



## DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF CHESTER COUNTY

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Cigar Store Owner Arrested for Drug Dealing**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of defendant Jeffrey MacDonald for drug offenses.

The defendant is 53 years old. He resides in Downingtown.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "Chester County will not tolerate drug dealing. Whether it is cocaine in a back alley or synthetic drugs slipped under the counter, these drugs are a danger to our children and our communities."

A summary of the allegations from the criminal complaint are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

The defendant is the owner and operator of JM Cigars in Exton, Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. In June of 2011, Uwchlan Township police officers discovered that the defendant was selling synthetic drugs out of JM Cigars. The defendant was warned by the police that the sale of such drugs would become illegal in August of 2011. The defendant promised to comply with the law.

However, the Uwchlan Police Department discovered that the defendant was continuing to sell synthetic drugs. The police repeatedly caught people who were receiving synthetic drugs from JM Cigars. The police eventually did a controlled buy of synthetic drugs out of the store and followed up with a search warrant on June 15, 2012. That search warrant led to the seizure of hundreds of doses of Schedule 1 controlled substances or synthetic analogs of Schedule 1 controlled substances.

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty at trial.

The defendant is charged with felony counts of delivering and possessing with the intent to deliver controlled substances, as well as other drug charges.

District Attorney Hogan added, "Chester County law enforcement has been actively checking stores to make sure they are not selling these synthetic drugs. This defendant was warned and chose to disregard the law. Hopefully everybody else gets the message."

The defendant was arrested by Uwchlan Township Police Department. Bail was set at \$25,000 (unsecured).

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan