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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Barry Baker Charged With Flight**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announced the filing of a criminal complaint against defendant Barry Baker for Flight to Avoid Apprehension after the defendant led law enforcement on a two-week manhunt. The defendant was originally arrested for mocking and then assaulting a man with cerebral palsy. After he made bail, two additional warrants were issued for his arrest and the defendant fled. He was captured by the United States Marshals and the Chester County Sheriffs on June 5, 2017.

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "On May 10 of this year, the defendant sucker punched a man with cerebral palsy. Since that unprovoked attack, the defendant has been arrested for assault, had his parole revoked, went on the run, was captured, and now has been charged with flight. The defendant's fiancée has been arrested for helping the defendant flee. The defendant's father has been arrested for dealing drugs. This is how Chester County law enforcement deals with bullies who pick on disabled people."

The allegations against the charged defendant are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

On May 10, 2017 at 2:30 A.M., the defendant committed an assault at the 7-Eleven convenience store located on the 200 Block of South High Street, West Chester Borough, Chester County, PA. The defendant mocked and then punched a man with cerebral palsy. On May 22, 2017, the defendant turned himself in with his lawyer and was arrested by West Chester Borough Police for the assault. He was subsequently released from custody after posting a monetary bail.

On the same day, the Chester County Court of Common Pleas issued a bench warrant for the defendant's arrest for failing to comply with the conditions of probation on a Theft from a Motor Vehicle case. On May 25, 2017, a second bench warrant was issued for the defendant after he failed to appear for a Domestic Relations hearing scheduled that morning.

The defendant was advised that warrants for his arrest were issued by the Court and he would need to surrender. The defendant declined to do so, despite making promises to turn himself in. Instead, the defendant fled from the residence he shared with his fiancée to evade capture by law enforcement agencies.

The fact that the defendant was wanted and on the run was broadcast widely to the public. The defendant's status was prominently featured on television, radio, newspaper, and social media. The defendant still refused to turn himself in.

During that time, members of the United States Marshals' Fugitive Task Force, the Chester County Sheriff's Fugitive Apprehension Unit, and various Chester County law enforcement agencies were searching for the defendant. Law enforcement was in contact with several family members and associates of the defendant, tracking his movements, and attempting to locate him across multiple states. There were rumors that he had fled as far as Florida.

On Sunday, June 4, 2017, Baker instructed his fiancée to purchase a hotel room for him in cash using an assumed name. His fiancée complied by renting a room at the Clarion Hotel in Exton, Chester County under a friend's name, and then hid a room key at a prearranged location so that the defendant would be able to access the room. She also purchased a prepaid cellular telephone for their use.

On Monday, June 5, 2017, Baker was apprehended by United States Marshals hiding in the bathroom of the rented hotel room. His iPhone was found inside the room in "airplane mode," a feature which disables cellular and Wi-Fi connections to the device and is a common tactic to attempt to avoid being tracked.

The defendant's fiancée confirmed that the defendant knew he was wanted and had been following the publicity regarding his flight from law enforcement.

The defendant's cellular phone was examined by the Chester County Detectives' Computer Forensics Unit. Investigators found internet search history records for the time period the defendant was fleeing which indicated the lengths he was willing to go to avoid detection. For instance, investigators found searches for "how do cops ping a cell phone" and "how to change my personal name," as well as searches for Greyhound bus services, Amtrak train schedules, and various locations in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The defendant's text messages included the defendant stating that he was not going to prison and that he was on the "top ten most wanted" list.

The defendant has been charged with Flight to Avoid Apprehension. He will be arraigned on the new complaint in the near future.

This case was investigated by the Chester County Detectives. The assigned prosecutor is Assistant District Attorney Cindy Morgan. Anybody with information should contact Chester County Detective Keith Cowdright at (610) 344-6866.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan