



## **MORRISTOWN BUREAU OF POLICE**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**September 19, 2016**

#### **MAN ARRESTED FOR CREATING FALSE PUBLIC ALARM**

On Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:46 p.m., Morristown Police Officers were dispatched to Starbucks at 40 North Park Place on a report of a suspicious package. Upon arrival, Officer Bruce LaFera was directed to an area of the store where two items of luggage had been left by a male subject who had left the store. According to store employees, the male had made comments that they deemed alarming and had then walked out of the store, leaving the items behind.

Based upon the statements made by the store employees and the nature and position of the items, the Morris County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad was requested and responded to investigate. A complete investigation was conducted and the items were ultimately determined not to be dangerous.

The investigation was furthered by Morristown Police Detectives which resulted in the identification of the male subject as 46-year-old Nick Cole of New London, Connecticut. As a result of the continued investigation, Mr. Cole was arrested and transported to Police Headquarters. Mr. Cole was not charged after the investigation.

Morristown Mayor Timothy P. Dougherty said, "I want to first state that any threat is a matter we take seriously, we took the necessary precautions to keep the public safe. I want to thank the Morristown Police and Morris County Sheriff's Department for diligently resolving the matter. In this climate of heightened security, for someone to make a reckless statement is not only irresponsible but should be criminal. I am disappointed our Police Department was not authorized to charge this person with a crime. This person created a false public alarm, wasted valuable Town and County resources. It is simply inexcusable."

The Morristown Police urge all residents to remain vigilant and to report anything which appears suspicious. Emergencies should be reported through 9-1-1 and all other calls can be made to Morristown Police at 973-538-2200.