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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former Benson High School coach charged with two counts of harassment involving female students

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced 46-year-old Leon Donald McKenzie III was arraigned on an indictment that charges him with two counts of harassment.

McKenzie III is accused of unlawfully and intentionally harassing two minor females by subjecting them to offensive physical contact in 2017 and 2018, according to the indictment, which was returned by a grand jury earlier this month.

On October 22, 2018, McKenzie III turned himself into the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office at the Multnomah County Circuit Courthouse.

McKenzie III appeared before Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Marilyn E. Litzenberger on October 23, 2018 at the Multnomah County Justice Center where he was arraigned. McKenzie III was appointed a criminal defense attorney and a plea of not guilty was entered on his behalf. The next court date scheduled in this matter is November 30, 2018.

This investigation began earlier this year when the Benson High School principal contacted the Portland Police Bureau's Youth Services Division (YSD) about potential misconduct allegations involving McKenzie III. At that time, McKenzie III was an athletic coach at the high school. Detectives assigned to the Portland Police Bureau's Family Services Division and Sex Crimes Unit were asked to conduct investigative follow up on the allegations.

Due to the fact that this remains on ongoing criminal investigation, no additional information can be released by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office. Members of the media with questions regarding the defendant's time with Portland Public Schools may contact Harry Esteve, PPS Director of Strategic Communications & Outreach.

No probable cause statement was filed in this case. The District Attorney's Office is requesting that media refrain from posting the charging document filed in this case as it includes the identities of underage individuals.

Any current/former student and/or parent who has information regarding potential inappropriate conduct that involves McKenzie III should immediately contact the Portland Police Bureau's Family Service's Division at 503-823-0090.

An indictment is only an accusation of a crime, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

#MCDA#

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