

Chester County District Attorney's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

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MANHEIM MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER FOR STABBING COATESVILLE CITY POLICE OFFICER

Michael White, age 20, of Manheim, PA, was arrested for stabbing Coatesville City Police Officer William Cahill at a Turkey Hill store in Coatesville on September 3, 2021. Officer Cahill and his partner were in the process of responding to the report of a theft by an employee when the defendant attacked him with a fixed curved-blade knife. Cahill, a 35-year veteran law enforcement officer, suffered multiple stab wounds to his head and face and was later transported to Reading Hospital, where he is listed in stable condition. He is expected to be released today.

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announces that White is charged with attempted criminal homicide of a law enforcement officer, attempted first-degree murder, aggravated assault, recklessly endangering another person, possession of an instrument of crime, and related offenses. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Scott Massey and is being held without bail at Chester County Prison. His preliminary hearing is set for September 15, 2021.

"Yesterday was a harsh reality check of just how scary and dangerous the job of law enforcement is," said District Attorney Deb Ryan. "Danger lurks everywhere, and police are routinely involved in situations that may turn violent. It is imperative that we never take for granted the sacrifice law enforcement makes

for the safety and protection of others. Every one of them is a true hero, especially today, Officer Cahill. We are all extremely grateful that Officer Cahill is on his way to a speedy recovery and for the quick response of law enforcement. This was another example of outstanding teamwork where Coatesville City Police, East Fallowfield, Sadsbury, West and East Brandywine, Caln and West Caln Police Departments, and the Chester County Detectives moved rapidly to secure everyone's safety and stop further violence. Chester County is fortunate to have some of the best police anywhere in the world."

Coatesville Police Chief Jack Laufer said, "Thank you to Chester County Detectives for assisting us in this tragic incident that hit way too close to home. It's an indescribable feeling to get a call that one of your officers is down. The entire Coatesville City Police Department is thankful to the first-responders and the staff at Reading Hospital for putting our friend and colleague on the path to recovery."

The allegations in the complaint are the following¹:

On September 3, 2021, Coatesville City Police responded to the Turkey Hill store at 300 W. Kings Hwy., Coatesville, for the report of a theft by the defendant, an employee of the store. Officer Cahill and his partner met with the defendant in the management office inside the store.

Investigators learned the defendant told the police that he had stolen about \$3,000 from the Turkey Hill register over the past several months. That day he was confronted by a store manager after stealing another \$200.

The defendant told police he would return the money he had just stolen, along with the \$3,000 that he had in a safe at his residence. Officers told him he was free to leave to retrieve the money. The defendant's father was waiting in the parking lot to take him home.

After a calm and professional conversation that took place in front of other witnesses, Officer Cahill shook the defendant's hand and planned to leave the premises. The defendant then shoved him and stabbed him multiple times in the

¹ A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

head and face with a fixed curved-blade knife. The defendant was immediately arrested and taken into custody. Officer Cahill was transported to Brandywine Hospital and then transferred to Reading Hospital where he underwent surgery. He is expected to be released later today.

Chester County Detectives are investigating. Chief of Staff Andrea Cardamone is the assigned prosecutor.

If you have information about this incident, call Detective Dave Nieves at 610-344-4605.

Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney