



MAT HECK, JR.
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Montgomery County, Ohio
(937) 225-5757
info@mcpo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prosecutor Recognizes April as Child Abuse Awareness Month
Local Citizen Recognized for Her Efforts to Stop Sexual Assault

DAYTON, OH (4/5/2017) – At CARE House, Montgomery County’s Children’s Advocacy Center, Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. kicked off National Child Abuse Awareness Month.

Present were representatives from the other CARE House partners, which include the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, the Dayton Police Department, Montgomery County Jobs and Family Services, and Dayton Children’s Hospital.

Prosecutor Heck noted that April has been designated as Child Abuse Awareness Month since 1983, in order to acknowledge the problem and in an effort to make the public aware of ways they can become involved and help. Prosecutor Heck challenged every citizen in Montgomery County to help protect the children in our community by reporting suspected child abuse or neglect to authorities.

Prosecutor Heck also acknowledged the extraordinary results that can be obtained when citizens become involved. On August 7, 2015, Robert Maranger was on vacation with his girlfriend and her 8-year-old daughter, returning from Washington, DC to Wisconsin. They stopped in Dayton to visit the United States Air Force Museum, and checked into the Quality Inn in Butler Township. Maranger had a lengthy history of committing sex crimes, and in fact was a lifetime sex offender registrant in Wisconsin, and had been sentenced to prison on a number of occasions for sex crimes.

Linda Kerley, working as the desk clerk at the Quality Inn, was watching the video from the security cameras in the indoor pool and exercise areas of the hotel, when she witnessed Maranger sexually molesting the 8 year old girl. Ms. Kerley was quick to get involved, and called the Butler Township Police, who viewed the security video and arrested Maranger. The defendant was prosecuted and convicted on counts of Rape of a child under 10 and gross sexual imposition of a child. He was also successfully convicted of Sexually Violent Predator Specifications, making his sentence of life without the possibility of parole a mandatory sentence.

While acknowledging Ms. Kerley’s actions, Prosecutor Heck commented, “I want to personally thank Linda for having the courage to get involved. Her actions not only saved the victim in this case from further sexual assault, but also helped my office and the Butler Township Police Department ensure that the defendant will never again victimize any more children.

“Stories like Linda’s are exactly the reason we have Child Abuse Awareness Month – to take time to inform the public that if you “see something, say something.”

###