FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 3, 2019

County Police, FBI Provide Briefing on Nalani Johnson Investigation

Allegheny County, PA – On Saturday, August 31, Penn Hills Police responded to a report of a child abduction at approximately 5:00 PM. Based on information provided by Penn Hills Police, the Pennsylvania State Police subsequently issued an Amber Alert regarding the abduction of two-year-old Nalani Johnson. The description of the vehicle and the identity of the driver was provided by the biological father of the child, Paul Johnson, who had been in the vehicle with Sharena Nancy and Justin Rouse, a friend of Mr. Johnson.

The abduction reportedly occurred at the intersection of Bryant Road and Prescott Road in Penn Hills. Through the course of the investigation, it has been determined that following the abduction, the female drove east on Route 22 to the Blairsville area. The driver of the vehicle, Sharena Nancy, was stopped by Penn Hills Police on Rodi Road at 7:30 PM. At the time of the stop, neither the child nor the child seat were located in the vehicle.

The Penn Hills Police requested the Allegheny County Police to assume the investigation. Since that time, the County Police and its partners in the FBI Pittsburgh Field Office, supported by the FBI Child Abduction Rapid Deployment Team, have been following investigative leads in an effort to locate Nalani Johnson. The team has also been assisted by the Pennsylvania State Police investigators and aviation assets.

On September 1, Sharena Nancy, was charged with the following offenses: kidnapping of a minor; interference with custody of children; and, concealment of whereabouts of a child.

Nalani Johnson is a black female with a light complexion who will be two years old in September. She has short curly black hair and brown eyes and was last seen wearing a black shirt and a skirt with a floral pattern and black sandals. She is of average height and weight for a child that age and goes by the nickname “Mooh.”

The vehicle used during this incident was a 2017 black Toyota Yaris sedan with Lyft and Uber stickers in the front passenger side windshield, bearing PA registration KLW3926.

When Ms. Nancy was stopped by the Penn Hills Police on Saturday evening following the abduction of Nalani, the car seat was not located within the vehicle. Members of the public are asked to be on the lookout for the missing car seat, an Evenflo Maestro Sport Harness Booster Seat, primarily black in color, with a gray seat area.

Anyone who may have personal knowledge of the kidnapper, Sharena Nancy, is asked to contact the County Police via its Tipline.

Now that the Labor Day weekend is over, many of the businesses along the Route 22 corridor are open today and surveillance video that was not available over the weekend may be accessible. In that vein, business owners and private citizens are asked to review any video footage to see if there is anything that may be of interest to investigators. The particular time frame for relevant video is from 5:23 PM until 7:25 PM on Saturday. Sharena Nancy, who was arrested for the abduction on September 1, was captured on video at the Sheetz store located at 4701 Penn Highway, Murrysville, PA.

Lastly, thank all to all of the members of the public who have submitted tips to the Tipline and all the concerned citizens and first responders who have volunteered their time to assist in the search for
Nalani. Additionally, thank you to the Johnson family for their cooperation and support during the investigation.

Anyone with information concerning this incident is asked to call the Allegheny County Police Tipline at 1-833-ALL-TIPS (1-833-255-8477); callers can remain anonymous. The department can also be reached via its social media sites.

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Coleman McDonough, Superintendent

**Department of Police**

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