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District Attorney

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**District Attorney To Seek Death Penalty**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced that the Commonwealth will pursue the death penalty against Shakeem Carter. Carter previously was arrested for the February 12, 2013 murder of Kevin Allen, 17. The victim was stabbed to death and set on fire during a robbery in his father's apartment in North Coventry, Chester County.<sup>1</sup>

District Attorney Hogan stated, "The decision to pursue the death penalty is reserved for the most serious crimes and is only reached after careful deliberations. After consultation with the police and the victim's family, this decision is based upon the circumstances surrounding the murder of this young man."

The District Attorney's Office listed three aggravating factors for pursuing the death penalty: (1) the offense was committed by means of torture; (2) the murder was committed while in the perpetration of a felony; and (3) during the commission of the murder, the defendant created a grave risk of death to another person in addition to the victim.

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent unless and until he is proved guilty in a court of law.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan