

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COUNTY OF: ALLEGHENY



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
VS.

MDJ: Hon. JEFFREY L HERBST
Magisterial District Number: 05-2-07
Address: PARKWAY BUILDING, SUITE 1500
339 OLD HAYMAKER ROAD
MONROEVILLE, PA 15146
Phone: 412.372.1125

DEFENDANT: (NAME and ADDRESS):
DONTÉ LASHAWN COLE
First Name Middle Name Last Name Gen.
1508 E. 256TH STREET EUCLID, OH 44132

NCIC Extradition Code Type

Felony - Full Extradition
Distance: _____

DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Docket Number 541-2023	Date Filed 10-12-23	OTN/LiveScan Number R 916550-5	Complaint/Incident Number ASAP-795143/OCW230008	Request Lab Services? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
GENDER MALE	DOB 11/26/1984	POB	Add'l DOB	Co-Defendant(s) <input type="checkbox"/>
RACE BLACK	First Name		Middle Name	Last Name Gen.
ETHNICITY	AKA			
HAIR COLOR BLK (BLACK)		EYE COLOR BRO (BROWN)		
DNA	DNA Location			WEIGHT (lbs.) 185
FBI Number	MNU Number		FT. HEIGHT in. 5 07	
Defendant Fingerprinted				
Fingerprint Classification				

DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION

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

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

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

name of the attorney for the Commonwealth (Signature of the attorney for the Commonwealth) (Date)

I, JAMES HINDINGER / Lorraine A. Fascetti 40035 / 733
(Name of the Affiant) (PSP/MP/OTC -Assigned Affiant ID Number & Badge #)

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
with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at 446 MONROEVILLE BORO
(Subdivision Code) (Place-Political Subdivision)

In Allegheny County 02 on or about 05/09/2023 23:24
(County Code)



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Defendant Name:	First: DONTE	Middle: LASHAWN	Last: COLE

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. In addition, social security numbers and financial information (e.g. PINS) should not be listed. If the identity of an account must be established, list only the last four digits. 204 PA.Code §§213.1 – 213.7.)

Inchoate Offense:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903						
X	1	3011	B	of the	18	2	F1		
Lead?	Offense#	Section	Subsection		PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number					<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone		
Statute Description/Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:									
18 3011B Trafficking in Individuals F1 2 COUNTS									
The actor, recruited, enticed, solicited, harbored, transported, provided, obtained or maintained an individual knowingly or recklessly disregarding that the individual, a minor, will be subjected to involuntary servitude, namely ENGAGED IN THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINOR 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3011(b).									
The actor, knowingly benefitted financially or received anything of value from any act that facilitated any activity described in 18 Pa.C.S. 3011 (a)(1) and the individual involved was a minor, namely ENGAGED IN THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINOR 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3011(a)(2).									



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Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903						
Lead?	2	3012	A	of the	18	6	F1	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
Offense#	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone <input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone			
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number								

Statute Description/Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:

18 3012A Involuntary Servitude F1 6 COUNTS

The actor, knowingly, through any of the means described in 18 Pa.C.S. §3012 (b), subjected an individual to labor servitude or sexual servitude, except where the conduct is permissible under Federal or State law other than this chapter, CAUSING OR THREATENING TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM TO ANY INDIVIDUAL, NAMELY VICTIM 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3012(a).

The actor, knowingly, through any of the means described in 18 Pa.C.S. §3012 (b), subjected an individual to labor servitude or sexual servitude, except where the conduct is permissible under Federal or State law other than this chapter, CAUSING OR THREATENING TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM TO ANY INDIVIDUAL, NAMELY VICTIM 2, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3012(a).

The actor, knowingly, through any of the means described in 18 Pa.C.S. §3012 (b), subjected an individual to labor servitude or sexual servitude, except where the conduct is permissible under Federal or State law other than this chapter, PHYSICALLY RESTRAINING OR THREATENING TO PHYSICALLY RESTRAIN ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL AS RELATED TO VICTIM 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3012(a).

The actor, knowingly, through any of the means described in 18 Pa.C.S. §3012 (b), subjected an individual to labor servitude or sexual servitude, except where the conduct is permissible under Federal or State law other than this chapter, PHYSICALLY RESTRAINING OR THREATENING TO PHYSICALLY RESTRAIN ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL AS RELATED TO VICTIM 2, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3012(a).

The actor, knowingly, through any of the means described in 18 Pa.C.S. §3012 (b), subjected an individual to labor servitude or sexual servitude, except where the conduct is permissible under Federal or State law other than this chapter, USING ANY SCHEME, PLAN, OR PATTERN INTENDED TO CAUSE THE INDIVIDUAL TO BELIEVE THAT, IF THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT PERFORM THE LABOR, SERVICES, ACTS OR PERFORMANCES, THAT INDIVIDUAL OR ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL WILL SUFFER SERIOUS HARM OR PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AS RELATED TO VICTIM 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3012(a).

The actor, knowingly, through any of the means described in 18 Pa.C.S. §3012 (b), subjected an individual to labor servitude or sexual servitude, except where the conduct is permissible under Federal or State law other than this chapter, USING ANY SCHEME, PLAN, OR PATTERN INTENDED TO CAUSE THE INDIVIDUAL TO BELIEVE THAT, IF THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT PERFORM THE LABOR, SERVICES, ACTS OR PERFORMANCES, THAT INDIVIDUAL OR ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL WILL SUFFER SERIOUS HARM OR PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AS RELATED TO VICTIM 2, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3012(a).



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Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903						
Lead?	3	5111	A1	of the	18	2	F1	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number			<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone			<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone		
Statute Description/Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:									
18 5111A1 DEALING IN THE PROCEEDS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY F1 2 COUNTS									
The actor, knowing that the property involved in a financial transaction represented the proceeds of an unlawful activity, conducted a financial transaction which involved the proceeds of the unlawful activity, namely TRAFFICKING IN INDIVIDUALS AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE with intent to promote the carrying on of the unlawful activity and/or knowing that the transaction was designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise nature, location, source, ownership or control of the proceeds of unlawful activity and/or to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under State or Federal law, in violation of 18 Pa. C.S. §5111(a) (1) or (2) or (3).									
The actor, knowing that the property involved in a financial transaction represented the proceeds of an unlawful activity, conducted a financial transaction which involved the proceeds of the unlawful activity, namely TRAFFICKING IN INDIVIDUALS AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE with intent to promote the carrying on of the unlawful activity and/or knowing that the transaction was designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise nature, location, source, ownership or control of the proceeds of unlawful activity and/or to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under State or Federal law, in violation of 18 Pa. C.S. §5111(a) (1) or (2) or (3).									

Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903						
Lead?	4	911	B3	of the	18	1	F1	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number			<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone			<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone		
Statute Description/Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:									
18 911B3 CORRUPT ORGANIZATION F1 1 COUNT									
The actor, employed by or associated with an enterprise, conducted or participated, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of such enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity, namely, TRAFFICKING IN INDIVIDUALS AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE in violation of 18 Pa. C.S. §911(b)(3).									



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Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903						
Lead?	5	911	B4	of the	18	1	F1	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number					<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone		
Statute Description/Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:									
18 911B4 CORRUPT ORGANIZATION F1 1 COUNT The actor conspired with INDIVIDUALS OTHERWISE KNOWN TO LAW ENFORCEMENT to violate any of the provisions of subsections (1),(2) or (3) of Section 911(b) of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, in violation of 18 Pa. C.S. §911(b)(4).									

Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903						
Lead?	6	3011	A1	of the	18	3	F2	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number					<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone		
Statute Description/Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:									
18 3011A1 Trafficking in Individuals F2 3 COUNTS The actor, recruited, enticed, solicited, harbored, transported, provided, obtained or maintained an individual knowingly or recklessly disregarding that the individual will be subjected to involuntary servitude, namely ENGAGED IN THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF VICTIM 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3011(a)(1). The actor, recruited, enticed, solicited, harbored, transported, provided, obtained or maintained an individual knowingly or recklessly disregarding that the individual will be subjected to involuntary servitude, namely ENGAGED IN THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF VICTIM 2, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3011(a)(1). The actor, recruited, enticed, solicited, harbored, transported, provided, obtained or maintained an individual knowingly or recklessly disregarding that the individual will be subjected to involuntary servitude, namely ENGAGED IN THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINOR 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3011(a)(1).									



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Inchoate Offense:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903						
Lead?	7	3011	A2	of the	18	3	F2	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number			<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone				
Statute Description/Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:									
<p>18 3011A2 Trafficking in Individuals F2 3 COUNTS</p> <p>The actor, knowingly benefitted financially or received anything of value from any act that facilitated any activity described in 18 Pa.C.S. 3011 (a)(1), namely ENGAGED IN THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF VICTIM 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3011(a)(2).</p> <p>The actor, knowingly benefitted financially or received anything of value from any act that facilitated any activity described in 18 Pa.C.S. 3011 (a)(1), namely ENGAGED IN THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF VICTIM 2, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3011(a)(2).</p> <p>The actor, knowingly benefitted financially or received anything of value from any act that facilitated any activity described in 18 Pa.C.S. 3011 (a)(1), namely ENGAGED IN THE SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINOR 1, in violation of, 18 Pa.C.S. 3011(a)(2).</p>									

Inchoate Offense:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903						
Lead?	8	7512	A	of the	18	1	F3	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code
PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number			<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone				
Statute Description/Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:									
<p>18 7512A CRIMINAL USE OF COMMUNICATION FACILITY F3 1 COUNT</p> <p>The actor used a communication facility to commit, cause, or facilitate the commission or the attempted commission of a crime constituting a felony under Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, or a felony under the Controlled Substance Drug Device and Cosmetic Act namely, UTILIZED HIS CELL PHONE TO FACILITATE TRAFFICKING IN INDIVIDUALS, INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE, AND DEALING THE PROCEEDS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, in violation of 18 Pa.C.S.§ 7512.</p>									



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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 is comprised of the preceding page(s) numbered _____ through _____
- 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 than nonconfidential 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.)

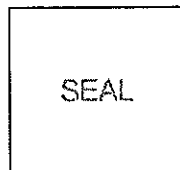
_____ 10/12/2023 _____
 (Date)

[Handwritten Signature]
 JAMES HINDINGER / Lorraine AFascetti
 (Signature of Affiant) 733

AND NOW, on this date _____ 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)

[Handwritten Signature]
 _____ (Issuing Authority)





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AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE

1. WHEN:

- a) Date when Affiant received information:
5/9/2023
- b) Date when the source of information (Police Officers, Informant, Victim, Co-Defendant, Defendant, etc.) received information:
5/9/2023

2. HOW:

- a) How Affiant knows this particular person committed crime: (personal observation, defendant's admissions, etc.):
PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS, INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING AFFIANTS' INVESTIGATION, CORROBORATED DETAILS FROM VICTIMS STATEMENTS.
- b) How the source of information knows this particular person committed the crime:
PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS, INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING AFFIANTS' INVESTIGATION, CORROBORATED DETAILS FROM VICTIMS STATEMENTS.
- c) How both Affiant and/or source of information knows that a particular crime has been committed:
PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS, INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING AFFIANTS' INVESTIGATION, CORROBORATED DETAILS FROM VICTIMS STATEMENTS.

3. WHAT CRIMES:

18 911 B4 CORRUPT ORGANIZATION
18 3011 A1 Trafficking in Individuals
18 3011 A2 Trafficking in Individuals
18 3011 A2 Trafficking in Individuals
18 3012 A Involuntary Servitude
18 3012 A Involuntary Servitude
18 3012 A Involuntary Servitude
18 5111 A1 DEALING IN THE PROCEEDS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY
18 911 B3 CORRUPT ORGANIZATION
18 3012 A Involuntary Servitude
18 3011 A1 Trafficking in Individuals
18 3012 A Involuntary Servitude
18 3011 B Trafficking in Individuals
18 3011 A1 Trafficking in Individuals
18 3011 A2 Trafficking in Individuals
18 5111 A1 DEALING IN THE PROCEEDS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY
18 3011 B Trafficking in Individuals
18 3012 A Involuntary Servitude
18 7512 A CRIMINAL USE OF COMMUNICATION FACILITY



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4. WHERE CRIME(S) COMMITTED:

2727 MOSSIDE BLVD, MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

5. WHY AFFIANT BELIEVES THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION:

- Source is presumed reliable, i.e. other Police Officer, Eyewitness, Victim of Crime, etc.
Source has given information in the past which has led to arrest and/or conviction
Defendant's reputation for criminal activity
This source made declaration against his/her penal interest to the above offense
- Affiant and/or other Police Officers corroborated details of the information



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Affiants Background

1. Your Affiant, James T. Hindinger, is employed as a Special Agent with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Organized Crime Section in the Western Regional Office, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Agent Hindinger has been employed by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General since 2019 and has been a Law Enforcement Officer within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 2010.
2. Your Co-Affiant is Special Agent Lorraine A. Fascetti with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Special Investigations – Child Predator Section in the Western Regional Office. Your Co-Affiant has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Point Park University. Your Co-Affiant has been employed with the PA Office of Attorney General since 2012. Prior to the Child Predator Section, your Co-Affiant served as a uniformed police officer in Western Pennsylvania. As a Special Agent within the Child Predator Section, your Co-Affiant is a member of the Pennsylvania Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and a Task Force Officer with Homeland Security for Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitations. Your Co-Affiant has attended training courses that have focused on sexual offenses against children, including computer-based offenses as well as Human Trafficking Training (IAHTI). To date, your Co-Affiant has actively participated in multiple investigations throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania dealing with online solicitations for sexual offenses and/or attempted sexual offenses with minors in addition to unlawful contact with minors, sexual abuse of children and criminal use of communications facilities.
3. Your Co-Affiant's duties include investigating violations of state law, such as the online exploitation of children. In particular, violations of Title 18, Section 6312 and 6318, that criminalizes the unlawful contact of minors and possession/distribution of child pornography. Your Co-Affiant has gained experience conducting such investigations through training seminars, classes and consistent work assignments. Your Co-Affiant has also been trained in the investigation of persons using peer to peer file sharing programs to obtain digital media files consisting of child pornography.

Human Trafficking

4. Based upon your Affiants training and experience, it is known that prostitution related crimes in locations such as hotels/motels, are also common indicators of potential Human Trafficking Operations. These victims, some of which are minors, are placed in hotel settings by a "Trafficker" or "Pimp", where advertisements are placed online for these individuals to engage in sex acts in exchange for money. During many of these advertisements and communications with the trafficker and or victim, there are various acronyms commonly used between the prospective customer and trafficker/victim. The following is a list of abbreviations along with their meanings:
 - Rose(s): rose emoji, meaning money, also commonly referred to as a donation.
 - Pimp/Trafficker: A person controls prostitutes and arranges clients for them, taking part or all of their earnings.
 - Quick Visit (QV) - A quick visit for a sexual act, typically less than 15 minutes.
 - Cash Payment: CP
5. These traffickers will often control these victims by use of illegal drugs, false promises, and deprivation of access to family, friends, money and other items needed to survive. It is also common for these human trafficking victims to be moved around the country during of the course of this activity to evade identification and rescue by law enforcement.
6. The following is information gained through your Affiants training, experience and various resources available regarding human trafficking. It is known by agents that traffickers will engage in the "grooming" of prospective victims. Sexual grooming, or just "grooming", is a preparatory process in which a predator gradually gains a person's trust with the intent to exploit them.



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7. The victim is usually a child, teen, or vulnerable adult. The purpose of grooming is to manipulate the person into becoming a cooperating participant in their own abuse or exploitation, which reduces the likelihood of a disclosure to law enforcement or others and increases the likelihood that the victim will become attached and repeatedly return to the perpetrator.

8. Traffickers target victims who have some noticeable vulnerability: emotional neediness, low self-esteem, chemical dependency or economic stress. Social media and apps with private messaging features, such as the ones utilized by agents to investigate these human trafficking cases, make it easier and faster for traffickers to identify their victims.

9. Traffickers will attempt to gather information about their victims through casual conversations with the victim or with parents or friends. Traffickers skilled at grooming often mix well with other adults, gaining a trusted position as an honorary "family member" if they aren't already a member of the victim's family.

10. The information gained allows the trafficker to fill a need in the victim's life, making the victim dependent on them in some way: buying gifts, being a friend; beginning a love relationship, or buying drugs and alcohol. This is why many times a trafficker may look like a "boyfriend" to unsuspecting friends, family or law enforcement not trained in identifying these victims. It is common for a victim to refer to their trafficker as "Daddy" and for the victim to also feel or believe that they are engaged in a romantic relationship with the trafficker.

11. During the course of this manipulative behavior, a trafficker begins claiming that a service must be repaid whether money spent on cigarettes or drugs, car rides or mobile phones. It may even begin with requests for illicit images (sexting) that are then used to threaten the victim. In most cases, the trafficker demands sex as payment for such services.

12. In many cases, the trafficker maintains control of the victim through threats, violence, fear, or blackmail. Many victims show loyalty to their traffickers even after they've been recovered because of the insidious nature of the manipulation and the trauma bonds that are formed.

13. Your Affiants have also participated in many aspects of investigations involving human trafficking and know that commercial sex is very lucrative. Your Affiants know that based on training and experience, traffickers use various methods to gain compliance from their victims including threats, intimidation, coercion, promises, and grooming. Generally, grooming can take several days to years depending on the situation and circumstance. As previously stated, Individuals involved in the trafficking of people, generally women, for purposes of commercial sex are often referred to as a "pimp."

14. Common terms used to describe commercial sex are as follows: a "John" is a male that purchases sex for money, the victims are generally identified as prostitutes, and a "date" is when the victim has sex in exchange for money. The ads for commercial sex are commonly found on several online platforms. Due to the grooming and control the pimp has over the victims, the victims of human trafficking for commercial sex usually don't perceive themselves as victims.

15. The pimp usually approaches their victims by either being a "Romeo" or a "Gorilla." In the instance of a "Romeo," the pimp romances the victim into believing that they are involved in an intimate relationship with the trafficker and slowly introduces them to the idea of commercial sex. Once the victim agrees to participate in commercial sex, the pimp then introduces them to another trafficked victim who further grooms the new victim. The victim then learns to travel to various cities and states by themselves and eventually goes "automatic," or traveling without the pimp. The victim then establishes several cities that they often travel to called a "circuit." The pimp generally controls all the money (i.e. controls the various bank accounts or payment methods such as CashApp, Venmo, Zelle, Apple Pay) and controls the posting of the various commercial sex ads. The pimp keeps the majority of the illicit profits.



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16. In the instance of a "Gorilla," the pimp is often very assertive, intimidating, and threatening. The pimp usually attempts to control all aspects of the victim's life, including what they wear, what they eat, where they live, who they communicate with, and where they work. The pimp is usually verbally, physically, mentally, and psychologically abusive. In a lot of instances, pimps start as a "Romeo" and then go "Gorilla" or vice versa. It is not uncommon for pimps to have 2 – 4 prostitutes / victims under their control.

17. Your Affiants know from training and experience that pimps and victims use cell phones to communicate with each other, with other victims, and with John's for the purposes of coordinating commercial sex. Your Affiants also know that it is common that the cell phones are also used to post commercial sex ads and manage various payment platforms related to the commercial sex trafficking. Pimps usually document their travels, profits, and victims via photographs and videos, which are then uploaded to various social media accounts.

Background of Investigation

18. This is a joint investigation between the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI.) On May 09, 2023 BNI Agents were conducting surveillance at the Rodeway Inn, 2727 Mossie Blvd, Monroeville, PA. Room #320. A black male was viewed going in and out of the hotel with another male. During the course of this investigation law enforcement conducted a knock and talk at Room #320 due to the suspicious activity. Investigators identified two females on scene who were identified, known by law enforcement and referred to as Victim 1 (DOB: 10/10/2002) and Victim 2 (DOB: 3/31/2001). Investigators identified a third female in room #302. This victim will be known as Minor 1 (DOB: 7/13/2006 (16-year-old female).

19. While conducting this investigation, investigators located condoms, wipes and pregnancy tests in room #302. Investigators advised that within the last 24 hours, there were approximately 2-3 individuals viewed coming in and out of the rooms. Initial information was provided by the two adult females that they were involved in prostitution at the motel. Based upon an initial investigation it was believed that the three females were potential human trafficking victims.

20. Furthermore, investigators were informed by the victims that they would send Donte Lashawn COLE, aka "KING", aka "DADDY", aka, "Donnie", and aka, "Pimp", images of themselves to be posted in online advertisements.

Interview of Victim 1

21. During the course of this investigation, Victim 1 was interviewed by SA Fascetti and NA Barna on May 09, 2023. The victim advised that she was "selling herself" and that she had a "pimp" that received most of her profits. Victim 1 explained that Minor 1 recruited her in March of 2023 and that Minor 1 told her that her "Pimp" would protect her. Victim 1 stated that Minor 1 told her they could go on the road together and make some money. Victim 1 stated that she met her "Pimp" approximately a month ago. Victim 1 stated that she will take images of herself and then text them to COLE; utilizing his phone number as, 216-534-2851. Victim 1 has COLE in her phone as "KING" and refers to him as "Daddy" in text messages. Victim 1 provided Agents with consent to search on a Motorola Android cell phone, stating that it was "work" phone and utilizes a TextNow number on it, she also provided consent to search of her personal cell phone, an iPhone. The iPhone did have messages between Victim 1 and COLE, including messages about "roses."

22. Victim 1 stated that that the advertisements would be posted on "List Crawler, and "Mega Personal's". Your Affiants aver that these websites are commonly used by traffickers and prostitutes to place advertisements offering sex acts in exchange for money. Victim 1 said that she and Minor 1 shared a room at that hotel prior to having Victim 2 involved. They were to contribute \$600-\$700 each for each day. Victim 1 stated that the Motorola Android phone she had COLE purchase with her "cut" of the money. Victim 1 stated that she was short for COLE, meaning she only made \$580 that she provided him, within the messages, on or



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about April 4, 2023, Victim 1 states that that she was shorted "19 roses" and COLE replies, "ok beautiful next time make sure u ch3eck the money and make sure ui let me know when he leave and was it 150 or 100".

23. Victim 1 stated that COLE will bring them supplies, such as condoms, wipes, feminine products, and food. He will also bring them clothing for when they needed it. It should be noted that in both room's condoms, and wipes were identified and photographed by law enforcement. In Minor 1's room, the items were seized and considered as abandoned due to Minor 1 stating it didn't belong to her. Victim 1 stated that COLE will use rental vehicles also.

24. Victim 1 stated that a couple of weeks ago, they (Victim 1 and Minor 1) stayed at COLE's home for 2 nights, describing as a white single-family residence in Euclid Ohio. Victim 1 stated that the 16-year-old female recruited and trained her. The two of them spent time in Virginia together and then Cleveland. Furthermore, utilizing an available law enforcement resource, Affiants were able to confirm that this is the known residence of COLE and the residence that COLE brought the victims to.

25. Victim 1 noted that COLE was supposed to bring another female who was working for COLE and she was picked up on a warrant a couple weeks ago but was supposed to be released on May 10, 2023. This female was set to be brought to the hotel.

26. Victim 1 stated that they also attempted to stay at the Super 8 Motel in Plum, but they could only stay one night and that the rest of the nights they spent at the Rodeway Inn. Both Victim's 1 and 2 stated that they didn't have anywhere else to go. Victims 1 and 2 were taken to a shelter for their safety.

Interview of Victim 2

27. Victim 2 was also interviewed by Agents Barna and Fascetti. Victim 2 stated that she and Victim 1 have been talking/dating for about a month and that she recently came into this situation. Victim 2 stated that COLE picked her up over the weekend at Sunoco in McKeesport, Pa. and that she was leaving a bad family situation.

28. Victim 2 stated that 2 days ago (on or around Sunday/Monday), she met "Daddy". Victim 2 stated that she asked the Suspect how old Minor 1 was. Victim 2 stated that on her first "date" she vomited on the male, but he still paid because he was worried she would get in trouble if she didn't collect. Victim 2 stated that she has viewed Victim 1 perform sexual acts on males.

29. Victim 2 was asked about abuse and/or if she felt that she was forced into this. Victim 2 stated that though she hasn't been there long, she had heard COLE state along the lines of, "ya'll try to leave, there will be consequences". Additionally, Victim 2 noted that Victim 1 was scared to the leave COLE alone with her.

30. Both Victims 1 and 2 identified COLE via photo, Victim 1 pointed COLE out in a text that he sent that was at a Planet Fitness. Additionally, both victims learned from talking with Minor 1, that Minor 1 has been with COLE since she was 12 years old and that she gets "special treatment". They both furthered the information by stating that she would get extra food and COLE would want to hang out with her more.

Minor 1

31. In an attempt to contact Minor 1's legal guardian, Minor 1 unlocked her phone in the presence of Affiant Fascetti and provided the passcode. The iPhone depicted, on the main screen, images indicative of child pornography based upon Affiant Fascetti's training and experience. A second iPhone with a cracked screen was also taken into custody at this time. It should be noted that the minor was from out of state and in the hotel room by herself.



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32. Attempts were made to interview the minor, however she did not wish to speak with them. She did however, confirm her name and age. Furthermore, investigators inquired if Minor Victim 1 had any money or anything to spend and she pointed to a pile of change which was located on top the dresser. When asked what she would eat, she stated that her "family" would be back in a couple days and that they just fed her and pointed at a Popeye's Restaurant box on the night stand. She stated that until then she would eat from the vending machine.

Review of Text Messages between Victim 1 and Suspect

33. During the course of this investigation, investigators reviewed text messages between Victim 1 and the Suspect, noted as KING saved in her phone. A review of these text messages indicated a significant amount of communication between Victim 1 and COLE. During these conversations, Victim 1 consistently referred to COLE as "Daddy." As previously stated this is terminology commonly used by human trafficking victims when they address their trafficker. Furthermore, these text messages further corroborated the statements provided to SA Fascetti and NA Barna about the activities involved COLE and the female victims.

34. In these conversations between COLE and Victim 1, your Affiants noted discussions about the dollar amounts that Victim 1 would charge customers for sex acts. It was discovered that the agreed upon amounts for was between \$80.00 and \$100.00 for a quick visit (QV), \$140.00 to \$350.00 for a half hour (HR) and \$200.00 for an hour (HR.) As previously stated, many of these conversations included the emoji or a rose or the word "rose", which is commonly used to replace the word money when arranging for these sex acts. Evidence was further located that COLE controlled the advertisements being placed on these websites for the victims. Evidence showed that COLE was requesting that the victims take pictures of themselves and then send them to him to upload to the advertisements.

35. It was further discovered that COLE was receiving Cash App payments from customers for sex acts with the victims. Cash App is a mobile payment service available in the United States that allows users to transfer money to one another using a mobile phone application. This has become a popular application to exchange U.S. Currency, especially in the criminal underworld, due to the fact that currency can be exchanged without meeting with the recipient face to face. Cash App users have a provided username and cash tag, which are used for other users to be able to locate them. Through the course of this investigation, your Affiants identified the know Cash App Account of COLE. It was listed under his provided cellular telephone number of 216-534-2851. His Cash App user name was "King Royalty" and his cash tag "\$pgothgo."

36. Your Affiants noted in these conversations that Victim 1 appeared to be recruiting other females to work for COLE. One conversation in particular stated:

"me and my daddy is looking for a down female who tryna travel state to state and get this money but in order for that to you have to really willing to be into this. I get money and we can get some real good money together baby I'm not from down here, coming from Cleveland Ohio I come down here and make money plenty you could be included this get his money and have fun be on the rode and go wherever you wanna go but just gotta be down. If you willing for that too happen we can make this possible"

37. The aforementioned conversation also supports the fact that COLE is traveling across the country in furtherance of this criminal activity. Your Affiants are aware that human traffickers and their victims will often move around the country during the course of this activity to evade identification and rescue by law enforcement.

38. As previously stated, it is common for a human trafficking victim to feel or believe that they are engaged in a romantic relationship with the trafficker. In one conversation, Victim 1 states, "Damn I was so tired when you came back I was looking for to us." COLE replied, "I know beautiful the day will come just stay down and show me u here to stay." Victim 1 then stated, "I'm here to stay daddy who said anything about leaving I'll only leave if that's what you want but I ain't just gonna leave my loyalty runs far



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with me and if you have me my loyalty I'll ride with you til the wheels falls off."

39. In another conversation COLE tells Victim 1, "ain't nobody getting pleasing until y'all make some real money, and what u mean to o she ain't getting none either, I was drunk last night and I was going to fuck both of y'all but she talking she was tried and I couldn't just try and fuck u why she there that would ave been messy and I was tried for real" This aforementioned statement from COLE further shows the manipulative behavior, commonly used by traffickers, to control the victims.

40. Other conversations indicated that COLE is the primary source of supply of clothing and basic hygiene products for the victims. It was discovered in one conversation between Victim 1 and COLE that Victim 1 believed that she was going to start menstruating. Victim 1 asked COLE if he could purchase her tampons and pad. COLE replied, "Use sponges" In another conversation, Victim 1 is observed asking COLE to purchase clothing on her behalf.

Identification of Vehicle Operated by COLE

41. During the course of this investigation, it was discovered that COLE was operating a Nissan Armada bearing Ohio Registration GJD9513. It was discovered that this was an Enterprise rental vehicle that was rented by COLE. On the date of this incident the vehicle was viewed by investigators getting off the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The vehicle went to several locations in the Western Pennsylvania area and then returned to the scene during the evening hours, prior to this incident. The front seat passenger of the vehicle, identified as Trevaughn MERRITT (DOB: 8/7/2001), was viewed exiting the vehicle and going into the lobby. MERRITT rented room 302 and went up to Room 302 and the key did not work.

42. MERRITT then went back to the lobby and got a new key, and went up to Room 302 and into the room. MERRITT then left room 302 and went back to and got into the rental vehicle. Surveillance noted that a young female got out of the rental vehicle and walked up and entered into room 302. Investigators noted that that the female looked very young. Surveillance footage of the scene was reviewed at that time and investigators noted the female also looked younger than 18 years old.

43. The vehicle later left the scene, while under constant surveillance by investigators. During this timeframe a traffic stop was conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police on the vehicle for traffic violations near the Pennsylvania/Ohio border. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Donte COLE and front seat passenger as Trevaugh MERRITT. COLE was identified as the renter of the vehicle and consent was given to search the car. A small amount of marijuana was located scattered throughout the vehicle but not collected. The males were then given warnings, as well as identified and released.

Identification of COLE's Cellular Telephone Number

44. Utilizing an available law enforcement database, your Affiants were able to determine that the telephone number 216-534-2851 that was identified by the victim as being associated with COLE was provided service by T-Mobile, USA. Furthermore, it was discovered that COLE used this telephone number for an insurance claim in October of 2021 with an associated address of 16314 Stockbridge Ave. Cleveland, OH. 44128. As previously stated, your Affiants discovered that the known number of COLE was provided service by T-Mobile.

45. During the course of this investigation, your Affiants obtained a search warrant for these records and served it on T-Mobile. On June 08, 2023 your Affiants received the records and contacted T-Mobile for clarification on the records. Your Affiants learned that 216-534-2851 was active on T-Mobile on May 13, 2023 for one day, but was disconnected from their service. T-Mobile Legal Compliance staff advised that AT&T provided service to this number prior to May 13, 2023. Based upon your Affiants training and experience, we are aware that it is common for traffickers to periodically change their telephone numbers in order to evade detection by law enforcement, especially when their associates have had contact with law enforcement.



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Examination of COLE's Call Detail Records

46. During the course of this investigation, your Affiants conducted an analysis of COLE's call detail records. The timeframe of the records encompassed January 03, 2023 through May of 2023. The registered User Name on this account was listed at "King Royalty" a known alias of COLE. Your Affiants noted consistent travel to large cities in Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Greater Washington, DC. Area. Based upon a totality of the above gathered information, to include your Affiants training and experience working human trafficking investigation, your Affiants are aware that these areas are consistent with areas known for high human trafficking and prostitution related offenses.

47. Your Affiants then examined the most frequented cell towers that the device was in communication with during the timeframe of the records. The first most visited tower was in the greater Cleveland, OH area. This is likely due to the fact that COLE resides in Cleveland, OH. Your Affiants further discovered that the second and third most visited towers that COLE'S device was in communication with during this timeframe was near the Rodeway Inn in Monroeville, Pa. It should be noted that the Rodeway Inn was the location of the initial incident involving these victims in May of 2023.

48. Furthermore, based upon the close proximity to the numerous major thoroughfares within this area, to include Interstate 376 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, your Affiants are aware that this location is a prime location utilized by traffickers in furtherance of this criminal activity.

CashApp Records Associated with Donte COLE

49. During the course of this investigation your Affiants applied for and were granted a search warrant for the CashApp Account associated with the telephone number of COLE. Upon receipt of the records, your Affiants were able to confirm that the account holder is Donte COLE. The records contained photos of the front and back of COLE's Ohio Driver's License, COLE's name as the "Identity Verification Name", date of birth of 11/26/1984, COLE's known address of 16314 Stockbridge Ave. Cleveland, OH. and also COLE's known telephone number of 216-534-2851.

50. The cash tag was identified as "\$pgohggo." The internet Protocol (IP) information provided by CashApp further indicates that COLE is accessing this account, via an Apple iPhone. Further review of these records indicate that since May 14, 2022 COLE's CashApp Account has been linked to a PNC Bank Account with card number ending in 2495.

51. During a review of the received records your Affiants discovered numerous transactions from a female, "Lynette Tanner", to COLE on a consistent basis dating back to the beginning of January of 2023. Utilizing an available law enforcement database, it was discovered that TANNER is associated with addresses in Cleveland, Ohio that are also associated to COLE. 16314 Stockbridge Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio is the address on TANNER's Ohio Driver's License.

52. It was discovered that TANNER appears to have two Facebook accounts, both under the name "Honey Tanner." The Facebook accounts list various "check in locations", which are areas that TANNER would have posted on Facebook that she was visiting or located at during that particular post. One location is Monroeville, PA, which she checked in on May 20, 2022. Another check in is Weirton, WV on May 6, 2023.

53. "Honey Tanner" posts various reels (videos) including one of multiple hundred dollar bills and three that appears to have been taken in hotel rooms. Lastly, an unknown user left a comment on a post from "Honey Tanner" in January 2023 asking "How much for a half hour. Is it still 40 dollars for head?" There was no response to this comment. It should be noted that this communication is consistent with a customer inquiring how much TANNER charges for a half hour for a sex act. The question of "Is it still 40



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dollars for head?" further supports this fact, as this means that the unknown user is asking if she still charges \$40.00 for oral sex.

Examination of COLE's Apple iCloud Account

54. During the course of this investigation, your Affiants obtained Apple iCloud data associated with COLE's iCloud Account. Your Affiants, with assistance from the OAG Intelligence Section, began reviewing text messages from the account. These messages encompassed the timeframe of September of 2022 through April 24, 2023.

55. During the review, investigators identified communications between the known number of COLE and an iCloud Account of nenebridges19@icloud.com, believed to be the account of Victim 1. Investigators noted numerous communications between COLE and nenebridges19@icloud.com discussing prices offered for sexual acts performed by nenebridges19@icloud.com.

56. Based upon the conversations, it is apparent nenebridges19@icloud.com would seek permission from COLE for all decisions that she was making and that COLE was posting these advertisements on sites to attract customers who are seeking to pay for sexual acts with nenebridges19@icloud.com. It was also discovered that nenebridges19@icloud.com addresses COLE as "Daddy", which is a common title used by victims to address their traffickers.

57. The examination of COLE's iCloud data also uncovered numerous other telephone numbers and iCloud Accounts with similar conversations that COLE had with nenebridges19@icloud.com. Based upon this information, your Affiants aver that these telephone numbers and iCloud Accounts are likely associated with other potential trafficking victims and/or co-conspirators of Cole. The following are the identified accounts:

- +12162595547
- +12165073839
- +12165512386
- +12166126829
- +12167779888
- +12343133534
- +13046396407
- +14409906841
- +17245138275
- honeybunny8989@icloud.com

58. During the course of this investigation Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agent Fina Spory researched the aforementioned telephone numbers. It was discovered that many were used to place a high volume of advertisements online offering sexual acts in exchange for money in various cities. It should be noted that based upon previously obtained call detail records from COLE's cellular provider, COLE appeared to have travelled to many of these cities as well. These advertisements were placed in the following cities:

- Cleveland, Ohio
- Akron/Canton, Ohio
- Charlotte, North Carolina
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Northern Virginia, District of Columbia
- Tampa, Florida
- Youngstown, Ohio
- Charleston, South Carolina
- Chicago, Illinois



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- Washington D.C., District of Columbia

59. The advertisements also contained sexually suggestive photographs and language within the advertisements consistent with someone providing sexual acts in exchange for money. Based on your Affiants training and experience it is common in cases of sex trafficking where the online sex advertisement contains photos of a victim where the photo was taken by someone else, often times their pimp/trafficker. Your Affiants also noted that a photo of Lynette TANNER, a known associate and prostitute who works for COLE, was listed in one of the advertisements.

October 06, 2023 Cleveland, Ohio Incident

60. On Thursday, October 5, 2023 OAG Intelligence was reviewing advertisements on an available law enforcement resource used to track advertisements for sex placed online. The sites are also known to be utilized for human trafficking. OAG Intelligence discovered an advertisement for the minor victim identified during the initial incident in May of 2023.

61. It was discovered that as recently as October 1, 2023 the minor victim was placing advertisements for sex acts in exchange for money in the Pittsburgh, PA area. OAG Intelligence then located an active advertisement for the minor victim in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Shortly after discovery, investigators made contact with HSI Cleveland and the Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Taskforce. This task force operates under the purview of the Ohio Attorney General's Organized Crime Investigations Commission.

62. Acting in an undercover capacity, Ohio investigators attempted to make contact with the minor victim at her posted ad on October 5, 2023 with negative results. On October 6, 2023 the minor victim answered the undercover agent from the taskforce. It was discovered that the minor victim was located at an Economy Inn Hotel, located at 4751 Northfield Rd. North Randall, OH, in the suburbs of Cleveland., Ohio.

63. During the conversation, the minor victim agreed, via text, to commit a sex act with the agent operating in an undercover capacity. Based upon this information, the Ohio human trafficking task force went to the hotel and located the minor victim.

64. The minor victim, who was positively identified, was forensically interviewed at Canopy Child Advocacy Center in Cleveland, Ohio. During the conversation the minor victim acknowledged having sex with people in exchange for money. She stated that she did not give money to anyone and that she keeps the money for herself. She explained that she believes a female paid for the hotel that she was located at. She also stated that she did not know anyone named Donte COLE.

65. At one point, the forensic interviewer showed the minor victim a photo of COLE. The minor victim replied, "I don't know, you already asked me that." The forensic interviewed then clarified with the minor victim that she never showed the minor victim the photo prior to that first time. The Minor victim stated, "Ain't that supposed to be that man's name?" Based upon on the context of the conversation, your Affiants aver that the minor victim confirmed with the forensic interviewer that she does in fact know Donte COLE and that it was COLE in the picture.

66. The minor victim was taken to Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital located at 2101 Adelbert Rd., Cleveland, Ohio for treatment. The Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Youth were given custody of the minor victim. She was transported to her father's residence by a caseworker. The father is the legal guardian of the minor victim.

67. Based on the facts and circumstances outlined above, your Affiants respectfully request that a warrant be issued for Donte Lashawn COLE for the charges outlined in the criminal complaint.



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

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

[Signature]
JAMES HINDINGER / Lorraine A. Fascetti 223

(Signature of Affiant)

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

_____ Date _____, Magisterial District Judge:

My commission expires first Monday of January,

