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PRESS RELEASE

Officer-Involved Shooting in Coatesville

There was an officer-involved shooting in Coatesville on Saturday morning. The defendant, a previously convicted felon, fired two shots at uniformed Coatesville police officers in the 700 block of Merchant Street. The officers both returned fire, striking the defendant multiple times. The officers were not hit. The defendant is in stable condition at Paoli Hospital. The defendant will be arrested for attempted homicide of the two police officers. The shooting by the police officers has been ruled justified by the Chester County District Attorney's Office.

A more detailed description of the facts as determined through the investigation by the Chester County Detectives is as follows (all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in court):

At approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 23, 2014, two Coatesville police officers were on patrol in the 700 block of Merchant Street, Coatesville, Chester County, PA. That area is a high-crime and high-drug area, including multiple prior incidents of gun violence. The police officers were in full uniform and operating a marked police vehicle.

The officers observed the defendant looking into the windows of cars parked in the area. The defendant was later identified as Andre Fiorentino (a/k/a "Needles"), DOB 9/19/81, who has previously been convicted of armed robbery in Coatesville. The officers approached the defendant and asked him for identification. The defendant stated that he would not provide identification and started reaching into the front waist area of his pants, raising the suspicion that he was reaching for a gun. The front officer pulled his taser and instructed the

defendant to stop what he was doing. The defendant responded by pulling out a gun and firing two shots at the officers.

Both officers returned fire with their service weapons. The defendant was struck multiple times and fell to the ground, dropping his gun. The officers approached the defendant. The defendant was still reaching for his gun and yelling at the police officers, "F __ you, you pigs can't kill me!" The officers moved the firearm away from the defendant and emergency personnel responded to transport the defendant to Paoli Hospital. The officers were not struck by the rounds fired by the defendant.

Pursuant to the standard Chester County law enforcement protocol for officer-involved shootings, the Coatesville Police Department secured the area and Coatesville Chief Jack Laufer immediately called in the Chester County Detectives to investigate the incident. As the Chester County Detectives arrived at the scene, further gun shots were heard in the area.

The gun used by the defendant to shoot at the two police officers was recovered on the street. The firearm was a .38 caliber five-shot revolver. The revolver contained two spent shell casings (from the shots fired at the officers), two live shell casings, and one shell casing that had been struck by the firing pin but did not discharge. The revolver was a stolen gun, reported stolen exactly one year before from Johnstown, PA.

On the way to the hospital, a second gun was recovered from the defendant's clothing inside the ambulance on the way to the hospital. The second gun was a .40 caliber semi-automatic hand gun with a live round in the chamber. The serial number on this firearm was obliterated.

The Chester County Detectives interviewed the two officers involved in the shooting, all of the officers who responded to the scene, the emergency personnel, and citizens in the area of the shooting. The Chester County Detectives also collected all relevant evidence.

The two officers involved in the shooting both are military veterans. One officer served four years in the United States Marine Corps and 16 years with the Pennsylvania State Police before his employment with the Coatesville Police Department. The second officer served 14 years in the United States Marine Corps, including four combat tours, prior to his employment with the Coatesville Police Department. Pursuant to normal security procedures, the names of the officers will not be released at this time.

The shooting by the Coatesville police officers has been ruled justified by the Chester County District Attorney's Office.

The defendant will be charged with attempted homicide, aggravated assault, persons not to possess firearms, and related criminal offenses.

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "The Coatesville Police Department responded appropriately and professionally throughout this incident. Given the defendant's conduct, the defendant was lucky he was not killed and Chester County is lucky that two police officers are not dead. In Chester County, we will not permit our police officers to be targeted. It will be a long time before this defendant sees blue sky again."

Coatesville Police Chief Jack Laufer stated, "The Coatesville Police Department wishes to thank the Chester County District Attorney's Office and the County Detectives for their quick and professional response in assisting at the crime scene and assuming investigative responsibilities. This response and cooperative effort through the investigation and prosecution stages will assure a successful outcome, making the citizens of Coatesville and all Chester County safer as a result."

Solicitor for the Chester County Fraternal Order of Police Joseph DiGiorgio of Platt, DiGiorgio & DiFabio stated, "The Fraternal Order of Police appreciates the thorough and complete investigation conducted by the District Attorney's Office and the Chester County Detectives. The FOP supports the decision of District Attorney Tom Hogan regarding the charging of this defendant and the justification of the police officers involved."

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan