

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Men Cited on Crackdown of Illegal Dumping in the City of Arnold *Evidence Acquired from Loaned Cameras from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful*

(December 14, 2018) – Mitchell C Swann (age 53) and Harold J Lee (age 52) were both cited by City of Arnold code officer Scott Ponteri for illegal dumping. Swann was found guilty of scattering rubbish for dumping debris from a contractor job into an abandoned lot on 9/13/2018. He paid a fine and cleaned up his trash. Lee was found guilty of dumping furniture and other household items on 9/26/18. He paid a fine plus \$150 restitution to reimburse the city for removing what he had dumped. Both cases were heard by the Honorable Frank J Pallone, Jr.

According to Officer Ponteri, “The cameras are working as a great deterrent and dumping has decreased at the site. We’re happy to be working with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to turn around the dumping problem the city has been dealing with the past few years.” In addition to the KPB camera loan, Officer Ponteri and the city of Arnold have stepped up other efforts to curb trash, including deploying additional cameras at different locations that had been donated by a resident.

“Illegal dumping is more than just unsightly. It attracts disease-spreading pests like rodents and mosquitos, can contaminate water and soil, and also brings a financial burden to our communities as they are often who must clean up the trash,” explained Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful found that on average, it costs local communities \$600/ton or nearly \$3,000 for an average illegal dump cleanup.

Evidence photos from surveillance cameras helped lead to the successful prosecution. The cameras are part of a loan program from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful with funding from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. DEP funds for this program are from fines that the state agency receives for environmental infractions. These cameras are able to capture high quality, prosecution-worthy photos, even of license plates at night.

Municipalities and other agencies can find out more about the program at IllegalDumpFreePA.org, or contact Rob Dubas at rdubas@keepbeautiful.org or 724-836-4121 ext 107.

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 133 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania’s roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keepbeautiful.org.

