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PRESS RELEASE

Treasurer of Fire Association Arrested for Embezzlement

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of Joseph Troiani for embezzling over \$70,000 from the Chester County Firefighters' Relief Association (the "Firefighters' Association").

The allegations from the criminal complaint¹ are as follows:

The defendant is 54 years old. He resides in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. He was the Treasurer for the Firefighters' Association for more than ten years.

The Firefighters' Association has been in existence since 1922. The Firefighters' Association pays a death benefit to families of firefighters who have died.

In 2011, the President of the Firefighters' Association reported unauthorized withdrawals from the Firefighters' Association's bank accounts. Only the defendant and the president had access to the accounts. This triggered an investigation by the Chester County Detectives.

The investigation revealed that the defendant had been transferring funds from the Firefighters' Association's bank accounts to the defendant's personal bank account. The defendant then spent the money for personal expenses. The defendant engaged in at least 100 of these fraudulent transactions over the course of four years. The total amount stolen was approximately \$74,000.00.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "There is no excuse for stealing from an organization that is dedicated to helping the families of Chester County firefighters. The treasurer of an organization occupies a position of trust. This type of conduct represents an appalling abuse of trust."

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

Hogan added, "This case is a wake-up call to businesses everywhere in Chester County. No business or organization is immune from fraud. A determined insider nearly always has the ability, at least in the short-term, to gain access to and steal funds."

Addressing safeguards that businesses should follow, Hogan stated, "Every business should use some simple anti-fraud techniques. First, require two signatures on all checks. Second, conduct a review of your financial records on a quarterly basis at a minimum. Third, at least once a year, conduct a surprise spot-check of your financial records. I don't care if your bookkeeper is your best friend or your mother, you still need to check your books."

The prosecution team of Assistant District Attorney Chris de Barrena-Sarobe and Chester County Detective Robert Dougherty investigated this case and are assigned to prosecute the matter.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan