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ESTATE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary or of administration have been granted to the following estates. All persons indebted to said estates are required to make payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the administrators or executors named.

Third Publication

HARRY DURBIN, a/k/a HARRY LOUIS DURBIN, a/k/a HARRY L. DURBIN, late of

Dunbar Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Executor*: Brian L. Durbin 102 Carriage Drive Cranberry Township, Pa c/o Thomson, Rhodes & Cowie, P.C. 1010 Two Chatham Center Pittsburgh, PA 15219 *Attorney*: Glenn Gillette

DONALD ROCK, late of Masontown, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Belita D. Rock c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Gary J. Frankhouser

ROBERT E. ROWE, late of Lower Tyrone

Township, Fayette County, PA (3) *Co-Executors*: Amy Swantek and Aaron Rowe c/o 4 North Beeson Boulevard Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Sheryl Heid

JULES ALAN SCANGO, SR., late of

Masontown, Fayette County, PA (3) *Administrator*: Jules Alan Scango, Jr. c/o Proden & O'Brien 99 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Wendy L. O'Brien

Second Publication

JUDITH M. BAIRD, late of North Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executrix*: Jamie L. Supensky c/o Webster & Webster 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Webster & Webster

JOHN A. CANADA, a/k/a JOHN ANTHONY

CANADA, late of Dunbar Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representative: Sharon A. Canada c/o Watson Mundorff & Sepic, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Timothy J. Witt

MARY R. FIKE, late of Uniontown, Fayette

County, PA (2) Personal Representatives: Bradley T. Fike 28 Oak Hill Drive Uniontown, PA 15401 Kristin L. Fike 17 Jordan Street Fairchance, PA 15436 c/o DeHaas Law, LLC 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Ernest P. DeHaas, III

STELLA M. HARTZEL, a/k/a TAMMY

LYNN HARTZEL, late of North Union Township, Fayette County, PA (2) *Administratrix*: Ronda L. Hartzel 314 Chestnut Hill Street Gaithersburg, MD 20878 c/o 111 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 *Attorney*: Robert R. Harper, Jr.

HELEN VEGHTS, a/k/a HELEN ARLENE

VEGHTS, late of Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (2) *Executor*: Dayna A. Veghts 615 Snyder Street Connellsville, PA 15425 c/o Zacharia Brown, P. C. 111 West McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317 *Attorney*: Benjamin Urso

First Publication

DENNIS PAUL HUGHES, late of

Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (1) *Executrix*: Pamela S. Hughes c/o Casini & Geibig, LLC 815B Memorial Boulevard Connellsville, PA 15425 *Attorney*: Jennifer M. Casini

ALTA PHILLIPS KAMP, late of

Markleysburg, Fayette County, PA (1) *Executor*: Brett Phillips 342 Washington Road Waynesburg, PA 15370

ELZIE LAVERY, a/k/a ELZIE E. LAVERY,

SR., late of South Union Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Administratrix: Nicole Renee Lavery-Behlke c/o Higinbotham Law Offices 45 East Main Street, Suite 500 Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: James Higinbotham

KENNETH MILLER, a/k/a KENNETH

DARWIN MILLER, late of Luzerne Township, Fayette County, PA (1) *Administratrix*: Candy Cunningham

Administrative: Candy Cunningham
c/o Goodwin Como, P.C.
108 North Beeson Boulevard, Suite 400
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Benjamin Goodwin

THEODORE SOBEK, a/k/a THEODORE A.

SOBEK, late of Perryopolis, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representatives: Greg N. Sobek and Lisa Sobek c/o Proden & O'Brien 99 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Wendy L. O'Brien

SONDRA JILL WHITMAN, late of North

Union Township, Fayette County, PA Executrix: Sondra Denise Johns c/o 51 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Webster & Webster

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNYSLVANIA CIVIL DIVISION No.: 128 of 2019 GD

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, FOR THE CIM MORTGAGE-BACKED TRUST 2016-2. NOTES. SERIES 2016-2 (Plaintiff) VS. HEATHER DUTTRY IN HER CAPACITY AS SURVIVING HEIR OF BETH LISA DUTTRY A/K/A BETH SCHAFFER, DECEASED, THOMAS SCHAFFER IN HIS CAPACITY AS SURVIVING HEIR OF BETH LISA DUTTRY A/K/A BETH SCHAFFER, DECEASED, AND UNKNOWN SURVIVING HEIRS OF BETH LISA DUTTRY A/K/A BETH SCHAFFER. DECEASED: (Defendants)

NOTICE

TO DEFENDANTS:

You are hereby notified U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee, for the CIM Trust 2016-2, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2016-2, has filed a Complaint in Mortgage Foreclosure with regard to 301 Delmont Avenue, Belle Vernon, PA 15012, endorsed with a Notice to Defend, against you at No. 128 of 2019 GD in the Civil Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, wherein plaintiff seeks to foreclose on the mortgage encumbering said property, which foreclosure would lead to a public sale by the Fayette County Sheriff.

If you wish to defend, you must enter a written appearance personally or by attorney and file your defenses or objections in writing with the court. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you without further notice for the relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

SOUTHWESTERN PA LEGAL SERVICES 45 EAST MAIN STREET UNIONTOWN, PA 15401 724-439-3591 800-846-0871 (TOLL FREE)

PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY: STEPHEN M. HLADIK, ESQUIRE AT 298 WISSAHICKON AVENUE, NORTH WALES, PA 19454, 215-855-9521

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL ACTION - LAW ACTION TO QUIET TITLE No. 320 of 2019 G.D. JUDGE STEVE P. LESKINEN

CHAD EVERETT BURNSWORTH, Plaintiff,

V.

PNC BANK, N.A., MABEL HOLT and DOLORES ANN HOLT, their successors, heirs, personal representatives, and assigns, generally, Defendants.

TO: MABEL HOLT and DOLORES ANN HOLT their heirs, successors and assigns, generally,

You are hereby notified that Chad Everett Burnsworth, has filed a complaint at the above number and term in the above-mentioned court in an action to quiet title wherein it is alleged that he is the owner in possession of that certain lot of land situate in Bullskin Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania having a mailing address of 220 Texas Avenue, Connellsville, Pennsylvania.

Title to the above described property was

conveyed to Mabel Holt and Dolores Ann Holt by a deed from Blanch Bitner, Executrix for the Estate of Anna Brooks being recorded at the Recorder of Deeds Office at Deed Book 1002, Page 840.

Said complaint sets forth that the plaintiff is the owner in fee simple of the abovedescribed premises. The complaint was filed for the purpose of barring all of your right, title, and interest, or claim in and to all or a portion of said premises.

NOTICE

You are hereby notified that you have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claim set forth in the complaint and in the within advertisement, you must take action within twenty (20) days after the last advertisement of this notice by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claim set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so, the case may proceed without you and a judgment may entered against you by the court without further notice or any money claimed in the complaint, or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS NOTICE TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GOT TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION PENNSYLVANIA LAWYER REFERRAL 100 SOUTH STREET P.O. BOX 186 HARRISBURG, PA 17108 1-800-932-0311

By Jason F. Adams, Esq. Adams & Adams 55 E. Church Street Uniontown, PA 15401 (724) 437-2711

NOTICE IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

CIVIL DIVISION NO. 874 OF 2017, G.D.

IMOGENE M. VINOSKI, EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS A. VINOSKI, DECEASED vs. CITY OF CONNELLSVILLE vs. KATHLEEN LEIGHLITER

Notice To Kathleen Leighliter, an individual, who was involved in a pedestrian/automobile accident on November 28, 2015:

You Have Been Sued in Court. More than twenty (20) days have elapsed since the Complaint was filed and since the Writ of Summons was served on you by the Sheriff. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth against you, you must take action by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the Court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the Court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

Pennsylvania Lawyer Referral Service Pennsylvania Bar Association 100 South Street P.O. Box 186 Harrisburg, PA 17108 Telephone: 1-800-692-7375

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of FAYETTE COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, a Pennsylvania Domestic Non-Profit Corporation with its registered office located at 334 Main Street, Fayette City, Pennsylvania 15438, were filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the 1 day of April, 2019, pursuant to the provisions of the Non-Profit Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 15 Pa. C.S. Section 5915.

The nature and character of the amendment is: The name of the Corporation was changed to "FAYETTE COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, INC."

KIM ROSS HOUSER

Mears, Smith, Houser & Boyle, P.C. Attorneys at Law 127 North Main Street Greensburg PA 15601-2403 (724) 832-8700

NOTICE OF ACTION IN MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE, PA CIVIL ACTION - LAW

US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY vs.

JOHN A. YOUGER

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NO. 2014-01689

TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHN A. YOUGER

You are hereby notified that on JUNE 20, 2019, a Sheriff Sale of Real Property will be held at 2:00PM at the FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 61 EAST MAIN STREET UNIONTOWN, PA 15401. The location of the property to be sold is 111 EAST SECOND STREET, GRINDSTONE, PA 15442. whereupon this property would be sold by the

Sheriff of FAYETTE COUNTY. The said writ of execution has been issued as judgment in Mortgage Foreclosure Action at execution NO 2014-01689 in the amount of \$100,472.81.

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA Bankruptcy Case No. 17-23218 TPA Chapter 13 Document No. ____ Hearing Date and Time: June 12, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.

IN RE:

Tammy M. Mader, Debtor.

Tammy M. Mader, Movant,

VS.

Ronda J. Winnecour, Chapter 13 Trustee, Respondents.

NOTICE OF NON-EVIDENTIARY HEARING WITH RESPONSE DEADLINE ON MOTION TO SELL REAL PROPERTY

TO THE RESPONDENTS AND ALL CREDITORS AND PARTIES IN INTEREST:

You are hereby notified that the above Movant seeks an order to sell real property in which respondents may have an interest.

Property to be sold: 332 Breakiron Road, Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania consisting of a garage on a .80 acre lot, Parcel ID No. 04-36-0046.

Initial Offeror: Lonnie Woods and Sandra Crossland, 150 Swink Hill Road, Connellsville, PA 15425

Initial Offer: \$16,500.00 with \$500 down

Terms of Sale: No-Contingency/Special Warranty Deed/Closing within 30 days. Seller and Buyer shall equally divide and pay any transfer taxes. Seller and Buyer shall prorate as of the date of closing all unpaid 2019 real estate taxes. Delinquent real estate taxes, and a municipal lien encumbering the property to be paid at closing. Buyer shall pay to record the deed and all other costs of closing.

Contact: Daniel R. White, Esquire and Zebley Mehalov & White, P.C., P.O. Box 2123, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, 15401, (724) 439-9200, for information, terms and conditions, or to examine property.

Responses and objections shall be filed and served by June 3, 2019. Higher or better bids are not an objection to the motion. If respondents fail to timely respond, the motion may be granted without a hearing.

A hearing will be held on June 12, 2019, at 11:30 a.m. before Judge Agresti in Courtroom C, 54th Floor, U.S. Steel Tower, 600 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

The court will entertain higher and better offers at the hearing. Terms announced at sale will supercede the terms of any prior notice.

Requests for information regarding subject real estate should be directed to the undersigned.

ZEBLEY MEHALOV & WHITE, P.C. BY Daniel R. White PA I.D. No. 78718 Zebley Mehalov & White, P.C. P.O. Box 2123 Uniontown, PA 15401 (724) 439-9200 Email: dwhite@Zeblaw.com Dated: May 20, 2019

MARSHAL'S SALE: By virtue of a Writ of Execution issued out of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and to me directed, I shall expose to public sale the real property located at 100 High Street, Brownsville, PA 15417 being more fully described at Fayette County deed Book Volume 110, Page 154. **SAID SALE** to be held at the Fayette County Courthouse, 61 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 10:00 a.m. prevailing, standard time, on June 26, 2019. All that certain tract of land, together with the

buildings, and improvements erected thereon described as Tax Identification No. 02060008 recorded in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Seized and taken in execution as the property of Sage Partners, LP successor by merger to Sage Associates at the suit of the United States of America, acting through the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to be sold on Writ of Execution as Civil Action No. 2.18-CV-01622. TERMS OF SALE: Successful bidder will pay ten percent (10%) by certified check or money order upon the property being struck down to such bidder, and the remainder of the bid within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale and in the event bidder cannot pay the remainder, the property will be resold and all monies paid in at the original sale will be applied to any deficiency in the price at which the property is resold. The successful bidder must send payment of the balance of the bid directly to the U.S. Marshal's Office c/o Sheila Blessing, 700 Grant Street, Suite 2360, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Bidder must have deposit funds immediately available and on his person in order to bid, bidder will not be permitted to leave the sale and return with deposit funds. Notice is hereby given that a Schedule of Distribution will be filed by me on the thirtieth day after the date of sale, and that distribution will be made in accordance with the Schedule unless exemptions are filed thereto within ten (10) days thereafter. Purchaser must furnish State Realty Transfer Tax Stamps, and stamps required by the local taxing authority. Marshal's costs, fees and commissions are to be borne by seller. Michael Baughman, Acting United States Marshal. For additional information, please contact Holly Maloy at 817-978-5556. (2 of 4)

JUDICIAL OPINION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CRIMINAL DIVISION

•
:
: No. 1515 of 2018
: Honorable Linda R. Cordaro

OPINION

CORDARO, J.

November 21, 2018

SUMMARY

Before the Court is Defendant's Omnibus Pretrial Motion to Suppress Evidence and Dismiss Charges. For the following reasons, Defendant's Motion is granted in part and denied in part.

BACKGROUND

As the result of events that unfolded on February 4, 2018, Defendant was charged with DUI: General Impairment, Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, and IO various traffic-related summary offenses.

A preliminary hearing was held on July 2, 2018 before the Honorable District Judge Nathan Henning. At the hearing, the following testimony was presented.

First, the Commonwealth called Kenneth Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell is the owner of Professional Auto Services, a towing company in Uniontown. His shop is located about a block from Mr. Mitchell's house. Mr. Mitchell knows Mr. Sroka personally.

Around 11:50 AM on February 4, 2018, Mr. Mitchell received a phone call from Mr. Sroka. On the phone, Mr. Sroka identified himself as "Pat," and Mr. Mitchell knew who it was. Mr. Sroka then related that his Jeep was in a ditch near his house and needed to be towed. The reason Mr. Sroka gave for his vehicle being in a ditch was because the roads were icy. Mr. Mitchell informed Mr. Sroka that if there was an accident, Mr. Sroka would need to call the police before Mr. Mitchell's company could tow the vehicle. The phone call lasted less than five minutes.

Mr. Mitchell also testified that he is a firefighter and that minutes after the call ended, his monitor went off, dispatching firefighters to the vehicle accident. The Commonwealth next called Trooper Anthony Vittone of the Pennsylvania State Police. Trooper Vittone testified that on February 4, 2018, he was dispatched around noon to the site of an incident involving a single vehicle crash on Stadium Drive in Fayette County.

When Trooper Vittone arrived on scene, he observed a Jeep off the road and into a lightpole in a baseball field. The fire department was on scene. The driver was not. There was canvassing for the driver, but no one was found in the immediate vicinity. Trooper Vittone looked up the registration from the license plate and discovered that the owner of the Jeep was Patrick Sroka. The trooper then went to Mr. Sroka's house, which is about a half-mile from the scene of the accident.

Within 20 minutes, Trooper Vittone arrived at Mr. Sroka's house. Upon arrival, Trooper Vittone was met in the driveway by Mr. Sroka's wife, who was arriving at the same time. Mr. Sroka's wife gave Trooper Vittone permission to enter the residence. After entering, Trooper Vittone encountered Mr. Sroka. Mr. Sroka was slurring his speech, he was staggering, he had a strong odor of alcohol on him, and he had glassy, bloodshot eyes. Trooper Vittone asked Mr. Sroka to produce his driver's license; Mr. Sroka did not produce one.

Mr. Sroka told Trooper Vittone he was in a vehicle accident because he hit ice. Trooper Vittone testified that it was not icy that day. The trooper suspected that Mr. Sroka wrecked his vehicle due to driving under the influence of alcohol and then fleeing the scene. As a result, the trooper told Mr. Sroka he was under arrest. Mr. Sroka told the trooper he would have to fight him. The trooper tried to grab Mr. Sroka's arm, but Mr. Sroka struggled and began spinning around. The two went into a kitchen cabinet as a result of the struggle. They then went through a screen door and onto an outdoor patio. The trooper injured his hand because of the struggle.

Eventually, Trooper Vittone was able to handcuff Mr. Sroka and put him in the back of the police car. Mr. Sroka began complaining of back injuries. EMS was called to the scene. After he was cleared, Mr. Sroka was taken to the police station, where he refused a blood draw.

Third, the Commonwealth called Arthur Metts, who is a paramedic for Fayette EMS. Mr. Metts testified that around noon on February 4, 2018, he was dispatched to the scene of the wreck and observed a maroon Jeep into a lightpole on the baseball field. There was nobody around the vehicle.

About 15 or 20 minutes later, Mr. Metts was dispatched to the home of Mr. Sroka, who was complaining about back pain. Mr. Sroka told Mr. Metts he wrecked his car in the yard. Mr. Metts did not see a car in Mr. Sroka's yard. Mr. Metts could smell alcohol on Mr. Sroka, who had glassy, bloodshot eyes and slurred speech. Mr. Sroka stated that he had been drinking since 9 AM that morning.

As a result of the incident on February 4, 2018, Mr. Sroka was charged with the following:

1) Driving under the Influence of Alcohol or Controlled Substances (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3802(a)(1));

2) Resisting Arrest (18 Pa.C.S.A. §5104);

3) Disorderly Conduct (18 Pa.C.S.A. §5503);

4) Failure to Carry and Exhibit a Driver's License on Demand (75 Pa.C.S.A. §1511);

5) Failure to Obey Traffic Control Devices (75 Pa.C.S.A. § 3111);

6) Failure to Keep Right (75 Pa.C.S.A §3301);

7) Failure to Drive on Roadways Laned for Traffic (75 Pa.C.S.A § 3309);

8) Failure to Drive at a Safe Speed (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3361);

9) Abandonment of a Vehicle (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3712);

10) Careless Driving (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3714);

11) Reckless Driving (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3736);

12) Failure to Give Information and Render Aid (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3744); and

13) Failure to Provide Immediate Notice of Accident to Police Department (75 Pa.C.S.A §3746).

The first three charges are misdemeanors. The last ten are summary offenses.

Mr. Sroka filed an Omnibus Pretrial Motion on September 4, 2018. This Court scheduled a hearing for the Motion for October 29, 2018. On that date, the Common-wealth informed this Court that the parties agreed that the 1 fotion should be determined on the basis of the Preliminary Hearing.

DISCUSSION

Defendant's Omnibus Pretrial Motion does not appear to assert any recognizable legal challenges to Mr. Sroka's arrest or the charges against him. Rather, the Motion consists mostly of factual statements or allegations without stating their relevance, and at the end asks this Court to dismiss all charges against the Defendant without saying why. In the interest of justice, this Court \\'ill treat the Motion as a writ of habeas corpus

challenging that the Commonwealth did not present sufficient evidence at the preliminary hearing to present a primafacie case against the Defendant.

A preliminary hearing is not a trial. Commonwealth v. McBride, 595 A.2d 589, 591 (Pa. 1991). The main purpose of a preliminary hearing is "to protect an individual's right against an unlawful arrest and detention." Id. (citing Commonwealth v. Mullen, 333 A.2d 755, 757 (Pa. 1975)). At a preliminary hearing, the Commonwealth "bears the burden of establishing at least a primafacie case that a crime has been committed and that the accused is probably the one who committed it." Id. (citing Commonwealth v. Prado, 393 A.2d 8, 10 (Pa. 1978); Pa.R.Crim.P. 141(d)). Importantly, "[i]t is not necessary for the Commonwealth to establish at this stage the accused's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt." Id. (citing Commonwealth v. Rick, 366 A.2d 302, 303 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1976)).

In order to show a primafacie case, the Commonwealth must present evidence with regard to each material element of the crimes charged and sufficient probable cause that the accused is the person who committed the offense. Id. (citing Commonwealth u. Wojdak, 466 A.2d 991, 996-97 (Pa. 1983). The weight and credibility of the evidence are not factors at this stage. Wojdak at 997. The Commonwealth may establish its burden by wholly circumstantial evidence. See, e.g., Commonwealth v. De Petro, 39 A.2d 838, 842 (Pa. 1944). However, circumstantial evidence must rise above mere suspicion and conjecture. Prado at 10.

Each charge against Mr. Sroka will be discussed separately.

1. DUI: General Impairment.

Mr. Sroka was charged with DUI: General Impairment. Under the relevant statute, "[a]n individual may not drive, operate[,] or be in actual physical control of the movement of a vehicle after imbibing a sufficient amount of alcohol such that the individual is rendered incapable of safely driving, operating[,] or being in actual physical control of the movement of the vehicle." 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3802(a)(1).

Defendant states in his Omnibus Pretrial Motion that he did not consent to a blood draw; apparently this is supposed to be an argument that the charge should be dismissed against Mr. Sroka. However, a defendant need not have a blood test proving a certain blood alcohol level to be convicted of the DUI: General Impairment statute.

Rather, "the Commonwealth must prove that (1) the defendant was the operator of a motor vehicle, and (2) during operation of the vehicle [the defendant] was under the influence of alcohol to such a degree that rendered [the defendant] incapable of safe driving." Commonwealth v. Mantini, 712 A.2d 761, 768 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1998) (citing Commonwealth v. Kelley, 652 A.2d 378,382 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1994)).

To establish that a driver is incapable of safe driving, the Commonwealth must

prove "that alcohol has substantially impaired the normal mental and physical faculties required to operate the vehicle safely." Mantini at 768 (citing Commonwealth v. Kowalek, 647 A.2d 948, 950 (Pa. Super. Ct. 1994)). "Substantially impaired" means a diminution or enfeeblement in the ability to exercise judgment, to deliberate, or to react prudently to changing circumstances and conditions. Id.

It is also important to note that the Commonwealth need not establish the exact time of the accident to convict a defendant of DUI: General Impairment. See, Commonwealth v. Williams, 941 A.2d 14, 30 n.7 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2008).

Here, when Trooper Vittone found Mr. Sroka in his house, Mr. Sroka showed clear signs of impairment due to alcohol. Mr. Sroka had glassy, bloodshot eyes, a strong odor of alcohol, was slurring his speech, and tried to fight a police officer. Mr. Sroka also told Mr. Metts that he had been drinking since 9 AM that morning. {1}

Additionally, Mr. Sroka told Mr. Mitchell, Trooper Vittone, and Mr. Metts that he was involved in a car wreck. He also called Mr. Mitchell to tell him that his car was off the road in a ditch. The phone call took place minutes before emergency responders arrived on scene. Both Trooper Vittone and Mr. Metts saw Mr. Sroka's vehicle off the road into a lightpole on a baseball field.

Based on the corroboration of the witnesses' testimonies, the Commonwealth presented sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case that Mr. Sroka was driving under the influence of alcohol in violation of the criminal statute.

2. Resisting Arrest.

Next, Mr. Sroka was charged with resisting arrest. Under that statute, "[a] person commits a misdemeanor of the second degree if, with the intent of preventing a public servant from effecting a lawful arrest or discharging any other duty, the person creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to the public servant or anyone else, or employs means justifying or requiring substantial force to overcome the resistance." 18 Pa.C.S.A. §5104.

^{1} At the Preliminary Hearing. Defense Counsel objected multiple times to J\-1r. Sroka's statements to other witnesses as hearsay. However, Pa.R.E. 803(25) allows for the admission of an opposing party's statement as an exception to the rule against hearsay. Further, hearsay evidence is admissible at a preliminary hearing. See, Commonwealth v. Jackson, 849 A.2d 1254, 1257 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2004).

When Trooper Vittone told Mr. Sroka he was under arrest, Mr. Sroka responded by saying that the trooper would have to fight him. When Trooper Vittone went to grab Mr. Sroka's arms to put him in handcuffs, Mr. Sroka began to spin and threw the two of them into a kitchen cabinet and then through a screen door onto an outdoor patio. Mr. Sroka continued to struggle with the trooper until the trooper was eventually able to handcuff Mr. Sroka. Trooper Vittone suffered a hand injury as a result of the struggle.

Defendant's Omnibus Pretrial Motion states that "Defendant did not physically resist [arrest];" it then proceeds to give Defendant's version of events. This is inappropriate for an omnibus pretrial motion. Factual disputes are resolved by the fact- finder at trial. For purposes of a preliminary hearing, it is sufficient that the Commonwealth present sufficient evidence for each charge that, if true, would result in the Defendant being guilty of that charge.

Because Trooper Vittone suspected Mr. Sroka of driving under the influence and other criminal offenses, Trooper Vittone was effecting a lawful arrest of the Defendant. Mr. Sroka's behavior caused a substantial risk of bodily injury by spinning around and fighting back against the trooper. The Commonwealth presented sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case of Resisting Arrest at the Preliminary Hearing.

3. Disorderly Conduct

Mr. Sroka was charged with Disorderly Conduct. Under that statute, "[a] person is guilty of disorderly conduct if, with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance[,] or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof, that person engages in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior." 18 Pa.C.S.A. §5503.

Mr. Sroka created annoyance, alarm, and a public inconvenience by fighting with Trooper Vittone. Mr. Sroka's actions also caused the trooper to be unable to perform his public duties. The Commonwealth presented sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for Disorderly Conduct.

4. Failure to Carry and Exhibit a Driver's License on Demand.

Mr. Sroka was next charged with Failure to Carry and Exhibit a Driver's License on Demand. Under the statute, "[e]very licensee shall possess a driver's license issued to the licensee at all times when driving a motor vehicle and shall exhibit the license upon demand by a police officer, and when requested by the police officer the licensee shall write the licensee's name in the presence of the officer in order to provide identity." 75 Pa.C.S.A. §1511.

Here, Trooper Vittone went to Mr. Sroka's house after discovering he was the owner of the vehicle that was off the road into a lightpole on a baseball field. Upon finding Mr. Sroka in his residence, Trooper Vittone asked him to produce a driver's license. Mr. Sroka was unable to do so. There does not appear to be any relevant Pennsylvania caselaw addressing how long after an incident a driver must produce a license to the police upon request. Clearly, if Mr. Sroka had been at the scene of the wreck, it would have been appropriate for the trooper to demand that Mr. Sroka produce his driver's license. There should not be an exception just because Mr. Sroka left the scene of the accident before emergency responders arrived. Additionally, the statute gives defendants the opportunity to avoid a penalty if they produce a valid driver's license to the appropriate authorities within 15 days of being asked. So even if Mr. Sroka was unable to produce his license at his house, he had 15 days after this incident to produce a license.

Mr. Sroka failed to produce a valid driver's license to Trooper Vittone after causing an accident, and there is no evidence that he produced one within 15 days of the incident. The Commonwealth presented sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for Failure to Carry and Exhibit a Driver's License on Demand.

5. Failure to Obey Traffic-Control Devices

Mr. Sroka was charged with Failure to Obey Traffic-Control Devices. That statute states that:

Unless otherwise directed by a uniformed police officer or any appropriately attired person authorized to direct, control[,] or regulate traffic, the driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any applicable official traffic-control device placed or held in accordance with the provisions of this title, subject to the privileges granted the driver of an emergency vehicle in this title.

75 Pa.C.S.A. § 3111.

Here, the Commonwealth did not present any evidence at the preliminary hearing that Mr. Sroka failed to obey any traffic-control devices. This charge shall be dismissed.

6. Failure to Drive on the Right Side of the Roadway.

Mr. Sroka was charged with Failure to Drive on the Right Side of the Roadway. Under that statute:

Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway except as follows:

(1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction where permitted by the rules governing such movement.

(2) When an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the roadway, provided the driver yields the right-of-way to all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portion of the road-

way within such distance as to constitute a hazard.

(3) When and where official traffic-control devices are in place designating a lane or lanes to the left side of the center of the roadway for the movement indicated by the devices.

(4) Upon a roadway restricted to one-way traffic.

(5) When making a left turn as provided in sections 3322 (relating to vehicle turning left) and 3331 (relating to required position and method of turning).

(6) In accordance with section 3303(a)(3) (relating to overtaking vehicle on the left).

75 Pa.C.S.A. §3301.

Here, Mr. Sroka drove off of the right side of the road and into a lightpole as a result of driving under the influence of alcohol. Because driving under the influence of alcohol is not an exception to the requirement that a driver drives on the right side of the road, the Commonwealth provided sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for this charge.

7. Failure to Drive on Roadways Laned for Traffic.

Mr. Sroka was charged with failure to drive on roadways laned for traffic. Under the statute,

Whenever any roadway has been divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic[,] the following rules in addition to all others not inconsistent therewith shall apply: (1) Driving within single lane.--A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and shall not be moved from the lane until the driver has first ascertained that the movement can be made with safety.

75 Pa.C.S.A. § 3309.

Here, Mr. Sroka drove outside of his lane when he drove off the road. The Commonwealth provided sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for this charge.

8. Failure to Drive at a Safe Speed.

Mr. Sroka was charged with Failure to Drive at a Safe Speed. Under the statute:

No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing, nor at a speed greater than will permit the driver to bring his vehicle to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead. Consistent with the foregoing, every person shall drive at a safe and appropriate speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railroad grade crossing, when approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway [,] and when special hazards exist with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.

75 Pa.C.S.A. §3361.

There is no speed at which it is safe to operate a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Therefore, the Commonwealth provided sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for this charge.

9. Abandonment of a Vehicle.

Mr. Sroka was charged with Abandonment of a Vehicle. Under the statute, "[n]o person shall abandon a vehicle upon any public or private property without the express or implied consent of the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the property." 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3712.

Under the definition of "Abandoned Vehicle" in the Vehicle Code:

(1) A vehicle (other than a pedalcycle) shall be presumed to be abandoned under any of the following circumstances, but the presumption is rebuttable by a preponderance of the evidence:

(i) The vehicle is physically inoperable and is left unattended on a highway or other public property for more than 48 hours.

(ii) The vehicle has remained illegally on a highway or other public property for a period of more than 48 hours.

(iii) The vehicle is left unattended on or along a highway or other public property for more than 48 hours and does not bear all of the following:

(A) A valid registration plate.

(B) A current certificate of inspection.

(C) An ascertainable vehicle identification number.

(iv) The vehicle has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property for more than 24 hours.

(v) The vehicle has remained on the private property of a salvor for 20 days.

75 Pa.C.S.A. §102.

Mr. Sroka drove his vehicle into a lightpole on a baseball field and left the scene.

It is unclear whether the baseball field was public or private property. Regardless, a vehicle is not abandoned until it has been left for more than 24 hours on private property or 48 hours on public property. The Commonwealth did not present evidence at the Preliminary Hearing that Mr. Sroka's vehicle was on the baseball field for more than 24 hours. This charge shall be dismissed.

10. Careless Driving.

Mr. Sroka was charged with Careless Driving. Under the statute, "[a]ny person who drives a vehicle in careless disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of careless driving, a summary offense." 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3714.

Here, Mr. Sroka drove his vehicle under the influence of alcohol, an action that implies a gross and careless disregard for the safety of other people and of property. Mr. Sroka driving his Jeep into a lightpole on a baseball field is further evidence that he disregarded the safety of property. The Commonwealth provided sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for this charge.

11. Reckless Driving.

Mr. Sroka was charged with Reckless Driving. Under the statute, "[a]ny person who drives any vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving." 75 Pa.C.S.A. §3736.

Here, Mr. Sroka drove his vehicle under the influence of alcohol, an action that was in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons and property. The Commonwealth provided sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for this charge.

12. Failure to Give Information and Render Aid.

Mr. Sroka was charged with Failure to Give Information and Render Aid. Under the statute:

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person or damage to any vehicle or other property which is driven or attended by any person shall give his name, address and the registration number of the vehicle he is driving, and shall upon request exhibit his driver's license and information relating to financial responsibility to any person injured in the accident or to the driver or occupant of or person attending any vehicle or other property damaged in the accident and shall give the information and upon request exhibit the license and information relating to financial responsibility to any police officer at the scene of the accident or who is investigating the accident and shall render to any person injured in the accident reasonable assistance, including the making of arrangements for the carrying of the injured person to a physician, surgeon or hospital for medical or surgical treatment if it is apparent that treatment is necessary or if requested by the injured person.

75 Pa.C.S.A. §3744.

The statute lists certain requirements of what the driver must provide after an accident. For the statute to apply, the accident must result in injury or death to another person, or "damage to any vehicle or other property [that] is driven or attended by any person." The accident here did not result in injury or death to anyone. There was also no evidence of damage of another vehicle other than the one driven by Mr. Sroka.

While Trooper Vittone and Mr. Metts testified that Mr. Sroka's vehicle went into a lightpole on the baseball field, neither testified that there was any damage to the lightpole. The Commonwealth presented no other evidence at the Preliminary Hearing that the lightpole was damaged as a result of the wreck. As such, the Commonwealth did not present sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for this charge at the preliminary hearing. This charge shall be dismissed.

13. Failure to Provide Immediate Notice of an Accident to Police Department.

Mr. Sroka was charged with Failure to Provide Immediate Notice of an Accident to the Police Department. Under the statute:

The driver of a vehicle involved in an accident shall immediately by the quickest means of communication give notice to the nearest office of a duly authorized police department if the accident involves:

(1) injury to or death of any person; or

(2) damage to any vehicle involved to the extent that it cannot be driven under its own power in its customary manner without further damage or hazard to the vehicle, other traffic elements, or the roadway, and therefore requires towing.

75 Pa.C.S.A §3746.

As a result of driving off of the road and into a lightpole, Mr. Sroka was unable to operate his vehicle. Mr. Sroka called a towing company about moving his Jeep, but did not notify the police department about the accident. The Commonwealth provided sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case for this charge.

CONCLUSION

Defendant's Omnibus Pretrial Motion is granted in part and denied in part. The Commonwealth failed to establish a prima facie case for Counts 5 (Failure to Obey Traffic Control Devices (75 Pa.C.S.A. § 3111)), 9 (Abandonment of a Vehicle (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3712)), and 12 (Failure to Give Information and Render Aid (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3744)). Those charges shall be dismissed. The Commonwealth did, however, establish a primafacie case for Counts 1 (Driving under the Influence of Alcohol or Controlled Substances (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3802(a)(1))), 2 (Resisting Arrest (18 Pa.C.S.A. §5104)), 3 (Disorderly Conduct (18 Pa.C.S.A. §5503)), 4 (Failure to Carry and Exhibit a Driver's License on Demand (75 Pa.C.S.A. §1511)), 6 (Failure to Keep Right (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3301)), 7 (Failure to Drive on Roadways Laned for Traffic (75 Pa.C.S.A. §309)), 8 (Failure to Drive at a Safe Speed (75 Pa.C.S.A. §376)), 10 (Careless Driving (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3714)), 11 (Reckless Driving (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3736)), and 13 (Failure to Provide Immediate Notice of Accident to Police Department (75 Pa.C.S.A. §3746)). This case shall be listed for trial.

BY THE COURT: Linda R. Cordaro, Judge

ATTEST: Clerk of Courts

Dated: November 21, 2018

XXII

2019 Fayette County Court Calendar

JANUARY

- 1 New Years (HOLIDAY)
- 2 Criminal Pre-trials
- 2 Call of the List
- 7 Criminal Court Week
- 17 Arraignment Court
- 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance (HOLIDAY)
- 22 Orphans' Court Audits
- 22 Civil Court Session
- 28 Criminal Pre-trials
- 28 Call of the Criminal List
- 29 Arbitration Day

FEBRUARY

- 4 Criminal Court Week
- 18 President's Day Observance (HOLIDAY)
- 19 Orphans' Court Audits
- 21 Arraignment Court
- 25 Criminal Pre-trials
- 25 Call of the Criminal List
- 26 Arbitration Day

MARCH

- 4 Criminal Court Week
- 18 Orphans' Court Audits
- 21 Arraignment Court
- 25 Criminal Pre-trials
- 25 Call of the Criminal List
- 26 Arbitration Day

APRIL

- 1 Criminal Court Week
- 15 Civil Court Session
- 15 Orphans' Court Audits
- 18 Arraignment Court
- 19 Good Friday (HOLIDAY)
- 29 Criminal Pre-trials
- 29 Call of the Criminal List
- 30 Arbitration Day

MAY

- 6 Criminal Court Week
- 16 Arraignment Court
- 20 Orphans' Court Audits
- 21 Primary Election Day
- 21 Arbitration Day
- 27 Memorial Day Observance (HOLIDAY)
- 28 Criminal Pre-trials
- 28 Call of the Criminal List

JUNE

- 3 Criminal Court Week
- 17 Orphans' Court Audits
- 20 Arraignment Court
- 25 Arbitration Day

(AMENDED 2/1/19)

JULY

- 1 Criminal Pre-trials
- 1 Call of the Criminal List
- 4 Independence Day (HOLIDAY)
- 8 Criminal Court Week
- 15 Orphans' Court Audits
- 18 Arraignment Court
- 22 Civil Court Session
- 29 Criminal Pre-trials
- 29 Call of the Criminal List
- 30 Arbitration Day

AUGUST

- 5 Criminal Court Week15 Arraignment Court
- 19 Orphans' Court Audits
- 26 Criminal Pre-trials
- 26 Call of the Criminal List
- 27 Arbitration Day

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day (HOLIDAY)
- 9 Criminal Court Week
- 16 Orphans' Court Audits
- 19 Arraignment Court
- 24 Arbitration Day
- 30 Criminal Pre-trials
- 30 Call of the Criminal List

OCTOBER

- 7 Criminal Court Week
- 14 Columbus Day (HOLIDAY)
- 17 Arraignment Court
- 21 Orphans' Court Audits
- 21 Civil Court Session
- 28 Criminal Pre-trials
- 28 Call of the Criminal List
- 29 Arbitration Day

NOVEMBER

- 4 Criminal Court Week
- 5 Election Day
- 11 Veteran's Day Observance (HOLIDAY)
- 18 Orphans' Court Audits
- 21 Arraignment Court
- 26 Arbitration Day
- 28 Thanksgiving Day (HOLIDAY)
- 29 Day after Thanksgiving (HOLIDAY

DECEMBER

2 - Criminal Pre-trials 2 - Call of the Criminal List

19 - Arraignment Court

31 - Arbitration Day

9 - Criminal Court Week

16 - Orphans' Court Audits

25 - Christmas (HOLIDAY) 30 - Criminal Pre-trials 30 - Call of the List

24 - Christmas Eve (HOLIDAY)

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

FCBA LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

The Fayette County Bar Association's next presentation in its Lunch & Learn Series will be:

- Date: Wednesday, June 12th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Location: Courtroom No. 1 of the Fayette County Courthouse

• Discussion topic: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Impaired Lawyers...

• Presenter: Brian S. Quinn, Esq., Education and Outreach Coordinator, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers of Pennsylvania, Inc.

• Topics will include: early warning signs of impairment; free services that Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers provides; the barriers exist that prevent lawyers and judges from seeking the help they need, etc.

CLE Credit

1.5 hours of Ethics CLE credit for the program. The fees are as follows:

Members of the FCBA

- No charge for attendance without CLE Credit
- \$10 fee for attendance with CLE Credit

Attorneys admitted to practice in Pennsylvania after January 1, 2012

• No charge for attendance with CLE Credit

Non-members of the FCBA

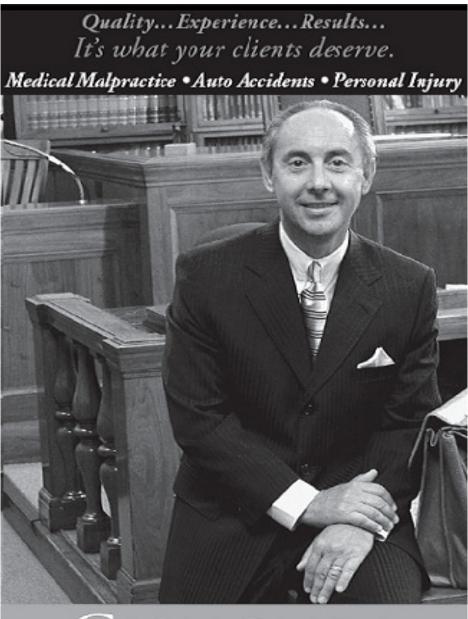
- \$10 fee for attendance without CLE Credit
- \$20 fee for attendance with CLE Credit

** All fees to be paid at the door ** A light lunch will be provided.

RSVP

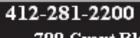
If interested in attending, please call Cindy at the Bar office at 724-437-7994 or by email tocindy@fcbar.org on or before Monday, June 10th

-Professional Ethics/CLE Committee





& ASSOCIATES



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