfriend and talked about going to jail over this investigation. He concluded: "It's gonna be a lot bc he had to go to hospital". When she asked who, Owens said: "(juvenile victim #5's nickname)." The female asked Owens what did he do to this victim, and Owens said: "Reed burned him with a sparkler". Owens said this about the juvenile victim #5: "I saw his burns they were bad...At least second degree why don't you try sticking a metal sparkler to your ass until it burns out". The female asked: "...why do that the punks should've been enough. What all did you do to everyone". Owens said: "I only used punks". The female then asked: "Okay who all used sparklers". Owens responded: "Reed".

Tyler Owens' Facebook records were reviewed and the following evidence was found. On 10/24/2020, there was messaging between Owens and a male. Owens told this male that the police came to his house and took his phone "over this hazing shit". This male asked: "Are u gon get caught up w hazing?" Owens responded: "Nah dowk reed and (juvenile perpetrator #1)". Owens added: "Reed and dowk are both 18 too they'll get adult charges and will be on megkans law".

The victims each described what they observed and what happened to them. The victims were: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #9; 7 of the victims were juveniles at the time of the incidents, and two were adults. Your affiant learned that the first incident occurred on 9/23/2020 at team captain Reed Witkoski's house. The football watch party involved watching video of the previous week's game. Starters, including new starters, and seniors were invited. There were statements made that the three team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1, did the inviting either in person or through a chat. There was food and soft drinks, plus a TV, set up in the Witkoski's garage. The players would have the party in the garage while the parents were inside the Witkoski house. This date was on a Wednesday, and people started showing up at around 6:30 pm.

Also on 9/23/2020, something happened when the game reached halftime. The team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1 told all of the players in the garage to go outside and go to the rear of the Witkoski house. Team captains Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus and juvenile perpetrator #1, and starters Tyler Owens, juvenile perpetrator #3, and Michael Balichik were identified as telling the new starters to pull down their pants. The victims' buttocks were exposed. The following starters and captains burned the victims with lit punk sticks on the victims' buttocks: Reed



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407
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Witkoski; Damon Dowkus; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3; Tyler Owens; juvenile perpetrator #4; Michael Balichik; juvenile perpetrator #2; and juvenile perpetrator #5. The people who were burned on this date were victims: #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #8, and #9. The players returned to the garage to finish watching the game, and then they left.

A second incident occurred the following Wednesday, 9/30/2020. The Witkoski's hosted a second football watch party at their house. This was the same scenario as the 9/23/2020 party. The players were in the garage, and the same parents were inside of the house. At halftime, everyone was told to go outside to the back area. The new starters were told to pull down their pants, exposing their buttocks. The team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1, and starter Tyler Owens, used lit punk sticks and/or a sparkler to burn victims #5, #1 and #7.

The victims said that they were "new starters" on the team. They indicated that their burning on their buttocks, as well as other areas, by the team captains and older starters with lit punks and sparklers was an "initiation" as new starters on the football team.

Concerning Reed Witkoski, the victims said what Witkoski did on both 9/23/2020 and 9/30/2020 at the hazing incidents. In regards to 9/23/2020, the following was said. Victim #2 said Witkoski pulled out punks and handed them to juvenile perpetrators #3, #1, #2, #4, and #5. Victim #3 said the same thing except he also included Tyler Owens being handed a punk by Reed Witkoski. Victim #2 also said Witkoski and Damon Dowkus passed a lighter around to light the punk sticks. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks on this date. Victim #3 also said Witkoski had a punk in his hand on this date. Victim #4 said he saw Witkoski and Dowkus with punks right before he got burned on his exposed buttocks and said they burned him. Victim #3 said that he observed Witkoski, as well as eight others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 also said that he saw Witkoski, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with lit punks on the victims' buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified Witkoski, as well as Dowkus and juvenile perpetrator #1, as burning him on his buttocks with lit punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 stated that Witkoski burned him with a punk, and Witkoski also burned victims #3, #9, and #5 on 9/23/2020. When the burning was over, Witkoski said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." This was verified by the victims #2, #3, #5, #8, and #6. Victim #4 said that Witkoski said: "Nothing leaves here!" Victim #2 said that Witkoski used the word: "Initiation." According to victim #5, Witkoski and juvenile perpetrator #1 apologized to him in person. Victim #6 said that, in person and in school, Witkoski made sure he kept his mouth shut.

Concerning Reed Witkoski and his activity on 9/30/2020, the following was said. Victim #5 said that Witkoski said: "Alright, who's first?" Victim #7 said Witkoski had a punk in his hand. Victim #5 said that both Witkoski and Dowkus were observed with sparklers. Victim #8 said he observed Witkoski, Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, and Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #2 also said Witkoski burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #4 said that Witkoski held victim #5's arm while Dowkus burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Witkoski also said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victims #7 and #5 verified this. Victim #1 said that Witkoski burned the victim #7 with a punk. Victim #1 also said Witkoski held victim #7 while he was being burned. Victim #1 also said that



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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Witkoski burned him with a punk and also held victim #1's arm while he was being burned. Victim #1 also stated that Witkoski burned the victim #5 for the second week in a row.

Concerning Damon Dowkus, the following was said as to Dowkus' activity at the 9/23/2020 hazing incident. Victims #2 and #3 stated that Dowkus also pulled out punks and handed them to juvenile perpetrators #3, #1, #2, #4, #5, and Tyler Owens. Victim #2 also said that Dowkus and Witkoski passed a lighter around to light the punks. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks. Victims #3, #8, and #9 said Dowkus had a punk in his hand. Victim #4 said he saw Dowkus and Witkoski with punks right before he got burned on his exposed buttocks and said they burned him. Victim #4 also said that Dowkus burned him on the back of his leg as he was coming into the garage after getting burned on his buttocks. Victim #4 also said Dowkus burned victims #3 and #5. Victim #3 said that he observed Dowkus, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he observed Dowkus, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified Dowkus, Witkoski, and juvenile perpetrator #1 as holding punks and burning him on his buttocks with the punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Dowkus burned him with a punk and also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. Victims #2, #3, #5, #9, and #6 said Dowkus said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victims #2 and #5 said Dowkus used the word "initiation". Victim #2 also said that Dowkus burned him on the leg about 10 minutes after the initiation when he got burned on his buttocks. Victim #3 said that Dowkus burned him on the neck in the garage after the initiation on 9/23/2020. Victim #4 said that Dowkus said: "Nothing leaves here!" According to the victim #2, after the authorities got involved, Dowkus and his sister called victim #2 and told him to say that he voluntarily got burned and it was his choice. Victim #6 said that, in person and in school, Dowkus made sure he kept his mouth shut.

Concerning the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated as to Damon Dowkus' activity. Victim #5 said that Dowkus and Witkoski were observed with sparklers. Victim #8 saw Damon Dowkus, Reed Witkoski, juvenile perpetrator #1, and Tyler Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #8 also said Dowkus used a punk to burn the victim #5. Victims #2, #9, and #4 said they observed Dowkus burn the victim #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020. Victims #5 and #6 said they observed Dowkus burn victim #1 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020. Victim #1 said Dowkus burned victim #7 with a punk on 9/30/2020, and Dowkus also held victim #7 while he was getting burned. Victim #1 also said that Dowkus said his punk ran out, and he was handed a sparkler and burned victim #1 with the sparkler. Victims #1 and #6 said that Dowkus also held victim #1's arms while he was being burned. Also, according to victim #1, Dowkus told victim #1 that he was the only one who "took it like a man." Victims #1, #5, and #4 stated that victim #5 was burned a second week in a row for revenge because he victim #5 was talking to a girl that Dowkus liked. Victims #3 and #5 also said that Dowkus decided that victim #5 would be burned a second week in a row on 9/30/2020: they would tell him they pulled his name from a hat, but they really did not do that; they just did not like him. Dowkus then burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #1 also identified Dowkus as burning victim #5 for the second week in a row. Victim #4 said that Dowkus told victim #5 that every year, someone gets picked to go twice. According to the victim #8, in October, a week after the second hazing incident, Dowkus told teammates: "...If we



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: DAMON	Middle: DANIEL	Last: DOWKUS

go down, we go down altogether." Victim #5 also stated that Dowkus sent him a Snap Chat message apologizing for what happened.

The following was said as to juvenile perpetrator #1's activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3, #8, and #9 also said juvenile perpetrator #1 had a punk in his hand. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks. Victim #3 said he observed juvenile perpetrator #1, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #1, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified juvenile perpetrator #1, Dowkus, and Witkoski as burning him on his buttocks with punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 also burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020, as well as the victims #3, #9, and #5. Also, the victims #2, #3, and #5 said juvenile perpetrator #1 said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victim #2 also said juvenile perpetrator #1 used the word: "Initiation."

Concerning juvenile perpetrator #1's activity during the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated. Victim #8 said that he saw juvenile perpetrator #1, Dowkus, Witkoski and Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 burned the victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #1 said juvenile perpetrator #1 burned victims #1 and #7 with a punk on 9/30/2020. Victim #1 also said that juvenile perpetrator #1 burned victim #5 for the second week in a row. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #1 and Witkoski apologized to him later in person.

The following was stated as to Tyler Owens' activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victims #8, #9, and #3 said Owens had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 observed Owens, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he saw Owens, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Owens burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, Owens also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. The victim #5 said that both Tyler Owens and juvenile perpetrator #3 told him that they were both burned with punks as an initiation previously.

Concerning Tyler Owens' activity at the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated. Victim #8 said he saw Owens, Dowkus, Witkoski and juvenile perpetrator #1 burn victims #1, #5, and #7.

There were also statements provided concerning juvenile perpetrator #3's activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #3 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3 and #9 said juvenile perpetrator #3 had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 said juvenile perpetrator #3, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #3, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #3 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, he said juvenile perpetrator #3 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. Victim #5 also said that juvenile perpetrator #3 and Owens told him that they were both burned with punks as an initiation previously.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407
Defendant Name	First: DAMON	Middle: DANIEL	Last: DOWKUS

There were statements made as to juvenile perpetrator #4's activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #4 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victim #3 said juvenile perpetrator #4 had a punk in his hand on 9/23/2020. Victim #3 said he also saw juvenile perpetrator #4, as well as others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he observed juvenile perpetrator #4, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #4 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, juvenile perpetrator #4 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5, according to victim #2.

Concerning Michael Balichik, there were also statements made as to his activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victims #3 and #9 said Balichik had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 also said that Balichik, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that Balichik, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Balichik burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, Balichik also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

There were also statements made concerning juvenile perpetrator #2's activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #2 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3 and #9 said juvenile perpetrator #2 had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 also said juvenile perpetrator #2, as well as 8 others, burned victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #2, as well as 8 others, burned victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said that juvenile perpetrator #2 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, juvenile perpetrator #2 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

There were statements made as to juvenile perpetrator #5's activity on 9/23/2020 at the first hazing incident. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #5 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victim #3 said that juvenile perpetrator #5 had a punk in his hand on 9/23/2020. Victim #3 said that juvenile perpetrator #5, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #5, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said that juvenile perpetrator #5 burned the victim #2 with a punk on 9/23/2020. The victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, juvenile perpetrator #5 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

The following is a list of the victims and who burned them, based on statements made:

1. **Victim #1:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens on 9/30/2020.
2. **Victim #2:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
3. **Victim #3:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCG200407
Defendant Name	First: DAMON	Middle: DANIEL	Last: DOWKUS

4. **Victim #5:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020. He was also burned on 9/30/2020 by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens.
5. **Victim #8:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
6. **Victim #7:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens on 9/30/2020.
7. **Victim #4:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
8. **Victim #6:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
9. **Victim #9:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.

The following is a list of the perpetrators and who they burned, based on statements made by the victims:

1. **Damon Dowkus:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7 with a punk, and victims #1 and #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
2. **Reed Witkoski:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7 with a punk, and victims #1 and #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
3. **Juvenile perpetrator #1:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victims #7 and #1 with a punk, and victim #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 VS.

Magisterial District Number: 08-2-01
 MDJ: Hon. William Cole
 Address: 150 S. Market Street
 Mount Carmel, PA 17851
 Telephone: (570)339-2140

DEFENDANT: (NAME and ADDRESS):
REED **HENRY** **WITKOSKI**
First Name Middle Name Last Name
 212 Montana Drive, Kulpmont, PA 17834
 DEFENDANT NEEDS PROCESSING

NCIC Extradition Code Type

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Felony Full	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-Felony Pending Extradition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C-Misdemeanor Surrounding States	<input type="checkbox"/> Distance: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2-Felony Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-Felony Pending Extradition Determ.	<input type="checkbox"/> D-Misdemeanor No Extradition	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Felony Surrounding States	<input type="checkbox"/> A-Misdemeanor Full	<input type="checkbox"/> E-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-Felony No Extradition	<input type="checkbox"/> B-Misdemeanor Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> F-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition	

DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Docket Number CR-	Date Filed 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number R399733-5	Complain/Incident Number BCC200407	Request Lab Services? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
GENDER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	DOB 05/13/2002	POB	Add'l DOB / /	Co-Defendant(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
First Name		Middle Name	Last Name	Gen.
AKA				
RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			
Hair Color <input type="checkbox"/> GRY (Gray) <input type="checkbox"/> BLK (Black) <input type="checkbox"/> BLN (Blonde / Strawberry)	<input type="checkbox"/> RED (Red/Aubn.)	<input type="checkbox"/> SDY (Sandy)	<input type="checkbox"/> BLU (Blue) <input type="checkbox"/> XXX (Unk/Bald)	<input type="checkbox"/> PLE (Purple) <input type="checkbox"/> GRN (Green)
Eye Color <input type="checkbox"/> BLK (Black) <input type="checkbox"/> HAZ (Hazel)	<input type="checkbox"/> BLU (Blue)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BRO (Brown)	<input type="checkbox"/> GRN (Green)	<input type="checkbox"/> GRY (Gray) <input type="checkbox"/> XXX (Unknown)
DNA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	DNA Location			WEIGHT (lbs.)
FBI Number	MNU Number			
Defendant Fingerprinted <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	Fingerprint Classification:			Ft. HEIGHT In. 5 7
DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION				
Plate #	State	Haz mat <input type="checkbox"/>	Registration Sticker (MM/YY) /	Comm'l Veh. Ind. <input type="checkbox"/>
VIN	Year	Make	Model	Style
			School Veh. <input type="checkbox"/>	Oth. NCIC Veh. Code
				Reg. same as Def. <input type="checkbox"/>

Office of the attorney for the Commonwealth Approved Disapproved because: _____

(The attorney for the Commonwealth may require that the complaint, arrest warrant affidavit, or both be approved by the attorney for the Commonwealth prior to filing. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 507).

Joseph M. Sembrot, SDAG (Name of the attorney for the Commonwealth)
[Signature] (Signature of the attorney for the Commonwealth)
12/6/2022 (Date)

I. S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO (Name of the Affiant)	595 (PSP/MPOETC -Assigned Affiant ID Number & Badge #)
of Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (Identify Department or Agency Represented and Political Subdivision)	PA0222400 (Police Agency ORI Number)
do hereby state: (check appropriate box)	
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I accuse the above named defendant who lives at the address set forth above <input type="checkbox"/> I accuse the defendant whose name is unknown to me but who is described as _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> I accuse the defendant whose name and popular designation or nickname are unknown to me and whom I have therefore designated as John Doe or Jane Doe with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at [210] 212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel Township, Kulpmont, Pa 17834 <small>(Subdivision Code) (Place-Political Subdivision)</small>	
in NORTHUMBERLAND County (County Code)	on or about 09/23/2020 AND 09/30/2020



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number: Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200207
Defendant Name: First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

The acts committed by the accused are described below with each Act of Assembly or statute allegedly violated, if appropriate. When there is more than one offense, each offense should be numbered chronologically. (Set forth a brief summary of the facts sufficient to advise the defendant of the nature of the offense(s) charged. A citation to the statute(s) allegedly violated, without more, is not sufficient. In a summary case, you must cite the specific section(s) and subsection(s) of the statute(s) or ordinance(s) allegedly violated. The age of the victim at the time of the offense may be included if known. In addition, social security numbers and financial information (e.g. PINs) should not be listed. If the identity of an account must be established, list only the last four digits. 204 PA.Code §§ 213.1 - 213.7.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
---	---	--	--	--

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	2701	(a)(1)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M2		
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection		PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)		Accident Number				<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone	

Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 2701(A)(1): SIMPLE ASSAULT

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above dates and at the above location, attempted to cause or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly caused bodily injury to another. To wit: defendant intentionally burned nine different male victims on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick and/or sparkler, causing the victims pain from these burns; seven of the victims suffered scarring as a result. ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR SECOND DEGREE.

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
---	---	--	--	--

<input type="checkbox"/>	2	4952	(a)(1)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M2		
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection		PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)		Accident Number				<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone	

Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 4952(A)(1): INTIMIDATION OF WITNESSES OR VICTIMS

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above dates and at the above location, with the intent to or with the knowledge that his conduct will obstruct, impede, impair, prevent or interfere with the administration of criminal justice, he intimidates or attempts to intimidate any witness or victim to refrain from informing or reporting to any law enforcement officer, prosecuting official or judge concerning any information, document or thing relating to the commission of a crime. To wit: after committing the crimes of Simple Assault and Hazing, the defendant told the victims: "What happens here, stays here...Don't say anything...Nothing leaves here." ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR SECOND DEGREE.

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
---	---	--	--	--

<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2802	(a)(3)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M3		
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection		PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)		Accident Number				<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone	

Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 2802(A)(3): HAZING

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above dates and at the above location, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding. To wit: the defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated nine male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick and/or sparkler, causing burns and pain to all nine victims; seven of the victims sustained scarring as a result. ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR THIRD DEGREE.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: <i>12/08/2022</i>	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: <i>BCC200407</i>
Defendant Name:	First: <i>REED</i>	Middle: <i>HENRY</i>	Last: <i>WITKOSKI</i>

- I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons be issued and that the defendant be required to answer the charges I have made.
- I verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S. § 4904) relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.
- This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 13.
- I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

The acts committed by the accused, as listed and hereafter, were against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and were contrary to the Act(s) of the Assembly, or in violation of the statutes cited.
(Before a warrant of arrest can be issued, an affidavit of probable cause must be completed, sworn to before the issuing authority, and attached.)

(Date) *December 8,* (Year) *2022*

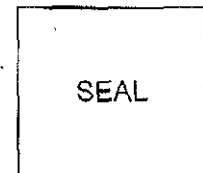

 (Signature of Affiant)

AND NOW, on this date *12-12-24* I certify that the complaint has been properly completed and verified.

An affidavit of probable cause must be completed before a warrant can be issued.

 (Magisterial District Court Number)


 (Issuing Authority)



**POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-08-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE

On 10/6/2020, Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Daniel Politza was assigned to a complaint from the Northumberland County Children & Youth. This complaint was concerning a Child Line referral that was received from a mandated reporter. This referral was regarding a possible hazing incident involving the Mount Carmel Area High School football players. It was reported that players were burned by punks (a burning stick usually used to keep bugs away) and sparklers on their buttocks. Juvenile victim #1 was reportedly burned by other football players.

Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Brian Carnuccio, who is also the School Resource Officer for the High School, took over the investigation and followed up on the complaint. Officer Carnuccio stated he learned that the incident in which juvenile victim #1 was burned on his buttocks with punks and sparklers occurred on Wednesday, 9/30/2020, at football team captain Reed Witkoski's residence in Northumberland County at 212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel Township, Kulpmont, PA. Officer Carnuccio learned that seniors and new starters were invited to watch game footage from the week before at the Witkoski's house as part of a "football watch party". Officer Carnuccio observed a picture of the burns on juvenile victim #1's buttocks.

Officer Carnuccio met with the parents of additional juvenile victims: #2 and #3. He obtained photos of burn marks that they sustained as a result of the initiation. He saw that juvenile victim #2 was burned on his buttocks and juvenile victim #3 was burned on the back of his neck.

Officer Carnuccio indicated that there was little to no amount of cooperation in his investigation from the parents of other victims. He said he reached out to about 20 parents. Officer Carnuccio also said he learned that the perpetrators were the team captains: Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1. Also, he learned that other perpetrators may have been Tyler Owens, and juvenile perpetrator #2. Juvenile perpetrator #3 and Michael Balichik were also present.

In addition to having photos of the burn marks sustained by the juvenile victims #1, 2, and 3, Officer Carnuccio had copies of two social media posts from Instagram. They were photos of Reed Witkoski and juvenile victim #4 posing together. On the bottom, it read: "No Asses were harmed in the making of this post"; and "reedwitkoski".

On 10/23/2020, Officer Carnuccio obtained search warrants and he seized the following football players' cell phones on 10/24/2020: Reed Witkoski; juvenile perpetrator #1; Tyler Owens; Damon Dowkus; juvenile perpetrators #2 and 3; and Michael Balichik. These were older players whom he identified as being present during the incidents and they were not burned. On 10/30/2020, these cell phones were taken to the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations Computer Crime Unit for analysis.

The head football coach for the Mount Carmel Area High School football team was John Darrah. Darrah stated he learned of the Child Line complaint about hazing through a meeting with Officer Carnuccio and the athletic director, Greg Sacavage. Darrah said he saw a picture of someone with an injury and he could tell it was serious. Practices were canceled and the school board was notified. Darrah said there was a team meeting on that Thursday night and the players were given until noon on that Friday to come in and tell what had happened. Darrah said no one came in, so they canceled the game that was supposed to be on that Saturday. Darrah subsequently met with juvenile victim #1. He learned that the football watch parties occurred, and juvenile victim #1 went to one on 9/30/2020, when



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-108/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCG200407
Defendant Name:	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

he and other victims were burned with punks and sparklers by older members of the football team. Darrah said that, after speaking with juvenile victim #1 and being provided a list of victims, he filed a Child Line report.

Darrah then met with juvenile victim #2 and his parents. Juvenile victim #2 also related to him that he was a victim of being burned. Darrah also said that juvenile victim #2 told him that Damon Dowkus called him from his sister's phone and told him: "You can tell people that you were here, but don't tell them...you didn't know you were going to be burned before you came." Darrah said juvenile victim #2 said he was blindfolded, asked to pull his pants down, and he was burned. Darrah said that juvenile victim #2 also had a severe burn on his leg. Darrah said juvenile victim #2 provided names of victims and perpetrators.

Darrah also stated that he met with juvenile victim #3 at his house. Juvenile victim #3 would not tell him anything at that time, but he came to Darrah's office that following Monday and spoke to Darrah. Juvenile victim #3 told him he was burned on the neck.

Darrah said he tried to speak to other players, but they would not cooperate. At some point, the school's investigation ended with the rest of the football season being canceled.

On 10/30/2020, Northumberland County District Attorney Anthony Matulewicz referred this case to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. On 11/13/2020, your affiant, Special Agent David Scicchitano from the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, was assigned to this case and took over this investigation. Your affiant obtained and reviewed the files from Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Brian Carnuccio. On 2/18/2021, after receiving the results back on the cell phones that were searched, your affiant started to review this information.

Juvenile perpetrator #2 had messaging on his phone which included conversations with his mother and father. His mother questioned him on 10/12/2020 as to why Officer Carnuccio was trying to reach her and if it was about the "hazing thing." On 10/15/2020, his father wanted to know if juvenile perpetrator #2 wanted to know "who ratted on the team." Juvenile perpetrator #2 responded: "Ya."

Tyler Owens' phone had a chat on it between Owens and a female identified as his girlfriend. On 10/7/2020, Owens wrote: "We're gonna be in so much trouble we think someone snitched about the punks at reeds". Owens wrote: "...someone snitched... (juvenile victim 1's name) without a doubt". When the female asked about what was snitched on, Owens said: "Burning their asses with punks at reeds". Owens also said, "...we're getting arrested." When the female asked why, Owens responded: "Hazing." On 10/9/2020, Owens continued his chat with this female. He continued talking about "hazing", and he described it as: "Initiation and stuff like that".

Your affiant subsequently served search warrants on social media accounts belonging to participants in this investigation. Your affiant found the following.

Michael Balichik's Facebook records had a group chat that included the following individuals from this investigation who were current Mount Carmel High School football players: Damon Dowkus; Reed Witkoski; juvenile perpetrator #4; juvenile victim #4; Michael Balichik; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/12/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407
Defendant Name	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

There were also other individuals in this chat who were alumni and past football players. Starting on 9/25/2020, there was a conversation of note. Juvenile perpetrator #4 said: "anyone have anything we can use to punk the new kids". Juvenile perpetrator #3 sent a reply. However, the records showed that the message was removed by sender on 10/24/2020. It should be noted that the Mt. Carmel Township Police (Officer Carnuccio) obtained a search warrant and seized juvenile perpetrator #3's phone on 10/24/2020 and the football season had been canceled at this point due to this incident. Additional messages from juvenile perpetrator #3 were also removed by sender. A male told juvenile perpetrator #3: "I have some". This male said: "I only have like 6". This male then sent a photo of someone's hand holding 7 punk sticks.

Tyler Owens' Snapchat records showed that he communicated with his girlfriend on 10/13/2020. Owens wrote his girlfriend and talked about going to jail over this investigation. He concluded: "It's gonna be a lot bc he had to go to hospital". When she asked who, Owens said: "(juvenile victim #5's nickname)". The female asked Owens what did he do to this victim, and Owens said: "Reed burned him with a sparkler". Owens said this about the juvenile victim #5: "I saw his burns they were bad... At least second degree why don't you try sticking a metal sparkler to your ass until it burns out". The female asked: "...why do that the punks should've been enough. What all did you do to everyone". Owens said: "I only used punks". The female then asked: "Okay who all used sparklers". Owens responded: "Reed".

Tyler Owens' Facebook records were reviewed and the following evidence was found. On 10/24/2020, there was messaging between Owens and a male. Owens told this male that the police came to his house and took his phone "over this hazing shit". This male asked: "Are u gon get caught up w hazing?" Owens responded: "Nah dowk reed and (juvenile perpetrator #1)". Owens added: "Reed and dowk are both 18 too they'll get adult charges and will be on megans law".

The victims each described what they observed and what happened to them. The victims were: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #9; 7 of the victims were juveniles at the time of the incidents, and two were adults. Your affiant learned that the first incident occurred on 9/23/2020 at team captain Reed Witkoski's house. The football watch party involved watching video of the previous week's game. Starters, including new starters, and seniors were invited. There were statements made that the three team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1, did the inviting either in person or through a chat. There was food and soft drinks, plus a TV, set up in the Witkoski's garage. The players would have the party in the garage while the parents were inside the Witkoski house. This date was on a Wednesday, and people started showing up at around 6:30 pm.

Also on 9/23/2020, something happened when the game reached halftime. The team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1 told all of the players in the garage to go outside and go to the rear of the Witkoski house. Team captains Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus and juvenile perpetrator #1, and starters Tyler Owens, juvenile perpetrator #3, and Michael Balichik were identified as telling the new starters to pull down their pants. The victims' buttocks were exposed. The following starters and captains burned the victims with lit punk sticks on the victims' buttocks: Reed Witkoski; Damon Dowkus; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3; Tyler Owens; juvenile perpetrator #4;



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/10/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

Michael Balichik; juvenile perpetrator #2; and juvenile perpetrator #5. The people who were burned on this date were victims: #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #8, and #9. The players returned to the garage to finish watching the game, and then they left.

A second incident occurred the following Wednesday, 9/30/2020. The Witkoski's hosted a second football watch party at their house. This was the same scenario as the 9/23/2020 party. The players were in the garage, and the same parents were inside of the house. At halftime, everyone was told to go outside to the back area. The new starters were told to pull down their pants, exposing their buttocks. The team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1, and starter Tyler Owens, used lit punk sticks and/or a sparkler to burn victims #5, #1 and #7.

The victims said that they were "new starters" on the team. They indicated that their burning on their buttocks, as well as other areas, by the team captains and older starters with lit punks and sparklers was an "initiation" as new starters on the football team.

Concerning Reed Witkoski, the victims said what Witkoski did on both 9/23/2020 and 9/30/2020 at the hazing incidents. In regards to 9/23/2020, the following was said. Victim #2 said Witkoski pulled out punks and handed them to juvenile perpetrators #3, #1, #2, #4, and #5. Victim #3 said the same thing except he also included Tyler Owens being handed a punk by Reed Witkoski. Victim #2 also said Witkoski and Damon Dowkus passed a lighter around to light the punk sticks. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks on this date. Victim #3 also said Witkoski had a punk in his hand on this date. Victim #4 said he saw Witkoski and Dowkus with punks right before he got burned on his exposed buttocks and said they burned him. Victim #3 said that he observed Witkoski, as well as eight others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 also said that he saw Witkoski, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with lit punks on the victims' buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified Witkoski, as well as Dowkus and juvenile perpetrator #1, as burning him on his buttocks with lit punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 stated that Witkoski burned him with a punk, and Witkoski also burned victims #3, #9, and #5 on 9/23/2020. When the burning was over, Witkoski said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." This was verified by the victims #2, #3, #5, #8, and #6. Victim #4 said that Witkoski said: "Nothing leaves here!" Victim #2 said that Witkoski used the word: "Initiation." According to victim #5, Witkoski and juvenile perpetrator #1 apologized to him in person. Victim #6 said that, in person and in school, Witkoski made sure he kept his mouth shut.

Concerning Reed Witkoski and his activity on 9/30/2020, the following was said. Victim #5 said that Witkoski said: "Alright, who's first?" Victim #7 said Witkoski had a punk in his hand. Victim #5 said that both Witkoski and Dowkus were observed with sparklers. Victim #8 said he observed Witkoski, Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, and Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #2 also said Witkoski burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #4 said that Witkoski held victim #5's arm while Dowkus burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Witkoski also said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victims #7 and #5 verified this. Victim #1 said that Witkoski burned the victim #7 with a punk. Victim #1 also said Witkoski held victim #7 while he was being burned. Victim #1 also said that Witkoski burned him with a punk and also held victim #1's arm while he was being burned. Victim #1 also stated that Witkoski burned the victim #5 for the second week in a row.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number ECC200407
Defendant Name:	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

Concerning Damon Dowkus, the following was said as to Dowkus' activity at the 9/23/2020 hazing incident. Victims #2 and #3 stated that Dowkus also pulled out punks and handed them to juvenile perpetrators #3, #1, #2, #4, #5, and Tyler Owens. Victim #2 also said that Dowkus and Witkoski passed a lighter around to light the punks. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks. Victims #3, #8, and #9 said Dowkus had a punk in his hand. Victim #4 said he saw Dowkus and Witkoski with punks right before he got burned on his exposed buttocks and said they burned him. Victim #4 also said that Dowkus burned him on the back of his leg as he was coming into the garage after getting burned on his buttocks. Victim #4 also said Dowkus burned victims #3 and #5. Victim #3 said that he observed Dowkus, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he observed Dowkus, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified Dowkus, Witkoski, and juvenile perpetrator #1 as holding punks and burning him on his buttocks with the punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Dowkus burned him with a punk and also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. Victims #2, #3, #5, #9, and #6 said Dowkus said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victims #2 and #5 said Dowkus used the word "initiation". Victim #2 also said that Dowkus burned him on the leg about 10 minutes after the initiation when he got burned on his buttocks. Victim #3 said that Dowkus burned him on the neck in the garage after the initiation on 9/23/2020. Victim #4 said that Dowkus said: "Nothing leaves here!" According to the victim #2, after the authorities got involved, Dowkus and his sister called victim #2 and told him to say that he voluntarily got burned and it was his choice. Victim #6 said that, in person and in school, Dowkus made sure he kept his mouth shut.

Concerning the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated as to Damon Dowkus' activity. Victim #5 said that Dowkus and Witkoski were observed with sparklers. Victim #8 saw Damon Dowkus, Reed Witkoski, juvenile perpetrator #1, and Tyler Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #8 also said Dowkus used a punk to burn the victim #5. Victims #2, #9, and #4 said they observed Dowkus burn the victim #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020. Victims #5 and #6 said they observed Dowkus burn victim #1 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020. Victim #1 said Dowkus burned victim #7 with a punk on 9/30/2020, and Dowkus also held victim #7 while he was getting burned. Victim #1 also said that Dowkus said his punk ran out, and he was handed a sparkler and burned victim #1 with the sparkler. Victims #1 and #6 said that Dowkus also held victim #1's arms while he was being burned. Also, according to victim #1, Dowkus told victim #1 that he was the only one who "took it like a man." Victims #1, #5, and #4 stated that victim #5 was burned a second week in a row for revenge because he victim #5 was talking to a girl that Dowkus liked. Victims #3 and #5 also said that Dowkus decided that victim #5 would be burned a second week in a row on 9/30/2020; they would tell him they pulled his name from a hat, but they really did not do that; they just did not like him. Dowkus then burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #1 also identified Dowkus as burning victim #5 for the second week in a row. Victim #4 said that Dowkus told victim #5 that every year, someone gets picked to go twice. According to the victim #8, in October, a week after the second hazing incident, Dowkus told teammates: "...If we go down, we go down altogether." Victim #5 also stated that Dowkus sent him a Snap Chat message apologizing for what happened.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

The following was said as to juvenile perpetrator #1's activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3, #8, and #9 also said juvenile perpetrator #1 had a punk in his hand. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks. Victim #3 said he observed juvenile perpetrator #1, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #1, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified juvenile perpetrator #1, Dowkus, and Witkoski as burning him on his buttocks with punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 also burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020, as well as the victims #3, #9, and #5. Also, the victims #2, #3, and #5 said juvenile perpetrator #1 said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victim #2 also said juvenile perpetrator #1 used the word: "Initiation."

Concerning juvenile perpetrator #1's activity during the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated. Victim #8 said that he saw juvenile perpetrator #1, Dowkus, Witkoski and Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 burned the victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #1 said juvenile perpetrator #1 burned victims #1 and #7 with a punk on 9/30/2020. Victim #1 also said that juvenile perpetrator #1 burned victim #5 for the second week in a row. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #1 and Witkoski apologized to him later in person.

The following was stated as to Tyler Owens' activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victims #8, #9, and #3 said Owens had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 observed Owens, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he saw Owens, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Owens burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, Owens also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. The victim #5 said that both Tyler Owens and juvenile perpetrator #3 told him that they were both burned with punks as an initiation previously.

Concerning Tyler Owens' activity at the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated. Victim #8 said he saw Owens, Dowkus, Witkoski and juvenile perpetrator #1 burn victims #1, #5, and #7.

There were also statements provided concerning juvenile perpetrator #3's activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #3 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3 and #9 said juvenile perpetrator #3 had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 said juvenile perpetrator #3, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #3, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #3 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, he said juvenile perpetrator #3 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. Victim #5 also said that juvenile perpetrator #3 and Owens told him that they were both burned with punks as an initiation previously.

There were statements made as to juvenile perpetrator #4's activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #4 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victim #3 said juvenile perpetrator #4 had a punk in his hand on 9/23/2020. Victim #3 said he also saw



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/10/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

juvenile perpetrator #4, as well as others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he observed juvenile perpetrator #4, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #4 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, juvenile perpetrator #4 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5, according to victim #2.

Concerning Michael Balichik, there were also statements made as to his activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victims #3 and #9 said Balichik had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 also said that Balichik, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that Balichik, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Balichik burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, Balichik also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

There were also statements made concerning juvenile perpetrator #2's activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #2 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3 and #9 said juvenile perpetrator #2 had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 also said juvenile perpetrator #2, as well as 8 others, burned victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #2, as well as 8 others, burned victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said that juvenile perpetrator #2 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, juvenile perpetrator #2 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

There were statements made as to juvenile perpetrator #5's activity on 9/23/2020 at the first hazing incident. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #5 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victim #3 said that juvenile perpetrator #5 had a punk in his hand on 9/23/2020. Victim #3 said that juvenile perpetrator #5, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #5, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said that juvenile perpetrator #5 burned the victim #2 with a punk on 9/23/2020. The victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, juvenile perpetrator #5 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

The following is a list of the victims and who burned them, based on statements made:

1. **Victim #1:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens on 9/30/2020.
2. **Victim #2:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
3. **Victim #3:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BOC200407
Defendant Name:	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

4. **Victim #5:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020. He was also burned on 9/30/2020 by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens.
5. **Victim #8:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
6. **Victim #7:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens on 9/30/2020.
7. **Victim #4:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
8. **Victim #6:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
9. **Victim #9:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.

The following is a list of the perpetrators and who they burned, based on statements made by the victims:

1. **Damon Dowkus:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7 with a punk, and victims #1 and #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
2. **Reed Witkoski:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7 with a punk, and victims #1 and #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
3. **Juvenile perpetrator #1:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victims #7 and #1 with a punk, and victim #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
4. **Tyler Owens:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7, #1 and #5 with a punk on 9/30/2020.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

5. **Juvenile perpetrator #3:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
6. **Juvenile perpetrator #2:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
7. **Michael Balichik:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
8. **Juvenile perpetrator #5:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
9. **Juvenile perpetrator #4:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.

In addition to the original photos of their injuries that were taken within days of the incident, victims #1 and #2 later provided photos of their injuries that turned into scars which were currently present: victim #1 on his buttocks, and #2 on his leg and buttocks. Your affiant also took photos of the rest of the victims: #5; #7; #9; #6; and #4. As with #1 and #2, these victims all had prominent scarring on their buttocks. Victim #8 was observed to not have any scarring; and victim #3 said he did not have scars.

Based on the above evidence, your affiant has probable cause to believe that the defendant Reed Witkoski committed the following acts.

The defendant attempted to cause or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly caused bodily injury to another when he intentionally burned nine different male victims on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick and/or sparkler, causing the victims pain from these burns; seven of the victims suffered scarring as a result.

The defendant also, with the intent to or with the knowledge that his conduct will obstruct, impede, impair, prevent or interfere with the administration of criminal justice, he intimidated or attempted to intimidate any witness or victim to refrain from informing or reporting to any law enforcement officer, prosecuting official or judge concerning any information, document or thing relating to the commission of a crime when, after committing the crimes of Simple Assault and Hazing, the defendant told the victims: "What happens here, stays here...Don't say anything...Nothing leaves here."

The defendant also intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: <u>12/08/2022</u>	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: <u>BCC200407</u>
Defendant Name	First: REED	Middle: HENRY	Last: WITKOSKI

membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding, when the defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated nine male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick and/or sparkler, causing burns and pain to all nine victims; seven of the victims sustained scarring as a result.

The affiant has probable cause to believe that the above information is truthful and correct.

I, S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO, BEING DULY SWORN ACCORDING TO THE LAW, DEPOSE AND SAY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE FOREGOING AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF.

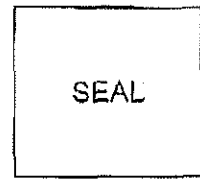
I CERTIFY THAT THIS FILING COMPLIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CASE RECORDS PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA THAT REQUIRE FILING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS DIFFERENTLY THAN NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS.

(Signature of Affiant)

Sworn to me and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____

12-12-22 Date [Signature] Magisterial District Judge

My commission expires first Monday of January, 2024.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND
 Magisterial District Number: 08-2-01
 MDJ: Hon. William Cole
 Address: 150 S. Market Street
 Mount Carmel, PA 17851
 Telephone: (570)339-2140



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
VS.

DEFENDANT: (NAME and ADDRESS):
 TYLER REESE OWENS
 First Name Middle Name Last Name

1343 Chestnut Street, Kulpmont, PA 17834
 DEFENDANT NEEDS PROCESSING

NCIC Extradition Code Type

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Felony Full	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-Felony Pending Extradition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C-Misdemeanor Surrounding States	<input type="checkbox"/> Distance: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2-Felony Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-Felony Pending Extradition Determ.	<input type="checkbox"/> D-Misdemeanor No Extradition	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Felony Surrounding States	<input type="checkbox"/> A-Misdemeanor Full	<input type="checkbox"/> E-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-Felony No Extradition	<input type="checkbox"/> B-Misdemeanor Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> F-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition	

DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Docket Number CR-	Date Filed 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number R 399752-3	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407	Request Lab Services? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
GENDER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	DOB 01/13/2002	POB	Add'l DOB / /	Co-Defendant(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
First Name		Middle Name		Last Name
AKA				
RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			
Half Color <input type="checkbox"/> GRY (Gray) <input type="checkbox"/> BLK (Black) <input type="checkbox"/> BLN (Blonde / Strawberry)	<input type="checkbox"/> RED (Red/Aubn.)	<input type="checkbox"/> SDY (Sandy)	<input type="checkbox"/> BLU (Blue)	<input type="checkbox"/> PLE (Purple) <input type="checkbox"/> GRN (Green)
Eye Color <input type="checkbox"/> BLK (Black) <input type="checkbox"/> HAZ (Hazel)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLU (Blue) <input type="checkbox"/> MAR (Maroon)	<input type="checkbox"/> BRO (Brown) <input type="checkbox"/> PNK (Pink)	<input type="checkbox"/> GRN (Green) <input type="checkbox"/> MUL (Multicolored)	<input type="checkbox"/> GRY (Gray) <input type="checkbox"/> XXX (Unknown)
DNA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	DNA Location			WEIGHT (lbs.) 200
FBI Number J50N95CP6	MNU Number			Ft. HEIGHT in. 6 0
Defendant Fingerprinted <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	Fingerprint Classification:			

DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION

Plate #	State	Haz mat <input type="checkbox"/>	Registration Sticker (MM/YY) /	Comm'l Veh. Ind. <input type="checkbox"/>	School Veh. <input type="checkbox"/>	Oth. NCIC Veh. Code	Reg. same as Def. <input type="checkbox"/>
VIN	Year	Make	Model	Style	Color		

Office of the attorney for the Commonwealth Approved Disapproved because: _____

(The attorney for the Commonwealth may require that the complaint, arrest warrant affidavit, or both be approved by the attorney for the Commonwealth prior to filing. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 507).

Joseph M. Sembrot, SDK6
 (Name of the attorney for the Commonwealth)

[Signature]
 (Signature of the attorney for the Commonwealth)

12/16/2022
 (Date)

I, <u>S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO</u> (Name of the Affiant)	<u>595</u> (PSP/MPOETC -Assigned Affiant ID Number & Badga #)
of <u>Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General</u> (Identify Department or Agency Represented and Political Subdivision)	<u>PA0222400</u> (Police Agency ORI Number)
do hereby state: (check appropriate box)	
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I accuse the above named defendant who lives at the address set forth above <input type="checkbox"/> I accuse the defendant whose name is unknown to me but who is described as _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> I accuse the defendant whose name and popular designation or nickname are unknown to me and whom I have therefore designated as John Doe or Jane Doe with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at [210] <u>212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel</u> Township, Kulpmont, Pa 17834 (Subdivision Code) (Place-Political Subdivision)	
in <u>NORTHUMBERLAND</u> County	[49] on or about <u>09/23/2020 AND 09/30/2020</u> (County Code)



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-108/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

The acts committed by the accused are described below with each Act of Assembly or statute allegedly violated, if appropriate. When there is more than one offense, each offense should be numbered chronologically. (Set forth a brief summary of the facts sufficient to advise the defendant of the nature of the offense(s) charged. A citation to the statute(s) allegedly violated, without more, is not sufficient. In a summary case, you must cite the specific section(s) and subsection(s) of the statute(s) or ordinance(s) allegedly violated. The age of the victim at the time of the offense may be included if known. In addition, social security numbers and financial information (e.g. PINs) should not be listed. If the identity of an account must be established, list only the last four digits. 204 PA.Code §§ 213.1 - 213.7.)

Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	2802	(a)(3)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M3		
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Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 2802(A)(3): HAZING

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above dates and at the above location, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding. To wit: the defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated nine male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick, causing burns and pain to all nine victims; seven of the victims sustained scarring as a result. ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR THIRD DEGREE.

Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	2	903	(a)(1)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M3		
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Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 903(A)(1): CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY (TO COMMIT A VIOLATION OF PA TITLE 18 SECTION 2802(A)(3): HAZING)

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above dates and at the above location, with the intent of promoting or facilitating its commission he agreed with such other person or persons that they or one or more of them will engage in conduct which constituted such crime or an attempt or solicitation to commit such crime. To wit: defendant, along with 8 co-defendants, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding. The defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated nine male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks (continued)

Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input type="checkbox"/>				of the					
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Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance):

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT OFFENSE CONTINUATION PAGE

Docket Number:	Date Filed: <i>12-108-2022</i>	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: ECG200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

OFFENSE DESCRIPTION CONTINUATION

Offense # 2: (continued) with a lit "punk" stick, causing burns and pain to all nine victims; seven of the victims sustained scarring as a result. ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR THIRD DEGREE.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

- I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons be issued and that the defendant be required to answer the charges I have made.
- I verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S. § 4904) relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.
- This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 14.
- I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

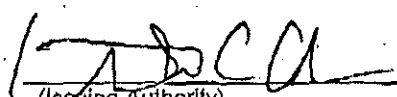
The acts committed by the accused, as listed and hereafter, were against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and were contrary to the Act(s) of the Assembly, or in violation of the statutes cited.
(Before a warrant of arrest can be issued, an affidavit of probable cause must be completed, sworn to before the issuing authority, and attached.)

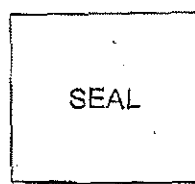
(Date) December 8, (Year) 2022


 (Signature of Affiant)

AND NOW, on this date 12-12-22 I certify that the complaint has been properly completed and verified.

An affidavit of probable cause must be completed before a warrant can be issued.

 (Magisterial District Court Number) 
 (Issuing Authority)



**POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

Pocket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE

On 10/6/2020, Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Daniel Politza was assigned to a complaint from the Northumberland County Children & Youth. This complaint was concerning a Child Line referral that was received from a mandated reporter. This referral was regarding a possible hazing incident involving the Mount Carmel Area High School football players. It was reported that players were burned by punks (a burning stick usually used to keep bugs away) and sparklers on their buttocks. Juvenile victim #1 was reportedly burned by other football players.

Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Brian Carnuccio, who is also the School Resource Officer for the High School, took over the investigation and followed up on the complaint. Officer Carnuccio stated he learned that the incident in which juvenile victim #1 was burned on his buttocks with punks and sparklers occurred on Wednesday, 9/30/2020, at football team captain Reed Witkoski's residence in Northumberland County at 212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel Township, Kulpmont, PA. Officer Carnuccio learned that seniors and new starters were invited to watch game footage from the week before at the Witkoski's house as part of a "football watch party". Officer Carnuccio observed a picture of the burns on juvenile victim #1's buttocks.

Officer Carnuccio met with the parents of additional juvenile victims: #2 and #3. He obtained photos of burn marks that they sustained as a result of the initiation. He saw that juvenile victim #2 was burned on his buttocks and juvenile victim #3 was burned on the back of his neck.

Officer Carnuccio indicated that there was little to no amount of cooperation in his investigation from the parents of other victims. He said he reached out to about 20 parents. Officer Carnuccio also said he learned that the perpetrators were the team captains: Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1. Also, he learned that other perpetrators may have been Tyler Owens, and juvenile perpetrator #2. Juvenile perpetrator #3 and Michael Balichik were also present.

In addition to having photos of the burn marks sustained by the juvenile victims #1, 2, and 3, Officer Carnuccio had copies of two social media posts from Instagram. They were photos of Reed Witkoski and juvenile victim #4 posing together. On the bottom, it read: "No Asses were harmed in the making of this post"; and "reedwitkoski".

On 10/23/2020, Officer Carnuccio obtained search warrants and he seized the following football players' cell phones on 10/24/2020: Reed Witkoski; juvenile perpetrator #1; Tyler Owens; Damon Dowkus; juvenile perpetrators #2 and 3; and Michael Balichik. These were older players whom he identified as being present during the incidents and they were not burned. On 10/30/2020, these cell phones were taken to the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations Computer Crime Unit for analysis.

The head football coach for the Mount Carmel Area High School football team was John Darrah. Darrah stated he learned of the Child Line complaint about hazing through a meeting with Officer Carnuccio and the athletic director, Greg Sacavage. Darrah said he saw a picture of someone with an injury and he could tell it was serious. Practices were canceled and the school board was notified. Darrah said there was a team meeting on that Thursday night and the players were given until noon on that Friday to come in and tell what had happened. Darrah said no one came in, so they canceled the game that was supposed to be on that Saturday. Darrah subsequently met with juvenile victim #1. He learned that the football watch parties occurred, and juvenile victim #1 went to one on 9/30/2020, when



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/10/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

he and other victims were burned with punks and sparklers by older members of the football team. Darrah said that, after speaking with juvenile victim #1 and being provided a list of victims, he filed a Child Line report.

Darrah then met with juvenile victim #2 and his parents. Juvenile victim #2 also related to him that he was a victim of being burned. Darrah also said that juvenile victim #2 told him that Damon Dowkus called him from his sister's phone and told him: "You can tell people that you were here, but don't tell them...you didn't know you were going to be burned before you came." Darrah said juvenile victim #2 said he was blindfolded, asked to pull his pants down, and he was burned. Darrah said that juvenile victim #2 also had a severe burn on his leg. Darrah said juvenile victim #2 provided names of victims and perpetrators.

Darrah also stated that he met with juvenile victim #3 at his house. Juvenile victim #3 would not tell him anything at that time, but he came to Darrah's office that following Monday and spoke to Darrah. Juvenile victim #3 told him he was burned on the neck.

Darrah said he tried to speak to other players, but they would not cooperate. At some point, the school's investigation ended with the rest of the football season being canceled.

On 10/30/2020, Northumberland County District Attorney Anthony Matulewicz referred this case to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. On 11/13/2020, your affiant, Special Agent David Scicchitano from the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, was assigned to this case and took over this investigation. Your affiant obtained and reviewed the files from Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Brian Carnuccio. On 2/18/2021, after receiving the results back on the cell phones that were searched, your affiant started to review this information.

Juvenile perpetrator #2 had messaging on his phone which included conversations with his mother and father. His mother questioned him on 10/12/2020 as to why Officer Carnuccio was trying to reach her and if it was about the "hazing thing." On 10/15/2020, his father wanted to know if juvenile perpetrator #2 wanted to know "who ratted on the team." Juvenile perpetrator #2 responded: "Ya."

Tyler Owens' phone had a chat on it between Owens and a female identified as his girlfriend. On 10/7/2020, Owens wrote: "We're gonna be in so much trouble we think someone snitched about the punks at reeds". Owens wrote: "...someone snitched... (juvenile victim 1's name) without a doubt". When the female asked about what was snitched on, Owens said: "Burning their asses with punks at reeds". Owens also said, "...we're getting arrested." When the female asked why, Owens responded: "Hazing." On 10/9/2020, Owens continued his chat with this female. He continued talking about "hazing", and he described it as: "Initiation and stuff like that".

Your affiant subsequently served search warrants on social media accounts belonging to participants in this investigation. Your affiant found the following.

Michael Balichik's Facebook records had a group chat that included the following individuals from this investigation who were current Mount Carmel High School football players: Damon Dowkus; Reed Witkoski; juvenile perpetrator #4; juvenile victim #4; Michael Balichik; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

There were also other individuals in this chat who were alumni and past football players. Starting on 9/25/2020, there was a conversation of note. Juvenile perpetrator #4 said: "anyone have anything we can use to punk the new kids". Juvenile perpetrator #3 sent a reply. However, the records showed that the message was removed by sender on 10/24/2020. It should be noted that the Mt. Carmel Township Police (Officer Carnuccio) obtained a search warrant and seized juvenile perpetrator #3's phone on 10/24/2020 and the football season had been canceled at this point due to this incident. Additional messages from juvenile perpetrator #3 were also removed by sender. A male told juvenile perpetrator #3: "I have some". This male said: "I only have like 6". This male then sent a photo of someone's hand holding 7 punk sticks.

Tyler Owens' Snapchat records showed that he communicated with his girlfriend on 10/13/2020. Owens wrote his girlfriend and talked about going to jail over this investigation. He concluded: "It's gonna be a lot bc he had to go to hospital". When she asked who, Owens said: "(juvenile victim #5's nickname)." The female asked Owens what did he do to this victim, and Owens said: "Reed burned him with a sparkler". Owens said this about the juvenile victim #5: "I saw his burns they were bad...At least second degree why don't you try sticking a metal sparkler to your ass until it burns out". The female asked: "...why do that the punks should've been enough. What all did you do to everyone". Owens said: "I only used punks". The female then asked: "Okay who all used sparklers". Owens responded: "Reed".

Tyler Owens' Facebook records were reviewed and the following evidence was found. On 10/24/2020, there was messaging between Owens and a male. Owens told this male that the police came to his house and took his phone "over this hazing shit". This male asked: "Are u gon get caught up w hazing?" Owens responded: "Nah dowk reed and (juvenile perpetrator #1)". Owens added: "Reed and dowk are both 18 too they'll get adult charges and will be on meghans law".

The victims each described what they observed and what happened to them. The victims were: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #9; 7 of the victims were juveniles at the time of the incidents, and two were adults. Your affiant learned that the first incident occurred on 9/23/2020 at team captain Reed Witkoski's house. The football watch party involved watching video of the previous week's game. Starters, including new starters, and seniors were invited. There were statements made that the three team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1, did the inviting either in person or through a chat. There was food and soft drinks, plus a TV, set up in the Witkoski's garage. The players would have the party in the garage while the parents were inside the Witkoski house. This date was on a Wednesday, and people started showing up at around 6:30 pm.

Also on 9/23/2020, something happened when the game reached halftime. The team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1 told all of the players in the garage to go outside and go to the rear of the Witkoski house. Team captains Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus and juvenile perpetrator #1, and starters Tyler Owens, juvenile perpetrator #3, and Michael Balichik were identified as telling the new starters to pull down their pants. The victims' buttocks were exposed. The following starters and captains burned the victims with lit punk sticks on the victims' buttocks: Reed Witkoski; Damon Dowkus; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3; Tyler Owens; juvenile perpetrator #4;



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

Michael Balichik; juvenile perpetrator #2; and juvenile perpetrator #5. The people who were burned on this date were victims: #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #8, and #9. The players returned to the garage to finish watching the game, and then they left.

A second incident occurred the following Wednesday, 9/30/2020. The Witkoski's hosted a second football watch party at their house. This was the same scenario as the 9/23/2020 party. The players were in the garage; and the same parents were inside of the house. At halftime, everyone was told to go outside to the back area. The new starters were told to pull down their pants, exposing their buttocks. The team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1, and starter Tyler Owens, used lit punk sticks and/or a sparkler to burn victims #5, #1 and #7.

The victims said that they were "new starters" on the team. They indicated that their burning on their buttocks, as well as other areas, by the team captains and older starters with lit punks and sparklers was an "initiation" as new starters on the football team.

Concerning Reed Witkoski, the victims said what Witkoski did on both 9/23/2020 and 9/30/2020 at the hazing incidents. In regards to 9/23/2020, the following was said. Victim #2 said Witkoski pulled out punks and handed them to juvenile perpetrators #3, #1, #2, #4, and #5. Victim #3 said the same thing except he also included Tyler Owens being handed a punk by Reed Witkoski. Victim #2 also said Witkoski and Damon Dowkus passed a lighter around to light the punk sticks. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks on this date. Victim #3 also said Witkoski had a punk in his hand on this date. Victim #4 said he saw Witkoski and Dowkus with punks right before he got burned on his exposed buttocks and said they burned him. Victim #3 said that he observed Witkoski, as well as eight others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 also said that he saw Witkoski, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with lit punks on the victims' buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified Witkoski, as well as Dowkus and juvenile perpetrator #1, as burning him on his buttocks with lit punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 stated that Witkoski burned him with a punk, and Witkoski also burned victims #3, #9, and #5 on 9/23/2020. When the burning was over, Witkoski said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." This was verified by the victims #2, #3, #5, #8, and #6. Victim #4 said that Witkoski said: "Nothing leaves here!" Victim #2 said that Witkoski used the word: "Initiation." According to victim #5, Witkoski and juvenile perpetrator #1 apologized to him in person. Victim #6 said that, in person and in school, Witkoski made sure he kept his mouth shut.

Concerning Reed Witkoski and his activity on 9/30/2020, the following was said. Victim #5 said that Witkoski said: "Alright, who's first?" Victim #7 said Witkoski had a punk in his hand. Victim #5 said that both Witkoski and Dowkus were observed with sparklers. Victim #8 said he observed Witkoski, Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, and Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #2 also said Witkoski burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #4 said that Witkoski held victim #5's arm while Dowkus burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Witkoski also said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victims #7 and #5 verified this. Victim #1 said that Witkoski burned the victim #7 with a punk. Victim #1 also said Witkoski held victim #7 while he was being burned. Victim #1 also said that Witkoski burned him with a punk and also held victim #1's arm while he was being burned. Victim #1 also stated that Witkoski burned the victim #5 for the second week in a row.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCS200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

Concerning Damon Dowkus, the following was said as to Dowkus' activity at the 9/23/2020 hazing incident. Victims #2 and #3 stated that Dowkus also pulled out punks and handed them to juvenile perpetrators #3, #1, #2, #4, #5, and Tyler Owens. Victim #2 also said that Dowkus and Witkoski passed a lighter around to light the punks. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks. Victims #3, #8, and #9 said Dowkus had a punk in his hand. Victim #4 said he saw Dowkus and Witkoski with punks right before he got burned on his exposed buttocks and said they burned him. Victim #4 also said that Dowkus burned him on the back of his leg as he was coming into the garage after getting burned on his buttocks. Victim #4 also said Dowkus burned victims #3 and #5. Victim #3 said that he observed Dowkus, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he observed Dowkus, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified Dowkus, Witkoski, and juvenile perpetrator #1 as holding punks and burning him on his buttocks with the punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Dowkus burned him with a punk and also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. Victims #2, #3, #5, #9, and #6 said Dowkus said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victims #2 and #5 said Dowkus used the word "initiation". Victim #2 also said that Dowkus burned him on the leg about 10 minutes after the initiation when he got burned on his buttocks. Victim #3 said that Dowkus burned him on the neck in the garage after the initiation on 9/23/2020. Victim #4 said that Dowkus said: "Nothing leaves here!" According to the victim #2, after the authorities got involved, Dowkus and his sister called victim #2 and told him to say that he voluntarily got burned and it was his choice. Victim #6 said that, in person and in school, Dowkus made sure he kept his mouth shut.

Concerning the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated as to Damon Dowkus' activity. Victim #5 said that Dowkus and Witkoski were observed with sparklers. Victim #8 saw Damon Dowkus, Reed Witkoski, juvenile perpetrator #1, and Tyler Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #8 also said Dowkus used a punk to burn the victim #5. Victims #2, #9, and #4 said they observed Dowkus burn the victim #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020. Victims #5 and #6 said they observed Dowkus burn victim #1 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020. Victim #1 said Dowkus burned victim #7 with a punk on 9/30/2020, and Dowkus also held victim #7 while he was getting burned. Victim #1 also said that Dowkus said his punk ran out, and he was handed a sparkler and burned victim #1 with the sparkler. Victims #1 and #6 said that Dowkus also held victim #1's arms while he was being burned. Also, according to victim #1, Dowkus told victim #1 that he was the only one who "took it like a man." Victims #1, #5, and #4 stated that victim #5 was burned a second week in a row for revenge because he victim #5 was talking to a girl that Dowkus liked. Victims #3 and #5 also said that Dowkus decided that victim #5 would be burned a second week in a row on 9/30/2020: they would tell him they pulled his name from a hat, but they really did not do that; they just did not like him. Dowkus then burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #1 also identified Dowkus as burning victim #5 for the second week in a row. Victim #4 said that Dowkus told victim #5 that every year, someone gets picked to go twice. According to the victim #8, in October, a week after the second hazing incident, Dowkus told teammates: "...if we go down, we go down altogether." Victim #5 also stated that Dowkus sent him a Snap Chat message apologizing for what happened.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BOC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

The following was said as to juvenile perpetrator #1's activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3, #8, and #9 also said juvenile perpetrator #1 had a punk in his hand. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks. Victim #3 said he observed juvenile perpetrator #1, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #1, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified juvenile perpetrator #1, Dowkus, and Witkoski as burning him on his buttocks with punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 also burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020, as well as the victims #3, #9, and #5. Also, the victims #2, #3, and #5 said juvenile perpetrator #1 said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victim #2 also said juvenile perpetrator #1 used the word: "Initiation."

Concerning juvenile perpetrator #1's activity during the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated. Victim #8 said that he saw juvenile perpetrator #1, Dowkus, Witkoski and Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 burned the victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #1 said juvenile perpetrator #1 burned victims #1 and #7 with a punk on 9/30/2020. Victim #1 also said that juvenile perpetrator #1 burned victim #5 for the second week in a row. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #1 and Witkoski apologized to him later in person.

The following was stated as to Tyler Owens' activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victims #8, #9, and #3 said Owens had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 observed Owens, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he saw Owens, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Owens burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, Owens also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. The victim #5 said that both Tyler Owens and juvenile perpetrator #3 told him that they were both burned with punks as an initiation previously.

Concerning Tyler Owens' activity at the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated. Victim #8 said he saw Owens, Dowkus, Witkoski and juvenile perpetrator #1 burn victims #1, #5, and #7.

There were also statements provided concerning juvenile perpetrator #3's activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #3 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3 and #9 said juvenile perpetrator #3 had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 said juvenile perpetrator #3, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #3, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #3 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, he said juvenile perpetrator #3 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. Victim #5 also said that juvenile perpetrator #3 and Owens told him that they were both burned with punks as an initiation previously.

There were statements made as to juvenile perpetrator #4's activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #4 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victim #3 said juvenile perpetrator #4 had a punk in his hand on 9/23/2020. Victim #3 said he also saw



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/18/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BOG200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

juvenile perpetrator #4, as well as others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he observed juvenile perpetrator #4, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #4 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, juvenile perpetrator #4 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5, according to victim #2.

Concerning Michael Balichik, there were also statements made as to his activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victims #3 and #9 said Balichik had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 also said that Balichik, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that Balichik, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Balichik burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, Balichik also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

There were also statements made concerning juvenile perpetrator #2's activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #2 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3 and #9 said juvenile perpetrator #2 had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 also said juvenile perpetrator #2, as well as 8 others, burned victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #2, as well as 8 others, burned victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said that juvenile perpetrator #2 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, juvenile perpetrator #2 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

There were statements made as to juvenile perpetrator #5's activity on 9/23/2020 at the first hazing incident: Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #5 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victim #3 said that juvenile perpetrator #5 had a punk in his hand on 9/23/2020. Victim #3 said that juvenile perpetrator #5, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #5, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said that juvenile perpetrator #5 burned the victim #2 with a punk on 9/23/2020. The victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, juvenile perpetrator #5 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

The following is a list of the victims and who burned them, based on statements made:

1. **Victim #1:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens on 9/30/2020.
2. **Victim #2:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
3. **Victim #3:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/8/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

4. **Victim #5:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020. He was also burned on 9/30/2020 by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens.
5. **Victim #8:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
6. **Victim #7:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens on 9/30/2020.
7. **Victim #4:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
8. **Victim #6:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
9. **Victim #9:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.

The following is a list of the perpetrators and who they burned, based on statements made by the victims:

1. **Damon Dowkus:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7 with a punk, and victims #1 and #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
2. **Reed Witkoski:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7 with a punk, and victims #1 and #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
3. **Juvenile perpetrator #1:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victims #7 and #1 with a punk, and victim #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
4. **Tyler Owens:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7, #1 and #5 with a punk on 9/30/2020.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

5. **Juvenile perpetrator #3:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
6. **Juvenile perpetrator #2:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
7. **Michael Balichik:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
8. **Juvenile perpetrator #5:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
9. **Juvenile perpetrator #4:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.

In addition to the original photos of their injuries that were taken within days of the incident, victims #1 and #2 later provided photos of their injuries that turned into scars which were currently present: victim #1 on his buttocks, and #2 on his leg and buttocks. Your affiant also took photos of the rest of the victims: #5; #7; #9; #6; and #4. As with #1 and #2, these victims all had prominent scarring on their buttocks. Victim #8 was observed to not have any scarring; and victim #3 said he did not have scars.

Based on the above evidence, your affiant has probable cause to believe that the defendant Tyler Owens committed the following acts.

The defendant intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding, when the defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated nine male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick and/or sparkler, causing burns and pain to all nine victims; seven of the victims sustained scarring as a result.

Also, with the intent of promoting or facilitating its commission, the defendant agreed with such other person or persons that they or one or more of them will engage in conduct which constituted such crime or an attempt or solicitation to commit such crime. The defendant, along with 8 co-defendants, conspired to commit the crime of Hazing on the victims.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC2004078
Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE	Last: OWENS

The affiant has probable cause to believe that the above information is truthful and correct.

I, S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO, BEING DULY SWORN ACCORDING TO THE LAW, DEPOSE AND SAY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE FOREGOING AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF.

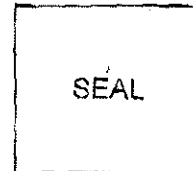
I CERTIFY THAT THIS FILING COMPLIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CASE RECORDS PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA THAT REQUIRE FILING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS DIFFERENTLY THAT NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS.

(Signature of Affiant)

Sworn to me and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____

12-12-22 Date , Magisterial District Judge

My commission expires first Monday of January, 2024



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Magisterial District Number: 08-2-01
MDJ: Hon. William Cole
Address: 150 S. Market Street
Mount Carmel, PA 17851

Telephone: (570)339-2140



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

VS.

DEFENDANT:

(NAME and ADDRESS):

MICHAEL
First Name

RICHARD
Middle Name

BALICHIK
Last Name

318 S. Market Street, Mount Carmel, PA 17851

DEFENDANT NEEDS PROCESSING

NCIC Extradition Code Type

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Felony Full	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-Felony Pending Extradition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C-Misdemeanor Surrounding States	<input type="checkbox"/> Distance: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2-Felony Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-Felony Pending Extradition Determ.	<input type="checkbox"/> D-Misdemeanor No Extradition	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Felony Surrounding States	<input type="checkbox"/> A-Misdemeanor Full	<input type="checkbox"/> E-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-Felony No Extradition	<input type="checkbox"/> B-Misdemeanor Limited	<input type="checkbox"/> F-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition	

DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Docket Number CR	Date Filed 12/05/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number R 399741-6	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407	Request Lab Services? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
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GENDER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	DOB 11/05/2001	POB	Add'l DOB / /	Co-Defendant(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Gen.	
AKA				

RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	ETHNICITY <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Hair Color <input type="checkbox"/> GRY (Gray) <input type="checkbox"/> BLK (Black) <input type="checkbox"/> BLN (Blonde / Strawberry)	<input type="checkbox"/> RED (Red/Aubn.) <input type="checkbox"/> ONG (Orange) <input type="checkbox"/> WHI (White)
<input type="checkbox"/> SOY (Sandy)	<input type="checkbox"/> BLU (Blue) <input type="checkbox"/> XXX (Unk/Bald)
<input type="checkbox"/> BRO (Brown)	<input type="checkbox"/> PLE (Purple) <input type="checkbox"/> GRN (Green) <input type="checkbox"/> PNK (Pink)

Eye Color <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAZ (Hazel) <input type="checkbox"/> BLK (Black)	<input type="checkbox"/> BLU (Blue) <input type="checkbox"/> MAR (Maroon)	<input type="checkbox"/> BRO (Brown) <input type="checkbox"/> PNK (Pink)	<input type="checkbox"/> GRN (Green) <input type="checkbox"/> MUL (Multicolored)	<input type="checkbox"/> GRY (Gray) <input type="checkbox"/> XXX (Unknown)
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DNA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	DNA Location	WEIGHT (lbs.)
FBI Number	MNU Number	
Defendant Fingerprinted <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		Ft. HEIGHT In.
Fingerprint Classification:		6 1

DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION

Plate #	State	Haz mat <input type="checkbox"/>	Registration Sticker (MM/YY) /	Comm'l Veh. Ind. <input type="checkbox"/>	School Veh. <input type="checkbox"/>	Oth. NCIC Veh. Code	Reg. same as Def. <input type="checkbox"/>
VIN	Year	Make	Model	Style	Color		

Office of the attorney for the Commonwealth Approved Disapproved because: _____

(The attorney for the Commonwealth may require that the complaint, arrest warrant affidavit, or both be approved by the attorney for the Commonwealth prior to filing. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 507).

Joseph M. Sembrot, SDAG
(Name of the attorney for the Commonwealth)

[Signature]
(Signature of the attorney for the Commonwealth)

12/6/2022
(Date)

I, <u>S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO</u> (Name of the Affiant)	<u>595</u> (PSP/MP/ETC -Assigned Affiant ID Number & Badge #)
--	--

of <u>Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General</u> (Identify Department or Agency Represented and Political Subdivision)	<u>PA0222400</u> (Police Agency ORI Number)
--	--

do hereby state: (check appropriate box)

- I accuse the above named defendant who lives at the address set forth above
- I accuse the defendant whose name is unknown to me but who is described as _____

I accuse the defendant whose name and popular designation or nickname are unknown to me and whom I have therefore designated as John Doe or Jane Doe with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at [210] 212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel Township, Kulpmont, Pa 17834 (Subdivision Code) (Place-Political Subdivision)

in <u>NORTHUMBERLAND</u> County	[<u>49</u>] (County Code)	on or about <u>09/23/2020</u>
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POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/10/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BC0200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

The acts committed by the accused are described below with each Act of Assembly or statute allegedly violated, if appropriate. When there is more than one offense, each offense should be numbered chronologically. (Set forth a brief summary of the facts sufficient to advise the defendant of the nature of the offense(s) charged. A citation to the statute(s) allegedly violated, without more, is not sufficient. In a summary case, you must cite the specific section(s) and subsection(s) of the statute(s) or ordinance(s) allegedly violated. The age of the victim at the time of the offense may be included if known. In addition, social security numbers and financial information (e.g. PINs) should not be listed. If the identity of an account must be established, list only the last four digits. 204 PA.Code §§ 213.1 – 213.7.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	2802	(a)(3)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M3		
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection		PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone
------------------------------	-----------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------

Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 2802(A)(3): HAZING

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above date and at the above location, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding. To wit: the defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated seven male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick, causing burns and pain to all seven victims; five of the victims from this date sustained scarring as a result. ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR THIRD DEGREE.

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	2	903	(a)(1)	of the	TITLE 18	1	M3		
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection		PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone
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Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): PA TITLE 18 SECTION 903(A)(1): CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY (TO COMMIT A VIOLATION OF PA TITLE 18 SECTION 2802(A)(3): HAZING)

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant, on the above date and at the above location, with the intent of promoting or facilitating its commission he agreed with such other person or persons that they or one or more of them will engage in conduct which constituted such crime or an attempt or solicitation to commit such crime. To wit: defendant, along with 8 co-defendants, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding. The defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated seven male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks. (continued)

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older <u>0</u>
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<input type="checkbox"/>				of the					
Lead?	Offense #	Section	Subsection		PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code

PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone
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Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance):

Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT OFFENSE CONTINUATION PAGE

Docket Number:	Date Filed: <i>12-10-2022</i>	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

OFFENSE DESCRIPTION CONTINUATION

Offense # 2: (continued) with a lit "punk" stick, causing burns and pain to all seven victims; five of the victims from this date sustained scarring as a result, ONE COUNT--MISDEMEANOR THIRD DEGREE.

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POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number EC200407
Defendant Name	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

- I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons be issued and that the defendant be required to answer the charges I have made.
- I verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S. § 4904) relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.
- This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 14.
- I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

The acts committed by the accused, as listed and hereafter, were against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and were contrary to the Act(s) of the Assembly, or in violation of the statutes cited.
(Before a warrant of arrest can be issued, an affidavit of probable cause must be completed, sworn to before the issuing authority, and attached.)


(Date) December 8 (Year) 2022

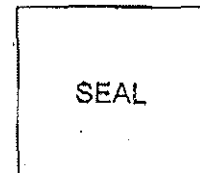

 (Signature of Affiant)

AND NOW, on this date 12-12-22 I certify that the complaint has been properly completed and verified.

An affidavit of probable cause must be completed before a warrant can be issued.

(Magisterial District Court Number)


 (Issuing Authority)




POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/10/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE

On 10/6/2020, Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Daniel Politza was assigned to a complaint from the Northumberland County Children & Youth. This complaint was concerning a Child Line referral that was received from a mandated reporter. This referral was regarding a possible hazing incident involving the Mount Carmel Area High School football players. It was reported that players were burned by punks (a burning stick usually used to keep bugs away) and sparklers on their buttocks. Juvenile victim #1 was reportedly burned by other football players.

Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Brian Carnuccio, who is also the School Resource Officer for the High School, took over the investigation and followed up on the complaint. Officer Carnuccio stated he learned that the incident in which juvenile victim #1 was burned on his buttocks with punks and sparklers occurred on Wednesday, 9/30/2020, at football team captain Reed Witkoski's residence in Northumberland County at 212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel Township, Kulpmont, PA. Officer Carnuccio learned that seniors and new starters were invited to watch game footage from the week before at the Witkoski's house as part of a "football watch party". Officer Carnuccio observed a picture of the burns on juvenile victim #1's buttocks.

Officer Carnuccio met with the parents of additional juvenile victims: #2 and #3. He obtained photos of burn marks that they sustained as a result of the initiation. He saw that juvenile victim #2 was burned on his buttocks and juvenile victim #3 was burned on the back of his neck.

Officer Carnuccio indicated that there was little to no amount of cooperation in his investigation from the parents of other victims. He said he reached out to about 20 parents. Officer Carnuccio also said he learned that the perpetrators were the team captains: Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1. Also, he learned that other perpetrators may have been Tyler Owens, and juvenile perpetrator #2. Juvenile perpetrator #3 and the defendant Michael Balichik were also present.

In addition to having photos of the burn marks sustained by the juvenile victims #1, 2, and 3, Officer Carnuccio had copies of two social media posts from Instagram. They were photos of Reed Witkoski and juvenile victim #4 posing together. On the bottom, it read: "No Asses were harmed in the making of this post"; and "reedwitkoski".

On 10/23/2020, Officer Carnuccio obtained search warrants and he seized the following football players' cell phones on 10/24/2020: Reed Witkoski; juvenile perpetrator #1; Tyler Owens; Damon Dowkus; juvenile perpetrators #2 and 3; and Michael Balichik. These were older players whom he identified as being present during the incidents and they were not burned. On 10/30/2020, these cell phones were taken to the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations Computer Crime Unit for analysis.

The head football coach for the Mount Carmel Area High School football team was John Darrah. Darrah stated he learned of the Child Line complaint about hazing through a meeting with Officer Carnuccio and the athletic director, Greg Sacavage. Darrah said he saw a picture of someone with an injury and he could tell it was serious. Practices were canceled and the school board was notified. Darrah said there was a team meeting on that Thursday night and the players were given until noon on that Friday to come in and tell what had happened. Darrah said no one came in, so they canceled the game that was supposed to be on that Saturday. Darrah subsequently met with juvenile victim #1. He learned that the football watch parties occurred, and juvenile victim #1 went to one on 9/30/2020, when



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-18-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complain/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

he and other victims were burned with punks and sparklers by older members of the football team. Darrah said that, after speaking with juvenile victim #1 and being provided a list of victims, he filed a Child Line report.

Darrah then met with juvenile victim #2 and his parents. Juvenile victim #2 also related to him that he was a victim of being burned. Darrah also said that juvenile victim #2 told him that Damon Dowkus called him from his sister's phone and told him: "You can tell people that you were here, but don't tell them...you didn't know you were going to be burned before you came." Darrah said juvenile victim #2 said he was blindfolded, asked to pull his pants down, and he was burned. Darrah said that juvenile victim #2 also had a severe burn on his leg. Darrah said juvenile victim #2 provided names of victims and perpetrators.

Darrah also stated that he met with juvenile victim #3 at his house. Juvenile victim #3 would not tell him anything at that time, but he came to Darrah's office that following Monday and spoke to Darrah. Juvenile victim #3 told him he was burned on the neck.

Darrah said he tried to speak to other players, but they would not cooperate. At some point, the school's investigation ended with the rest of the football season being canceled.

On 10/30/2020, Northumberland County District Attorney Anthony Matulewicz referred this case to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. On 11/13/2020, your affiant, Special Agent David Scicchitano from the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, was assigned to this case and took over this investigation. Your affiant obtained and reviewed the files from Mount Carmel Township Police Officer Brian Carnuccio. On 2/18/2021, after receiving the results back on the cell phones that were searched, your affiant started to review this information.

Juvenile perpetrator #2 had messaging on his phone which included conversations with his mother and father. His mother questioned him on 10/12/2020 as to why Officer Carnuccio was trying to reach her and if it was about the "hazing thing." On 10/15/2020, his father wanted to know if juvenile perpetrator #2 wanted to know "who ratted on the team." Juvenile perpetrator #2 responded: "Ya."

Tyler Owens' phone had a chat on it between Owens and a female identified as his girlfriend. On 10/7/2020, Owens wrote: "We're gonna be in so much trouble we think someone snitched about the punks at reeds". Owens wrote: "...someone snitched... (juvenile victim 1's name) without a doubt". When the female asked about what was snitched on, Owens said: "Burning their asses with punks at reeds". Owens also said, "...we're getting arrested." When the female asked why, Owens responded: "Hazing." On 10/9/2020, Owens continued his chat with this female. He continued talking about "hazing", and he described it as: "Initiation and stuff like that".

Your affiant subsequently served search warrants on social media accounts belonging to participants in this investigation. Your affiant found the following.

Michael Balichik's Facebook records had a group chat that included the following individuals from this investigation who were current Mount Carmel High School football players: Damon Dowkus; Reed Witkoski; juvenile perpetrator #4; juvenile victim #4; Michael Balichik; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

There were also other individuals in this chat who were alumni and past football players. Starting on 9/25/2020, there was a conversation of note. Juvenile perpetrator #4 said: "anyone have anything we can use to punk the new kids". Juvenile perpetrator #3 sent a reply. However, the records showed that the message was removed by sender on 10/24/2020. It should be noted that the Mt. Carmel Township Police (Officer Carnuccio) obtained a search warrant and seized juvenile perpetrator #3's phone on 10/24/2020 and the football season had been canceled at this point due to this incident. Additional messages from juvenile perpetrator #3 were also removed by sender. A male told juvenile perpetrator #3: "I have some". This male said: "I only have like 6". This male then sent a photo of someone's hand holding 7 punk sticks.

Tyler Owens' Snapchat records showed that he communicated with his girlfriend on 10/13/2020. Owens wrote his girlfriend and talked about going to jail over this investigation. He concluded: "It's gonna be a lot bc he had to go to hospital". When she asked who, Owens said: "(juvenile victim #5's nickname)." The female asked Owens what did he do to this victim, and Owens said: "Reed burned him with a sparkler". Owens said this about the juvenile victim #5: "I saw his burns they were bad...At least second degree why don't you try sticking a metal sparkler to your ass until it burns out". The female asked: "...why do that the punks should've been enough. What all did you do to everyone". Owens said: "I only used punks". The female then asked: "Okay who all used sparklers". Owens responded: "Reed".

Tyler Owens' Facebook records were reviewed and the following evidence was found. On 10/24/2020, there was messaging between Owens and a male. Owens told this male that the police came to his house and took his phone "over this hazing shit". This male asked: "Are u gon get caught up w hazing?" Owens responded: "Nah dowk reed and (juvenile perpetrator #1)". Owens added: "Reed and dowk are both 18 too they'll get adult charges and will be on meghans law".

The victims each described what they observed and what happened to them. The victims were: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #9; 7 of the victims were juveniles at the time of the incidents, and two were adults. Your affiant learned that the first incident occurred on 9/23/2020 at team captain Reed Witkoski's house. The football watch party involved watching video of the previous week's game. Starters, including new starters, and seniors were invited. There were statements made that the three team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1, did the inviting either in person or through a chat. There was food and soft drinks, plus a TV, set up in the Witkoski's garage. The players would have the party in the garage while the parents were inside the Witkoski house. This date was on a Wednesday, and people started showing up at around 6:30 pm.

Also on 9/23/2020, something happened when the game reached halftime. The team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1 told all of the players in the garage to go outside and go to the rear of the Witkoski house. Team captains Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus and juvenile perpetrator #1, and starters Tyler Owens, juvenile perpetrator #3, and Michael Balichik were identified as telling the new starters to pull down their pants. The victims' buttocks were exposed. The following starters and captains burned the victims with lit punk sticks on the victims' buttocks: Reed Witkoski; Damon Dowkus; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3; Tyler Owens; juvenile perpetrator #4;



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-08-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

Michael Balichik; juvenile perpetrator #2; and juvenile perpetrator #5. The people who were burned on this date were victims: #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #8, and #9. The players returned to the garage to finish watching the game, and then they left.

A second incident occurred the following Wednesday, 9/30/2020. The Witkoski's hosted a second football watch party at their house. This was the same scenario as the 9/23/2020 party. The players were in the garage, and the same parents were inside of the house. At halftime, everyone was told to go outside to the back area. The new starters were told to pull down their pants, exposing their buttocks. The team captains, Reed Witkoski, Damon Dowkus, and juvenile perpetrator #1, and starter Tyler Owens, used lit punk sticks and/or a sparkler to burn victims #5, #1 and #7.

The victims said that they were "new starters" on the team. They indicated that their burning on their buttocks, as well as other areas, by the team captains and older starters with lit punks and sparklers was an "initiation" as new starters on the football team.

Concerning Reed Witkoski, the victims said what Witkoski did on both 9/23/2020 and 9/30/2020 at the hazing incidents. In regards to 9/23/2020, the following was said. Victim #2 said Witkoski pulled out punks and handed them to juvenile perpetrators #3, #1, #2, #4, and #5. Victim #3 said the same thing except he also included Tyler Owens being handed a punk by Reed Witkoski. Victim #2 also said Witkoski and Damon Dowkus passed a lighter around to light the punk sticks. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks on this date. Victim #3 also said Witkoski had a punk in his hand on this date. Victim #4 said he saw Witkoski and Dowkus with punks right before he got burned on his exposed buttocks and said they burned him. Victim #3 said that he observed Witkoski, as well as eight others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 also said that he saw Witkoski, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with lit punks on the victims' buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified Witkoski, as well as Dowkus and juvenile perpetrator #1, as burning him on his buttocks with lit punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 stated that Witkoski burned him with a punk, and Witkoski also burned victims #3, #9, and #5 on 9/23/2020. When the burning was over, Witkoski said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." This was verified by the victims #2, #3, #5, #8, and #6. Victim #4 said that Witkoski said: "Nothing leaves here!" Victim #2 said that Witkoski used the word: "Initiation." According to victim #5, Witkoski and juvenile perpetrator #1 apologized to him in person. Victim #6 said that, in person and in school, Witkoski made sure he kept his mouth shut.

Concerning Reed Witkoski and his activity on 9/30/2020, the following was said. Victim #5 said that Witkoski said: "Alright, who's first?" Victim #7 said Witkoski had a punk in his hand. Victim #5 said that both Witkoski and Dowkus were observed with sparklers. Victim #8 said he observed Witkoski, Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, and Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #2 also said Witkoski burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #4 said that Witkoski held victim #5's arm while Dowkus burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Witkoski also said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victims #7 and #5 verified this. Victim #1 said that Witkoski burned the victim #7 with a punk. Victim #1 also said Witkoski held victim #7 while he was being burned. Victim #1 also said that Witkoski burned him with a punk and also held victim #1's arm while he was being burned. Victim #1 also stated that Witkoski burned the victim #5 for the second week in a row.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-108/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number BCC200407
Defendant Name	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

Concerning Damon Dowkus, the following was said as to Dowkus' activity at the 9/23/2020 hazing incident. Victims #2 and #3 stated that Dowkus also pulled out punks and handed them to juvenile perpetrators #3, #1, #2, #4, #5, and Tyler Owens. Victim #2 also said that Dowkus and Witkoski passed a lighter around to light the punks. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks. Victims #3, #8, and #9 said Dowkus had a punk in his hand. Victim #4 said he saw Dowkus and Witkoski with punks right before he got burned on his exposed buttocks and said they burned him. Victim #4 also said that Dowkus burned him on the back of his leg as he was coming into the garage after getting burned on his buttocks. Victim #4 also said Dowkus burned victims #3 and #5. Victim #3 said that he observed Dowkus, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he observed Dowkus, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified Dowkus, Witkoski, and juvenile perpetrator #1 as holding punks and burning him on his buttocks with the punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Dowkus burned him with a punk and also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. Victims #2, #3, #5, #9, and #6 said Dowkus said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victims #2 and #5 said Dowkus used the word "initiation". Victim #2 also said that Dowkus burned him on the leg about 10 minutes after the initiation when he got burned on his buttocks. Victim #3 said that Dowkus burned him on the neck in the garage after the initiation on 9/23/2020. Victim #4 said that Dowkus said: "Nothing leaves here!" According to the victim #2, after the authorities got involved, Dowkus and his sister called victim #2 and told him to say that he voluntarily got burned and it was his choice. Victim #6 said that, in person and in school, Dowkus made sure he kept his mouth shut.

Concerning the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated as to Damon Dowkus' activity. Victim #5 said that Dowkus and Witkoski were observed with sparklers. Victim #8 saw Damon Dowkus, Reed Witkoski, juvenile perpetrator #1, and Tyler Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #8 also said Dowkus used a punk to burn the victim #5. Victims #2, #9, and #4 said they observed Dowkus burn the victim #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020. Victims #5 and #6 said they observed Dowkus burn victim #1 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020. Victim #1 said Dowkus burned victim #7 with a punk on 9/30/2020, and Dowkus also held victim #7 while he was getting burned. Victim #1 also said that Dowkus said his punk ran out, and he was handed a sparkler and burned victim #1 with the sparkler. Victims #1 and #6 said that Dowkus also held victim #1's arms while he was being burned. Also, according to victim #1, Dowkus told victim #1 that he was the only one who "took it like a man." Victims #1, #5, and #4 stated that victim #5 was burned a second week in a row for revenge because he victim #5 was talking to a girl that Dowkus liked. Victims #3 and #5 also said that Dowkus decided that victim #5 would be burned a second week in a row on 9/30/2020: they would tell him they pulled his name from a hat, but they really did not do that; they just did not like him. Dowkus then burned victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #1 also identified Dowkus as burning victim #5 for the second week in a row. Victim #4 said that Dowkus told victim #5 that every year, someone gets picked to go twice. According to the victim #8, in October, a week after the second hazing incident, Dowkus told teammates: "...If we go down, we go down altogether." Victim #5 also stated that Dowkus sent him a Snap Chat message apologizing for what happened.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-08-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: EC0200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

The following was said as to juvenile perpetrator #1's activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3, #8, and #9 also said juvenile perpetrator #1 had a punk in his hand. Victim #5 said the captains were lighting the punks. Victim #3 said he observed juvenile perpetrator #1, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #1, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #6 identified juvenile perpetrator #1, Dowkus, and Witkoski as burning him on his buttocks with punks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 also burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020, as well as the victims #3, #9, and #5. Also, the victims #2, #3, and #5 said juvenile perpetrator #1 said: "What happens here stays here, don't say anything." Victim #2 also said juvenile perpetrator #1 used the word: "Initiation."

Concerning juvenile perpetrator #1's activity during the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated. Victim #8 said that he saw juvenile perpetrator #1, Dowkus, Witkoski and Owens burn the victims #1, #5, and #7. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #1 burned the victim #5 with a sparkler. Victim #1 said juvenile perpetrator #1 burned victims #1 and #7 with a punk on 9/30/2020. Victim #1 also said that juvenile perpetrator #1 burned victim #5 for the second week in a row. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #1 and Witkoski apologized to him later in person.

The following was stated as to Tyler Owens' activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victims #8, #9, and #3 said Owens had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 observed Owens, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he saw Owens, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Owens burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, Owens also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. The victim #5 said that both Tyler Owens and juvenile perpetrator #3 told him that they were both burned with punks as an initiation previously.

Concerning Tyler Owens' activity at the second hazing incident on 9/30/2020, the following was stated. Victim #8 said he saw Owens, Dowkus, Witkoski and juvenile perpetrator #1 burn victims #1, #5, and #7.

There were also statements provided concerning juvenile perpetrator #3's activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #3 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3 and #9 said juvenile perpetrator #3 had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 said juvenile perpetrator #3, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #3, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #3 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, he said juvenile perpetrator #3 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5. Victim #5 also said that juvenile perpetrator #3 and Owens told him that they were both burned with punks as an initiation previously.

There were statements made as to juvenile perpetrator #4's activity during the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #4 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BC0200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

Victim #3 said juvenile perpetrator #4 had a punk in his hand on 9/23/2020. Victim #3 said he also saw juvenile perpetrator #4, as well as others, burn the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said he observed juvenile perpetrator #4, as well as 8 others, burn the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #4 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. After victim #2 was burned, juvenile perpetrator #4 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5, according to victim #2.

Concerning Michael Balichik, there were also statements made as to his activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victims #3 and #9 said Balichik had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 also said that Balichik, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that Balichik, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said Balichik burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, Balichik also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

There were also statements made concerning juvenile perpetrator #2's activity at the first hazing incident on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #2 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victims #3 and #9 said juvenile perpetrator #2 had a punk in his hand. Victim #3 also said juvenile perpetrator #2, as well as 8 others, burned victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #2, as well as 8 others, burned victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said that juvenile perpetrator #2 burned him with a punk on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, juvenile perpetrator #2 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

There were statements made as to juvenile perpetrator #5's activity on 9/23/2020 at the first hazing incident. Victim #2 said juvenile perpetrator #5 was handed a punk from Witkoski and Dowkus. Victim #3 said that juvenile perpetrator #5 had a punk in his hand on 9/23/2020. Victim #3 said that juvenile perpetrator #5, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #5, #9, #6, and #8 on 9/23/2020. Victim #5 said that juvenile perpetrator #5, as well as 8 others, burned the victims #2, #3, #8, #4, and #9 with punks on their buttocks on 9/23/2020. Victim #2 said that juvenile perpetrator #5 burned the victim #2 with a punk on 9/23/2020. The victim #2 also said that, after he was burned, juvenile perpetrator #5 also burned the victims #3, #9, and #5.

The following is a list of the victims and who burned them, based on statements made:

1. **Victim #1:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens on 9/30/2020.
2. **Victim #2:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
3. **Victim #3:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12/08/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complain/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

4. **Victim #5:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020. He was also burned on 9/30/2020 by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens.
5. **Victim #8:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
6. **Victim #7:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, juvenile perpetrator #1, Reed Witkoski, and Tyler Owens on 9/30/2020.
7. **Victim #4:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
8. **Victim #6:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.
9. **Victim #9:** was burned by Damon Dowkus, Tyler Owens, Michael Balichik, Reed Witkoski, and by juvenile perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.

The following is a list of the perpetrators and who they burned, based on statements made by the victims:

1. **Damon Dowkus:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7 with a punk, and victims #1 and #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
2. **Reed Witkoski:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7 with a punk, and victims #1 and #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
3. **Juvenile perpetrator #1:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victims #7 and #1 with a punk, and victim #5 with a sparkler on 9/30/2020.
4. **Tyler Owens:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020. He also burned victim #7, #1 and #5 with a punk on 9/30/2020.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-10-2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number: BCC200407
Defendant Name:	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

5. **Juvenile perpetrator #3:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
6. **Juvenile perpetrator #2:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
7. **Michael Balichik:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
8. **Juvenile perpetrator #5:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.
9. **Juvenile perpetrator #4:** burned victims #2, #3, #5, #8, #4, #6, and #9 with a punk on 9/23/2020.

In addition to the original photos of their injuries that were taken within days of the incident, victims #1 and #2 later provided photos of their injuries that turned into scars which were currently present: victim #1 on his buttocks, and #2 on his leg and buttocks. Your affiant also took photos of the rest of the victims: #5; #7; #9; #6; and #4. As with #1 and #2, these victims all had prominent scarring on their buttocks. Victim #8 was observed to not have any scarring; and victim #3 said he did not have scars.

Based on the above evidence, your affiant has probable cause to believe that the defendant Michael Balichik committed the following acts.

The defendant intentionally, knowingly or recklessly, for the purpose of initiating, admitting or affiliating a minor or student into or with an organization, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing a minor or student's membership or status in an organization, caused, coerced or forced a minor or student to endure brutality of a physical nature, including branding, when the defendant and eight other co-defendants initiated seven male victims as "new starters" on the Mt. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to pull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks with a lit "punk" stick, causing burns and pain to all seven victims; five of the victims sustained scarring as a result.

Also, with the intent of promoting or facilitating its commission, the defendant agreed with such other person or persons that they or one or more of them will engage in conduct which constituted such crime or an attempt or solicitation to commit such crime. The defendant, along with 8 co-defendants, conspired to commit the crime of Hazing on the victims.



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: <i>12/08/2022</i>	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number <i>BCG200407</i>
Defendant Name	First: MICHAEL	Middle: RICHARD	Last: BALICHIK

The affiant has probable cause to believe that the above information is truthful and correct.

I, S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO, BEING DULY SWORN ACCORDING TO THE LAW, DEPOSE AND SAY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE FOREGOING AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS FILING COMPLIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CASE RECORDS PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA THAT REQUIRE FILING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS DIFFERENTLY THAT NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS.

(Signature of Affiant)

Sworn to me and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____

12-12-22 Date *[Signature]* Magisterial District Judge

My commission expires first Monday of January, *2024*

