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Statement of DA Mike Green Regarding First Keystone Bank Arrests

Media, PA - Good afternoon, my name is Mike Green and I am the District Attorney of Delaware County. I am joined today by Chief Brian Craig and Officer Anthony Aloï of the Swarthmore Borough PD, Lt. Joseph Ryan of the Delaware County CID Economic Crimes Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Michael Dugan, Chief Prosecutor in the Economic Crimes Unit. We are here today to announce the arrest of three individuals: Jean Marie Moronese of the 400 block of Charmont Avenue Folcroft, PA; Kelly Barksdale of the 700 block of Cherry Tree Road Upper Chichester, PA and Tyneesha Richardson of the 900 block of MacAdam Street Chester, PA.

Each of these women is charged with multiple felony counts of theft, conspiracy, and related offenses for their roles in embezzling over \$100,000 in cash and coin from the First Keystone Bank branch located on 33 Darthmouth Road, Swarthmore, PA. As with all defendants, Jean Marie Moronese, Kelly Barksdale, and Tyneesha Richardson are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Here is how this case unfolded. On or about May 21, 2009, Lt. Ryan was contacted by Swarthmore Police to assist in an embezzlement investigation at the First Keystone on Darthmouth Road in Swarthmore. Lt. Ryan met with Officer Aloï and Keystone bank security where it was related to him that a recent internal audit revealed a large sum of money missing from the bank's ATM. Interviews done with branch employees revealed that the money had been taken by the head teller, Jean Marie Moronese and tellers Kelly Barksdale and Tyneesha Richardson.

The CID investigation revealed that on May 21, the assistant branch manager of the Swarthmore Branch of First Keystone was conducting a cash count and discovered that \$60,000 that was supposed to be in the lockbox inside the ATM was missing. When the assistant manager asked defendant Kelly Barksdale about the missing money, Barksdale informed the manager that Jean Marie Moronese had taken the money and there was actually over \$100,000 missing. Investigation confirmed that an additional \$40,590 was missing from inside the ATM where it should have been stocked and ready to dispense to customer using the ATM.

Investigators discovered that Jean Marie Moronese began taking money from the ATM several months prior to discovery of the missing funds. In order to prevent detection of her theft, defendant Moronese would falsify ATM records and make it appear that the stolen money was in the ATM when in fact she had taken it for her own use. Moronese would enter numbers into the computer at the ATM to make it look like the money was there and falsify the paperwork that had to be filled out for the ATM. Although bank procedures required two persons to be involved with the counting and handling of ATM monies, these procedures were not being followed at the Swarthmore First Keystone Branch. Instead, Jean Marie Moronese always handled and counted the ATM monies and when Moronese was not there, Kelly Barksdale would handle and submit the counts for the ATM monies.

At some point after Moronese began skimming money from the ATM, she informed co-defendants Barksdale and Richardson of her scheme. Both Kelly Barksdale and Tyneesha Richardson assisted Moronese in covering up the thefts and personally took or knowingly received money from the First Keystone ATM.

Additionally, during investigation into missing money from the ATM, it was revealed that there was a problem with the Swarthmore Borough parking meter money that was deposited through the Swarthmore First Keystone Branch. Regularly, Swarthmore Borough would bring their meter money to First Keystone in sealed bags and the bank would open the bags and place in storage for a period of time to allow the coins to dry. Once the coins were dried, they would be run through a coin machine that would count the coins and dispense a receipt. The amount on the receipt was supposed to be deposited into a Swarthmore Borough account. On several occasions, however, the defendants would run the Swarthmore meter coins through the machine and simply cash out the receipts, splitting the cash among them. The records of Swarthmore borough coin deposits show a large amount of cash outs and a significant drop in income during 2007 and 2008 and the beginning of 2009. The revenue increased and the amount of cash outs decreased after the discovery of the thefts and the dismissal of these three defendants.

Moronese told investigators that she began taking the ATM money to pay off credit card debt and intended to pay the money back but admitted she got greedy and continued taking money to pay for rent, daycare, office lunches, and just to spend it. Barksdale admitted to using stolen ATM funds to pay back rent while Richardson admitted to using stolen monies to pay off a car loan and shortages in her teller drawer. To date, the total loss from the ATM and vault is \$100,590.00. A conservative estimate of the amount of coinage converted by the defendants' to their own personal use is in excess of \$20,000.

These defendants, by way of a relatively low tech and uncomplicated scheme, were able to bilk First Keystone Bank and Swarthmore Borough out of a significant amount of money. Although the bank had procedures in place to prevent this type of fraud, these procedures were apparently not followed. Once internal security procedures were utilized by way of an internal audit, it became immediately apparent that significant monies were missing and, very soon after, these thefts were discovered. This case is yet another example of the importance of not only implementing internal accounting safeguards, but ensuring that those safeguards are being followed by all employees at all levels of the business.