



RICHARD A. GOLDINGER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PATRICIA J. McLEAN
First Assistant District Attorney

Butler County

124 W. DIAMOND STREET • P.O. BOX 1208 • BUTLER, PA 16003-1208
PHONE 724-284-5222 • FAX 724-284-5460 • TDD 724-284-5473
www.co.butler.pa.us

October 21, 2022

Penn Township
157 E. Airport Road
Butler, PA 16002

Dear Township Supervisors:

Halloween and trick or treat is right around the corner. This means candy will be handed out in abundance. I am asking for your assistance in making your community aware of a potential danger this Halloween.

Fentanyl is a powerful opioid narcotic that is being distributed by drug traffickers in Butler County. Dealers are mixing fentanyl with other drugs that we have seen for many years, including heroin, cocaine, and even marijuana. In some instances, straight fentanyl has been seized from dealers. The effects of fentanyl can be deadly. The majority of drug overdoses that occur in Butler County involve fentanyl. We recently saw a disturbing twist to fentanyl distribution.

Multi-colored fentanyl pills were recently seized in the United States which is being called "rainbow" fentanyl. Rainbow fentanyl can closely resemble multi-colored candies such as Skittles or Sweet Tarts. Thus far, it has not been seen in Pennsylvania. However, in late September, 2022, approximately 15,000 rainbow fentanyl pills were seized in New York City. Further, since it was first seen in the United States in February of this year, it has been seized in 21 different states. So, while it hasn't made its way to Pennsylvania or Butler County yet, it is on our doorstep. I have to think that if those pills were not seized in New York City, we would have seen rainbow fentanyl by now in Pennsylvania, if not in Butler County.

I want to be proactive with preventing anyone from getting sick or dying from consuming rainbow fentanyl, either accidentally or intentionally. I am asking you, as leaders of your community, to assist me in warning parents about this potential threat. You will have an organized trick or treat in your community. Please spread the word about the threat of rainbow fentanyl. Nobody should take loose candy from anybody else, including someone they trust. Candy should only be eaten from the original, undamaged wrapper. When in doubt, the candy should not be eaten. If rainbow fentanyl does suddenly appear in Butler County, and someone accidentally consumes it, 911 should be called immediately.

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As a community, we cannot afford to be lackadaisical with this danger almost to our doorstep. With your assistance informing your community about rainbow fentanyl, we can prevent serious health issues or death to unsuspecting children. Be being diligent about this potential threat, we will all be able to safely enjoy Halloween.

Thank you for your assistance with this serious matter.

Yours truly,



Richard A. Goldinger
District Attorney of Butler County

RAG/mjd