



TANNER ROUSE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DELAWARE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19063



ERICK ECHEVARRIA
CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2026

**DELAWARE COUNTY DA TANNER ROUSE ANNOUNCES CHARGES
AGAINST FORMER CHESTER POLICE OFFICER**

Media, PA – Delaware County District Attorney Tanner Rouse announces that charges have been approved against former Chester Police Officer Leon Paparo for Child Sexual Abuse Material. A comprehensive months-long investigation was handled by Detective Edward Rosen of the Delaware County District Attorney’s Offices Criminal Investigation Division Special Investigation Unit.

On April 6, 2026, one of Chester’s JNET Terminal Agency Coordinators (JTAC) was required to perform an audit of the system to ensure all users are using it correctly. JNET is used throughout Pennsylvania and provides authorized law enforcement and criminal justice professionals with access to important information, including criminal history, warrants, court records, and other justice-related data. It helps agencies share information efficiently, verify details, and support investigations. Upon the audit, they found that there were some suspicious searches under Officer Leon Paparo’s account. Several of these searches included people the JTAC Officer knew were not a part of any Chester Police Incident. The searches included employees from the Delaware County DA’s office, local individuals, ex-girlfriends, court staff and Chester City personnel. According to JNET procedure, when running any search there is a prompt to include the “reason” you are searching something, that field was continuously left blank when searching these individuals.

On July 10, 2026 the JTAC Officers went to the Delaware County District Attorney’s Office to report the unauthorized usage of the JNET system. Upon investigation, it became known that

Officer Leon Paparo was the records custodian for the Chester Police Department. Part of his assignments include filing cases and adding in any missing documents such as drivers license photos. In these instances, Paparo included a case number that was associated with the individuals. Throughout the investigation, Detective Rosen became made aware of an incident from 2015 where Paparo was accused of inappropriate contact with a minor. A copy of this incident report was obtained and it was learned that Paparo approached a 15-year-old girl and asked if she was willing to do pony rides for his daughter. They exchanged numbers and the minor informed Paparo she was 15-years-old, even after learning this he continued to have conversations with her. He began sending her sexually related messages and asked her to sign up for a video-sharing service. Detective Rosen became aware in his investigation that Officer Paparo also searched this individual and her mother.

On August 7, 2026, Detectives executed a search warrant at Chester Police Department where Paparo turned over his phone and passcode. He gave them consent to search his devices and admitted he often searches people. Additionally, he informed investigators they would see his “dirty pictures” when searching his phone. During the cellphone extraction, multiple folders were found containing sexual images of women. These folders were categorized by each of these women. There was an additional folder called “Random” where Detectives recovered several naked images of minors. Paparo ran these minors through JNET where he would be able to verify their DOBs and addresses.

“This case is not only an abuse of authority and betrayal of public trust, but a sickening reminder that sometimes we need to be protected from the protectors. To think that a law enforcement officer would abuse his power to and position to solicit sexual images of minors is unimaginable, but all too real. This case also hits close to home because employees of my office had their information accessed without any legitimate purpose. They come to work every day committed to serving the people of Delaware County and should never have to worry about their information improperly accessed by someone we are supposed to trust. I will not tolerate the abuse of authority or the exploitation of children.” said District Attorney Tanner Rouse.

Leon Paparo has been charged with the following:

Unlawful Use of Computer – Access/Interfere/Dam./Dest (F3) – 77 Counts

Child Sexual Abuse Material (F3) – 7 counts

Invasion of Privacy (M2) – 7 counts

Photograph/Film/Depict on Computer Sex Act (F2) – 7 counts

Dissem Photo/Film of Child Sex Acts/Sexual Abuse Materials (F2) – 7 counts

On October 26, 2026, a complaint was filed against Leon Paparo and an arrest warrant was issued. On October 27, 2026 Leon Paparo turned into Delaware County CID. He was arraigned and bail was set at 10% of \$500k. He is in George W. Hill Correctional Facility awaiting his Preliminary Hearing on November 5, 2026.

The District Attorney's Office urges anyone with additional information to contact the lead investigator on this case, Detective Edward Rosen, 610-891-4161.

The District Attorney and the Criminal Investigations Division would like to remind everyone that all individuals charged are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

For press inquiries, please contact Kelly Wilson – Public Relations Director, Delaware County District Attorney's Office, wilsonk@co.delaware.pa.us or 610-891-4515.

XXX