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PRESS RELEASE

New Chester County Detectives Hired

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announced the hiring of three new members of the Chester County Detectives. The Chester County Detectives are the investigative arm of the District Attorney's Office.

The three new hires are as follows:

1. Detective John O'Donnell. Detective O'Donnell has over 30 years of law enforcement experience, with over 25 years serving with the West Chester Borough Police Department. He has worked patrol, drugs, major crimes, and community relations. He received his undergraduate degree from West Chester University.
2. Detective Keith Cowdright. Detective Cowdright has been a police officer for 15 years. Most recently, he was a Detective Sergeant for the New Garden Township Police Department, where he has served since 2005. He has prior experience working for the Coatesville Police Department, Chester County Sheriff's Office, and Chester County Prison. He has worked major investigations with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.
3. Detective Ben Martin. Detective Martin has been a police officer with the East Pikeland Township Police Department for 10 years. He served as a Detective Corporal for East Pikeland, investigating financial crimes,

drug crimes, and other major cases. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees from West Chester University, and currently is working towards his Ph.D. in Leadership. Detective Martin's father, Frank Martin, was a long-time and well-respected member of the Chester County Detectives who retired in 2012.

District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "We are fortunate to have extremely strong law enforcement in Chester County. These three detectives were chosen out of scores of applicants after a rigorous examination of their work history and a demanding interview process. They are strong additions to our already strong team."

Kevin Dykes, Chief of the Chester County Detectives, stated, "These three new detectives bring a tremendous amount of experience and diverse skills to the Chester County Detectives. Chester County police departments train outstanding investigators, giving the District Attorney's Office a vast array of potential candidates when we have an opening for a new detective."

President of the Chester County Police Chiefs Association Shane Clark, who is also the Chief of the West Pikeland Township Police Department, added, "We are proud to see that the newest members of the Chester County Detectives are home-grown talent. It is important for these investigators to understand the high professional and ethical standards of Chester County law enforcement. The Chiefs Association, working with the District Attorney's Office and County Commissioners, strive to provide Chester County police officers with the best training possible in order to protect and serve our citizens."

The new detectives will be formally sworn in by the Honorable Anthony Sarcione at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2017, in Courtroom 12.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan