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Press Release

February 17, 2017

Officer charged in theft of controlled substances

Kraig Mitchell, 33, of Kalamazoo, has been charged with four counts related to the theft of controlled substances under the possession or control of the Coloma Township Police Department. On January 10, 2017, then a patrolman with the Coloma Township Police Department, Mitchell was discovered to have possession of a heroin/fentanyl mix and codeine tablets.

Relating to the heroin/fentanyl mix (schedule I and schedule II controlled substances, respectively), Mitchell is charged with taking that mixture from the scene of an overdose death he participated in investigating that day in Coloma Township. Later the same day, it is alleged Mitchell was found to be in possession of pills containing codeine, (a schedule III controlled substance). The pills were taken from the township's MedReturn Box, a secure unit in place for citizens to deposit unused pills and medicine, while an inventory of the deposited drugs was being completed.

Mitchell is charged with Tampering with Evidence, a 10 year felony; Obstruction of Justice, a 5 year felony; one count of Possession of a Controlled Substance, the heroin/fentanyl mix (schedule I and II), a 4 year felony; and one count of Possession of a Controlled Substance, the codeine pills (schedule III), a 2 year felony.

He was arraigned today where bond was set at \$10,000 – 10%. Pre-exam conference and preliminary exam hearing dates are set for February 24, 2017 and March 2, 2017, respectively.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Press release available at County Web site:

<http://www.berriencounty.org/ProsecutingAttorney/pressreleases>