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PRESS RELEASE

Five Arrested in West Chester Homicide

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of five defendants for a homicide in West Chester. Sergio Droz, Anthony Brightwell, Calvin Thompson, Nafis Janey, and Tyrone Palmer, all from the City of Chester, have been arrested for the January 25, 2013 murder of Jamal Scott of West Chester.

The five defendants came to West Chester planning to rob a drug dealer. They set up a drug deal with the victim. Then, in the middle of the planned drug deal, Droz gunned down the victim. The five defendants then split marijuana stolen from the victim.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "The drug game is a dangerous game. There are people who will kill over a few dollars or a small amount of drugs. Now one young man is dead and five young men face life in prison. The drug game always ends with prison or an early grave."

West Chester Police Chief Scott Bohn stated, "Over half of all homicides in this country involve drugs. Drugs are often the context for, or are implicated in, an even larger proportion of non-fatal violent and criminal acts. These crimes have a significant impact on neighborhoods and communities. The clearance of this homicide investigation and the arrest of the following five individuals are critical to their restoration."

The biographical details for each defendant are as follows:

1. Sergio Droz, age 20, resides at 712 East 9th Street, Chester, Pennsylvania;
2. Anthony Brightwell, age 24, resides at 2121 Edgemont Avenue, Chester, Pennsylvania;
3. Calvin Thompson, age 21, resides at 536 Lloyd Street, Chester, Pennsylvania;
4. Nafis Janey, age 20, resides at 1404 Elson Road, Brookhaven (just outside Chester), Pennsylvania; and
5. Tyrone Palmer, age 21, resides at 128 West 22nd Street, Chester, Pennsylvania.

The allegations of the criminal complaints are as follows:¹

At 10:56 p.m. on Friday, January 25, 2013, police received a telephone call for shots fired at Union and Matlack Streets in West Chester Borough. West Chester police officers responded to the scene and recovered three spent 9mm shell casings.

Shortly after the report of shots fired, the victim, Jamal Scott, arrived at Chester County Hospital with a gunshot wound to his chest. The victim was transported to the trauma center at Paoli Hospital where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy revealed that the victim had been shot in the heart.

Chester County Detective Ken Beam processed the car driven by the victim. Detective Beam discovered that three bullets had been fired through the driver's side door. Detective Beam also discovered one bullet hole in the roof of the interior of the vehicle.

A witness at the scene reported seeing two men in the car, a struggle, and a gun shot fired in the car. Then another man approached the car and fired into the driver's side of the vehicle.

West Chester Police and the Chester County Detectives quickly began to put the case together. A review of phone records from the victim's phone revealed a contact between the victim and Calvin Thompson shortly before the homicide. The police also reviewed hours of video surveillance from the surrounding area.

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

This video surveillance showed Sergio Droz and Anthony Brightwell together in the area of the homicide shortly before the homicide. Video surveillance also showed Brightwell getting into the car with the victim and Droz walking toward the area of the homicide just moments before the shooting took place.

Police then began the process of conducting follow-up interviews, reviewing more telephone records, and pursuing other investigative leads. As a result of that investigation, the police uncovered the details of the homicide.

The five defendants originally met up in the City of Chester on the night of January 25, 2013. They decided to drive to West Chester to rob a drug dealer. Armed robbers target drug dealers because drug dealers usually are carrying money and drugs, and because drug dealers are unlikely to report such robberies to the police.

Once in West Chester, each defendant played a specific role. Nafis Janey drove the vehicle used by the five defendants. Calvin Thompson was the contact person who searched out local drug dealers and set up the drug deal with the victim. Tyrone Palmer supplied the guns, providing a .45 caliber handgun to Anthony Brightwell and a 9mm handgun to Sergio Droz.

Brightwell then went to meet with the victim. Brightwell got into the victim's car and the car parked on Union Street. There was what appeared to be struggle between Brightwell and the victim, with Brightwell firing his gun into the ceiling of the car. Droz then approached from the outside of the car and fired three shots at the victim. Brightwell grabbed a backpack containing marijuana from the victim's car.

Both Droz and Brightwell fled on foot. They then reconnected with Janey, Thompson, and Palmer. The five defendants returned to Chester and divided the marijuana.

The police arrested Droz and Brightwell first. The arrests of Janey, Thompson, and Palmer followed. All are being held without bail on homicide, robbery, conspiracy, and related charges.

Chief Bohn also stated, "This investigation is an excellent illustration of best practices, cooperation, innovation and maximum effort. The West Chester Police Department and our communities are fortunate to have such professional and dedicated men and women in service to our needs."

District Attorney Hogan added, "This was a tremendous cooperative effort by law enforcement. Drug related homicides are notoriously difficult to solve, as evidenced every day in places like Philadelphia and the City of Chester. But the West Chester Police Department and the Chester County Detectives, teaming up with law enforcement across the region, worked around the clock to bring this investigation home."

This case is assigned to Deputy District Attorney Ron Yen. The preliminary hearing is scheduled for March 6, 2013, at the Chester County Justice Center.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan