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County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

Charged: Howard Hoffman
4 Davis Farm Road
Annandale, N.J. 08801
DOB: 07/12/1955

On November 3, 2021, Howard Hoffman, of Annandale, N.J., was charged following an investigation into the theft of cash from the Hackettstown Livestock Auction Cooperative. Members of the Cooperative reported to the Warren County Prosecutor's Office that they were missing approximately \$57,000 in cash payments due from customers for livestock purchased at auction between 2016 and 2017. They identified Howard Hoffman as the Auction Master for the Cooperative and therefore responsible for taking payment from purchasers and depositing into the Cooperative's bank accounts.

A review of the financial records of the Cooperative revealed a cash shortfall of \$56,810 during 2016 and 2017. A review of Mr. Hoffman's bank statements revealed \$56,300 in cash deposits into his personal bank account through a variety of ATMs. Cash deposits in years prior to 2016 and after 2017 were discovered to be a small fraction of what was deposited during these two years.

The Warren County Prosecutor's Office enlisted the assistance of the New Jersey Department of Treasury's Division of Taxation Office of Criminal Investigation ("OCI"). OCI determined that Hoffman failed to pay tax on the \$56,300 in ATM deposits. Therefore, Mr. Hoffman was charged with the following crimes and is pending a first appearance:

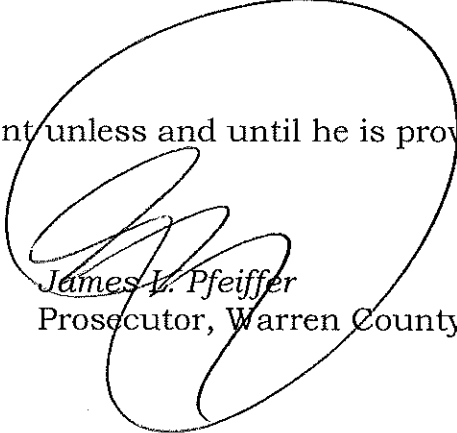
Count I: Theft by Unlawful Taking, Third Degree, N.J.S. 2C:20-3

Count II: Filing a Fraudulent Tax Return, Third Degree, N.J.S. 54:52-10

Count III: Failure to Pay Tax, Third Degree, N.J.S. 54:52-9A

Third Degree charges carry a maximum sentence of five (5) years in New Jersey State Prison.

The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until he is proven guilty.



James L. Pfeiffer
Prosecutor, Warren County

Dated: November 5, 2021