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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Chester County Indicts Three in Murder**

At the conclusion of 2012, Pennsylvania reinstated the use of indicting grand juries. Last week, the Chester County District Attorney's Office became the second prosecutor's office in Pennsylvania to utilize the new indicting grand jury process. Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the indictment of Dominique Lee, Marquis Rayner, and Camren Horne for the June 29, 2012 murder of Dominique Williams in Coatesville.<sup>1</sup>

The defendants previously were arrested for the murder of Williams. The defendants are alleged to have participated in an armed robbery in Coatesville, with Williams being shot and killed during the robbery. The defendants were linked to the crime through DNA, fingerprint evidence, and witness statements.

Under normal circumstances following an arrest, the defendants would have a preliminary hearing. However, under the new Pennsylvania rules, a grand jury indictment may take the place of a preliminary hearing where "witness intimidation has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur."

District Attorney Hogan stated, "The indicting grand jury is a powerful tool that can be used to help protect witnesses from violence. In the federal system, indicting grand juries are the normal and established practice, so we have excellent procedures and experiences to rely upon. But we still need to be selective and only apply this tool where it is appropriate under the law."

To date, only Philadelphia has used the indicting grand jury. The use of the indicting grand jury was reinstated based on the pervasive problem of witness intimidation in the

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

Philadelphia court system. The Chester County District Attorney's Office already is working with other district attorney's offices throughout Pennsylvania to implement indicting grand juries.

District Attorney Hogan added, "We are fortunate that witness intimidation occurs relatively infrequently in Chester County. However, witness intimidation does occur. I have debriefed Chester County defendants in the federal system who revealed that Coatesville witnesses in the past were intimidated by direct threats, warnings to families, and actual violence. We need to remain vigilant to protect our witnesses."

The indictments were handled by Deputy District Attorneys Peter Hobart and Mark Conte. Prosecutors Mark Conte and Michael DiCindio have been assigned to prosecute these cases before President Judge James P. MacElree II.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan