P.002/018 13:32 HILLIAM COLE MAGISTRATE (FAX)5703394433 12/12/2022 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA Magisterial District Number: 08-2-01 VS. MDJ: Hon. William Cole DEFENDANT: (NAME and ADDRESS): Address: 150 S. Market Street DOWKUS DAMON DANIEL First Name Middle Name Last Name Ge Mount Carmel, PA 17851 1212 Poplar Street, Kulpmont, PA 17834 DEFENDANT NEEDS PROCESSING Telephone: (570)339-2140 Commission of the Control of the Con 1-Felony Full 5-Felony Pending Extradition C-Misdemeanor Surrounding States Distance: 2-Felony Limited 6-Felony Pending Extradition Determ. □ D-Misdemeanor No Extradition 3-Felony Surrounding States ☐ E-Misdemeanor Pending Extredition A-Misdemeanor Full 4-Felony No Extradition ☐ B-Misdemeanor Limited ☐ F-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION Request Lab OTN/LiveScan Number **Docket Number** Date Filed Complaint/incident Number Services? 12-108-2022 R 399727-6 UR-▼ YES □ NO BCC200407 GENDER ров 09/24/2001 POB Co-Defendant(s) Add'I DOB ⊠ Maje First Name Middle Name Last Name Gen. T Female AKA White
 Hispenia RACE Aslan 🗌 Black Native American Unknown ETHNICITY Non-Hispanic Unknown X SRO (Brown) GRY (Gray) RED (Red/Aubn.) SDY (Sandy) BLU (Blue) PLE (Purole) Hair PNK (Pink) BLK (Black) ONG (Orange) ☐ WHI (White) XXX (Unk./Bald) GRN (Green) Color BLN (Blonde / Strawberry) BLU (Blue) GRY (Gray) RLK (Black) BRO (Brown) GRN (Green) Eye AHAZ (Hazel) Color MAR (Maroon) PNK (Pink) MUL (Mu)licolored) XXX (Unknown) DNA **DNA Location** WEIGHT (lbs.) ☐ YES ☑ NO FBI Number MNU Number Defendant Fingerprinted ☐ YES NO Ft. HEIGHT In. Fingerprint Classification: 5 10 DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION State Haz Registration Comm'l Veh. School Veh. Oth, NCIC Veh. Gode Reg. ame Ind. mat П Plate # Sticker (MM/YY) as Def. VIN Model Style Make Office of the attorney for the Commonwealth

Approved

Disapproved because: (The attorney for the Commonwealth may require that the complaint, arrest warrant affidavil, or both be approved by the attorney for the Commonwealth prior to filing. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 507). (2/6/2022 Signature of the attorney for the Commonwealth) A. DAVID SCICCHITANO 595 (PSP/MPOETC -Assigned Affiant ID Number & Badge # (Name of the Affiant) PA0222400 Pennsylvanía Office of Attorney General (Identify Department or Agency Represented and Political Subdivision) (Police Agency ORI Number) do hereby state: (check appropriate box) 1. X 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.

on or about 09/23/2020 and 09/30/2020

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212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel (Place-Political Subdivision)

County

Township, Kulpmont, Pa 17834

in NORTHUMBERLAND

therefore designated as John Doe or Jane Doe

with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at [210]

[49]

Docket Number;	Date Filed: 12 108/2022	OTN/LiveScan N	umber	Gomplaint/IncidentN BC©200407	ım bec					
Defendant Name:	First: DAMON	Middle: DANIEL	Last DO\	: WKUS						
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When there is more that (set forth a brief summary of without more, is not sufficier. The age of the victim at the ti	the accused are describe in one offense, each offer the facts sufficient to advise the full in a summary case, you mus time of the offense may be inclused, I account must be established, I	nse should be numb ne defendant of the natur t cite the specific section ded if known, in addition	ered chronologica e of the offense(s) cha n(s) and subsection(s) , social security numb	ally, arged. A citation to the statut of the statute(s) or ordinanc ers and financial information	e(s) allegedly violated, e(s) allegedly violated,					
inchoate	Solicitation 18 902 A	Conspiracy 18 903	Nu	mber of Victims Age 60 or	Older <u>0</u>					
☑ (1.5) 2701	(e)(1)	US / 7771 E 18	M. S. Light	2.075 / 3.796 / 3.						
# ,	ection Subsection	PA Statute (Titl	e) Counts	Grade NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code					
(if applicable)	Accident Number	,	☐ Interstate	☐ Safety Zone	☐ Work Zone					
	lude the name of statute	or ordinance): PATI	TLE 18 SECTION 27	701(A)(1): SIMPLE ASSA	ULT					
knowingly or recklessly cause	sociated with this Offense ed bodily injury to another. To causing the victims pain from the	wit: defendant intentiona	illy burned nine differe	int male victims on their bare	buttocks with a lit					
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(if applicable)	Accident Number		☐ Interstate	Safety Zone	☐ Work Zone					
Statute Description (inc	lude the name of statute	or ordinance); PA TI	TLE 18 SECTION 49	52(A)(1); INTIMIDATIO	n of witnesses or					
knowledge that his conduct we intimidate any witness or vict document or thing relating to "What happens here, stays h	sociated with this Offense will obstruct, impede, impair; or tim to refrain from informing or the commission of a crime. To ereDon't say anythingNothing it was his choice. ONE COUN	event or interfere with the reporting to any law enfo o wit; after committing to ng leaves hereIf we go	e administration of cri proement officer, pros he crimes of Simple A down, we go down al	minal justice, he intimidates ecuting official or judge conc ssault and Hazing, the defen	or attempts to eming any information, dant told the victims:					
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Inchoate Attemp		Conspiracy 18 903	Number of	Victims Age 60 or Older	<u>0</u>					
□ 3/2 280/ Lead? Offense#	Section Subsection	OF CITE 18 PA Statute (Y	Itle) Counts	Grade NCIC Offense Co	de UCR/NIBRS Code					
RennDOI: Data in applicable	AAceident		☐ Interstate	☐ Safety Zone	☐ Work Zone					
	lude the name of statute	or ordinance); PA TI	TLE 18 SECTION 28	02(A)(3): HAZING						
for the purpose of initiating, student's membership or stal To wit: the defendant and e victims were made to pull do	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. For 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.									

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Defendant Name	First:	Middle:	Last:						
Defendant Name:	DAMON	DANIEL	DOWKUS .						

- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 14.
- 5. 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.

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	Warf (/ Maufil) (Signature of Affiant)
(•	- 1		<u>.</u>

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)

SEAL

12/12/2022

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

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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 sald 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

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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 be 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

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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

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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

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LICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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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 sald 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.

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Docket Number:	Date Filed: 0 <u> </u>	TN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number ABCC200407:
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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 Ballchik 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 Ballchik 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 juvenilė perpetrators #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 on 9/23/2020.

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- 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.

Page 11 of 14

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on or about 09/23/2020 AND 09/30/2020

in NORTHUMBERLAND County

[49]

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12 108 12032		can Number	Complain/Incident	
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When there is more (Set forth a brief summa: without more, is not suff The age of the victim at t	than one offense, in ry of the facts sufficient icient. In a summary can the time of the offense in	each offense should be to advise the defendant of the se, you must cite the specific	numbered chronok e nature of the offensek section(s) and subsection(d)	s) charged. A citation to the stat on(s) of the statute(s) or ordinar numbers and financial informati	ute(s) allegedly violated, reals) allegedly violated.
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Lead? Offense	Section Substitutions	ection PA Sta	tuta (Tille) Counts	Grade NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number		☐ Interstate	☐ Safety Zone	☐ Work Zone
Statute Description	(include the name	of statute or ordinance):	PA TITLE 18 SECTION	ON 2701(A)(1): 51MPLE ASS	AULT
knowingly or recklessly c	aused bodily injury to a	nother. To wit: defendant int	entionally burned nine d	he above location, attempted to lifferent male victims on their ba scarring as a result. ONE COUN	re buttocks with a lit
Linchoate ☐ Attern Ottense: 18 901			y 	Number of Victims Age 60 c	or Older <u>0</u>
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for the purpose of initiati student's membership or To wit: the defendant a victims were made to pu	ng, admitting or affiliati status in an organization nd eight other co-defend Il down their pants and	ng a minor or student into or on, caused, coerced or forced dants initiated nine male victir expose their bare buttocks; the	with an organization, or a minor or student to er ns as "new starters" on ne victims were each bu	he above location, Intentionally, for the purpose of continuing or adure brutality of a physical nature Mt. Carmel Area High Schoomed on their bare buttocks with ONE COUNT—MISDEMEANOR	r enhancing a minor or ire, including branding, i Football Team; the a lit "punk" stick and/or

(FAX)5703394433

POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-12022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Gomplain//ncident Number* /// BCC200407
Defendant Name	First;	Middle:	Last:
	REED	HENRY	WITKOSKI

- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 13
- 5. I certify that this filing compiles 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.

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.)

A h	2	2012 Carl d. Sulfano	
(Date) December	O) (Yes	2022 (Signature of Affiant)	
AND NOW, on this date	12-12-2	I certify that the complaint has been properly completed and	d verified.
An affidavit of probable cause	must be completed	efore a warrant can be issued.	

(Magisterial District Court Number) SEAL

Docket Number:	12-10812022	TN/LiveScan Number	Compraintincident Number 32
Defendant Name	First:	Middle:	Last:
	REED	HENRY	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 luvenile 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 Sacayage. 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:	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number
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Defendant Name:	_REED	HENRY	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 tearn." 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.

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Defendant Name	REED	HENRY	WITKOSKI
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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 be 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, dld 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;

Page <u>6</u> of <u>1</u>3 *OD J*

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12 108 1 2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident/Number Bes20040754
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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.

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POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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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.

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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

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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 said that 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.

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- 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.

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- 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

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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 THAT NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS.

(Signature of Affiant) Sworn to me and subscribed before me this day of Magisterial District Judge My commission expires first Monday of January, 2004. SEAL

P.002/020 (FAX)5703394433 13.30 HILLIAM CULE MAGISTRATE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA Magisterial District Number: 08-2-01 VS. MDJ: Hon, William Cole DEFENDANT: (NAME and ADDRESS): Address: 150 S. Market Street **TYLER** REESE **OWENS** First Name Middle Name Last Name Mount Carmel, PA 17851 Ge1343 Chestnut Street, Kulpmont, PA 17834 Telephone: (570)339-2140 DEFENDANT NEEDS PROCESSING NCIC Extradition Code Type 1-Felony Full 5-Felony Pending Extradition C-Misdemeanor Surrounding States Distance: 2-Felony Limited 6-Felony Pending Extradition Determ. ☐ D-Misdemeanor No Extradition ☐ 3-Felony Surrounding States A-Misdemeanor Full ☐ E-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition 4-Felony No Extradition ☐ B-Misdemeanor Limited F-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE P Request Lab OTN/LiveScan Number **Docket Number** Date Filed Complaint/inc)dent Number Services? 12-1081 2022 R 399752-3 CQ-☑ YES ☐ NO BCC200407 GENDER Co-Defendant(s) 図 ров 01/13/2002 Add'l DOB Male Middle Name Last Name First Name Gen. ☐ Female AKA RACE Asian Alative American Unknosyn _ Slack ☐ Hispanic Non-Hispanic
 ETHNICITY Unknown GRY (Gray) RED (Red/Aubn.) SDY (Sandy) BLU (Blue) PLE (Purple) BRO (Brown) Halr BLK (Black) ONG (Orange) I WHI (White) XXX (Unk./Bald) GRN (Green) PNK (Pink) Color BLN (Blonds / Strawberry) BLK (Black) BLU (Blue) BRO (Brown) GRN (Green) GRY (Gray) Eye Color HAZ (Hazel) MAR (Maroon) PNK (Pink) XXX (Unknown) MUL (Multicolored) DNA YES NO DNA Location WEIGHT (lbs.) FBI Number J50N95CP6 MNU Number 200 Ft. HEIGHT In. Defendant Fingerprinted ☐ YES 図 NO Fingerprint Classification: 0 DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION State Camm'l Veh. School Ven. Oth, NCIC Veh. Code Haz Registration Rea. Plate # mat Ind. 🗔 . D same Sticker (MM/YY) П as Def. VIN Make Model Style Color Office of the attorney for the Commonwealth

Approved

Disapproved because: (The aftorney for the Commonwealth may require that the complaint, arrest warrant atfidavit, or both be approved by the attorney for the Commonwealth prior to filing. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 807). 12/6/2022 ignature of the alloway for the Commonwealth) S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO 595 (Name of the Affiant) (PSPMPOETC -Assigned Affiant ID Number & Badge # Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General PA0222400 (identify Department or Agency Represented and Political Subdivision) (Police Agency ORI Number) do hereby state: (check appropriate box) 1.

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 [210] 212 Montana Drive, Mount Carmel (Subdivision Code) (Place-Political Subdivision) with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at [210] Township, Kulpmont, Pa 17834 in NORTHUMBERLAND **(49**) on or about 09/23/2020 AND 09/30/2020 County

(FAX)5703394433 P.003/020 POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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Defendant Name:	First: TYLER	Middle: REESE		ost: WENS		
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When there is more that (set forth a brief summary o without more, is not sufficie The age of the victim at the t	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	Solicitation 18 902 A	n Conspiracy 18 903		Number of Victims Age 60 or	Older <u>O</u>	
⊠ <u>I</u> 2802	; (a)(3)	Contients HITTLE 18		M3ac William		
#	ection Subsection	PA Statute (Title) Counts	Grade NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code	
PennDCT Data b	Accident Number		☐ Interstate	Safety Zone	☐ Work Zone	
Statute Description (inc	clude the name of st	atute or ordinance): PA	TITLE 18 SECTION :	2802(A)(3): HAZING	,	
for the purpose of initiating, student's membership or sta To wit: the defendant and e	admitting or affillating a tus in an organization, ca light other co-defendants own their pants and expos	ninor or student into or with used, coerced or forced a mir initiated nine male victims as se their bare buttocks; the vic	an organization, or fo nor or student to endi i "new starters" on the tims were each burne	above location, intentionally, k r the purpose of continuing or ure orutally of a physical nature a Mt. Carmel Area High School is ad on their bare buttocks with a DEMEANOR THIRD DEGREE.	enhanding a minor or e, including branding, Football Team; the	
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Inchoate ☐ Attempt Offense 18 901 A	☐ Solicitation 18 902 A	n 🗵 Conspiracy 18 903		Number of Victims Age 50 or	Older <u>0</u>	
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	ection Subsection	PA Statule (Tille) Counts	Grade NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code	
mwafirishbilespie)还是是	Accident Number		☐ Interstate	☐ Safety Zone	☐ Work Zone	
COMMIT A VIOLATION O	F PA TITLE 18 SECTIO	N 2802(A)(3): HAZING)		903(A)(1): CRIMINAL CON		
facilitating its commission he or an attempt or solicitation initiating, admitting or affilia membership or status in an defendant and eight other o	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 Mr. Carmel Area High School Football Team; the victims were made to bull down their pants and expose their bare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks (continued)					
inchoate		on Conspiracy	Number	of Victims Age 60 or Older	0	
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্বতারে Description (inc	Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance):					
Acts of the accused as	Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:					
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POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT OFFENSE CONTINUATION PAGE

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Docket Number:	Date Filed:	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/incident Number
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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.

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POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	12 108/2022	TN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident/Number BCC200407
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- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered $\underline{1}$ through $\underline{//}$.
- 5. 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.

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) 203	22	(Signature of Afriant)
AND NOW, on this date	12-12-32	I certify that the complain	nt has been properly completed and verified.
An affidavit of probable cause	must be completed before a wa	rrant can be issued.	
(Magisterial District Court Nu	mber) (Isati	ng Authority)	
(magnotonar Brownet Coart Hai	(ISS)	ng Authority)	SEAL

Docket Number:	12-108/2022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident/Number 38CC2004074
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-Dejenvantinante	TYLER	REESE	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 "reedwitkosk!".

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

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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 Ballchik'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 Ballchik; juvenile perpetrators #1 and #3.

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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 be 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;

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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 halftlime, 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.

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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.

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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 sald 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

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	TYLER	REESE	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.

Page II of I4

	·		POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAIN
Docket Number:	Date Filed:	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number
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Detendant Name. 4 (**)	TYLER	REESE	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.

Page 12 of 14

			POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
Docket Number:	Date Filed:	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number
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Delengant Name	TYLER	REESE	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 afflant 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 affillating 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.

			POL	CE CRIMINAL (COMPLAI
Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12 108/2022	OTN/LiveScan Nur	nber	Complaint/Incident/Nu BCC200407/30	
Defendant Name	First: TYLER	Middle; REESE	Last:		EG TENNESTRENES : COSE
The affiant has prob	able cause to believe	that the above inform	nation is truthfo	ıl and correct.	
•					
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I CERTIFY THAT THIS POLICY OF THE UNIF INFORMATION AND D	IED JUDICIAL SYSTE	M OF PENNSYLVANIA	THAT REQUIRE	FILING CONFIDENTI	AL
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				(Signature of Affiant)	
Sworn to me and subsc	ribed before me this	day of			
/ <u> </u>	- (to	Ca	, Ma	ngisterial District Judge	
My commission expires	first Monday of Janua	ry. 2024			i

SEAL

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Magisterial District Number: 08-2-01



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA VS.

MDJ: Hon. William Cole	DEFENDANT:		(NAME and		-						
Address: 150 S, Market Street	MICHAEL First Name	RICH	ARD Name	BALICH)		<u> </u>					
Mount Carmel, PA 17851						Ge					
	318 S. Market			17851							
Telephone: (570)339-2140		EEDS PROCESS									
NC ☐ 1-Felony Full. ☐ 5-Felony Pending Extre	C Extradition Code	C-Misdemeanor Sur	ounding State	_		:					
☐ 2-Felony Limited ☐ 6-Felony Pending Extra		D-Misdemeanor No	_	· L] Distance: _	 [
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to filing. See Pa.R.Crim.F. 507).		2.17		•		•					
Joseph M. Sembrot, SDA6	/	MUSA			12/6/	2022					
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I, S. A. DAVID SCICCHITANO (Name of the Affiant)	<u> </u>	595	5 1 J 8.771-		. 6 5 - 1 - 1						
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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)											
1. 🗵 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											
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therefore designated as John Doe or Jane Doe	ar designation or I										
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POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT Complaint/incident/Number Docket Number: Date Filed: OTN/LiveScan Number 10X12021 BCC200407 First: Middle: Last: Defendant Name **MICHAEL** RICHARD 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.) incheate. Attempt Sollcitation ☐ Conspiracy Number of Victims Age 60 or Older 0 Offense 18 901 A 18'902 A 18 903 ₩2802 M9 \boxtimes TITLE (18 % Offense NCIC Offense 10000 Subsection PA Statute (Title) Counts **UCR/NIBRS** Code Code PennDon Data ☐ Interstate ☐ Safety Zone Work Zone a (if applicable). 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 milnor 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. Inchoate ☐ Attempt ☐ Solicitation □ Conspiracy Number of Victims Age 60 or Older Offense 18 901 A 18 902 A 18 903 NCIC Offense Lead? Offensea Section Subsection UCR/NIBRS Code PA Statute (Title) Counts Grade Code PennDOT Data ☐ Interstate Safety Zone ☐ Work Zone 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 pare buttocks; the victims were each burned on their bare buttocks (continued) Inchoate ☐ Attempt ■ Solicitation Conspiracy Number of Victims Age 60 or Older 0 18 901 A Offense 18 902 A 18 903 9-11-14-12-15 NO. Offense# Section Subsection PA Statute (Yitle) NCIC Offense Code UCR/NIBRS Code Counts Grade PennBoT Data ☐ Interstate ☐ Safety Zone ·□ Work Zone (if applicable) Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:

12/12/2022



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT OFFENSE CONTINUATION PAGE

Docket Number:	Date Filed: 12-108/2022	OTN/LiveScan N	umber (Compla)	nt/incident Number 4
	First:	Middle:	Last:	
Defendant Name	MICHAEL	RICHARD	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.

	·	to the same of	OLIOL OIGHNIA COM MINISTER
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- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 4.
- 5. I certify that this filling 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.

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)	2026)	Ward	(Sighature of Affiant)
AND NOV	W, on this date	12-12	-22		certify that the complain	nt has been	properly completed and verified.
An affida	vit of probable cause mu	ist be comple	eted befo	ore a warrar	it can be issued.		

(Magisterial District Court Number)

SEAL

12/12/2022 13:51 HILLIAM CULE MAGISTRATE

题 POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	17-108120,22	TN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/incident Number (1)
Defendant Name	First;	Middle:	Last:
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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

Docket Number:	12-10812022	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/incident/Number: BCC200407
	First:	Middle:	Last:
Defendant Name	MICHAEL	RICHARD	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 sald 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 afflant, 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 afflant 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.

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First:	. Middle:	Last:
Defendant Name First: MICHA	EL RICHARD	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 be 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;

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Michael Ballchik; 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 Ballchik, 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 sald 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.

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- 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.

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- 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 afflant 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.

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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.

Sworn to me and subscribed before me this day of

(Signature of Affiant)

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