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PRESS RELEASE

Arrested: **MAURICIO ARGUEDAS**
 204 Morris St.
 Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Date of Birth: **June 6, 1982**

Additional charges were filed today against the above name individual. The above named individual was previously arrested October 28, 2009, by Detectives Travis Zechman of the Phillipsburg Police Department and Det. Melissa Fehr of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office on charges of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The new charges include First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault (2 counts), Second Degree Sexual Assault (3 counts), Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child (2 counts), Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child (2 counts), and Fourth Degree Criminal Sexual Contact (1 count).

A first-degree crime carries a maximum term of imprisonment of up to twenty (20) years New Jersey State Prison. A second-degree crime carries a maximum term of imprisonment of up to ten (10) years New Jersey State Prison. A third-degree crime carries a maximum term of up to five (5) years New Jersey State Prison. A fourth-degree crime carries a maximum term of up to eighteen (18) months New Jersey State Prison.


The complaints allege that Arguedas committed various sexual offenses with five minor female children between the ages of six and fifteen over the last three years. Arguedas was familiar with his victims. The complaints also allege that Arguedas sexually assaulted an adult female on numerous occasions over the last five years. Bail was set at \$300,000 no ten percent. Other conditions of bail include that he is to have no contact with the victims, the victims' families or anyone under the age of eighteen (18). He is presently

incarcerated in the Warren County Correctional Center. The defendant's first court appearance was scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. before Judge John J. Coyle, Jr., J.S.C..

The investigation was conducted by Detective Travis Zechman of the Phillipsburg Police Department and Det. Melissa Fehr of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office Special Victim's Unit.

Please be advised that the charges are merely accusations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty.

Approved by:



THOMAS S. FERGUSON
Prosecutor

DATE: November 9, 2009