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PRESS RELEASE

**Coatesville Man Mocks and Assaults
Victim With Cerebral Palsy**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and the West Chester Police Department announced the arrest of defendant Barry Baker for assault. The defendant saw a man with cerebral palsy walking into a convenience store, mocked the victim's disability, then sucker punched the victim in the face. The entire incident was captured on video. See <https://youtu.be/wKvhEp5VA8k>.

West Chester Police Chief Scott Bohn stated, "The defendant's actions in this case are appalling. You wonder what would make an individual treat somebody like that."

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "This defendant is a bully. Every decent citizen should be outraged by the defendant's conduct. The victim is to be commended for keeping his cool and notifying the police."

The defendant is 29 years old. He resides at 15 Somerset Drive, Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

The allegations of the criminal complaint are as follows:¹

On May 10, 2017, at approximately 2:30 a.m., the defendant and his friends were at a 7-11 convenience store located at 200 South High Street, West Chester,

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

Pennsylvania. The victim drove into the parking lot and parked his vehicle. The victim is a 22 year old male with cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy is a neurological disorder that affects body movement and muscle coordination.

The victim got out of his vehicle and entered the store. The defendant started making fun of the victim, mocking how the victim walked. When the victim came back out of the store, the defendant again mocked the victim, imitating how the victim moved. As the victim was standing in front of his vehicle, the defendant punched the victim directly in the face, without any warning. The defendant then fled around the corner of the store. The entire incident was recorded by security cameras.

The defendant has been charged with simple assault and related crimes. Bail was set at 10% of \$25,000, which the defendant is posting. The preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 30, 2017.

This case was investigated by the West Chester Police Department. Assistant District Attorney Cindy Morgan is the assigned prosecutor. Anybody with information about the incident should contact the West Chester Police Department at 610-696-2600.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan