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**District Attorney Calls for CASD Board to
Cooperate in Criminal Investigation**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announced an update on the criminal investigation of the Coatesville Area School District ("CASD").

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "There is an easy way and a hard way for CASD to deal with this investigation. The CASD Board can cooperate fully, help to discover any crimes, and allow the truth to be exposed. Or the CASD Board can fight the investigation, attempt to cover up any misconduct, and try to hide the truth. At the end of the day, the Commonwealth will discover the full truth. The only question is whether the CASD Board will help or hinder this process."

The CASD Board and its Solicitor originally pledged "full cooperation" with the Commonwealth's investigation. However, the conduct of the School District and its counsel has fallen far short of full cooperation.

Instead, the CASD Board and its Solicitor appear to be attempting to obstruct, evade, and delay this criminal investigation. They have delayed or refused to produce basic documents. They have attempted to block CASD employees and representatives from providing information to the Commonwealth. They have taken steps to harass, intimidate, and bully the whistleblowers who initially reported wrongdoing. None of this conduct will derail this investigation, but it gives the appearance to all involved that CASD and its Solicitor have no interest in allowing the truth to be uncovered.

As part of this investigation, the CASD Solicitor and the Solicitor's law firm are now being investigated for potential criminal conduct. This investigation includes the issues of obstruction of justice and whether CASD and Coatesville taxpayers were defrauded through the payment of improper legal fees and expenses. The Solicitor and his law firm have billed CASD for millions of dollars of legal fees over the past few years.

The Commonwealth next will be asking for the CASD Board to produce voluntarily all documents regarding legal bills and expenses paid to the Solicitor and his law firm. These documents are necessary to determine whether taxpayer funds were used illegally.

Because the Solicitor and his law firm now are being investigated for their own conduct, the Solicitor and his firm have a legal conflict of interest, and may no longer represent CASD in this investigation. CASD must appoint independent counsel who can assist CASD and Coatesville taxpayers in uncovering any unlawful conduct that took place in the School District.

District Attorney Hogan added, "Sometimes the best way to get out of a hole is to put down the shovel and stop digging. The CASD Board should heed this advice."

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan