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August 25, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Attack, Lockdown at Chester County Justice Center

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced that a man attacked a Chester County Sheriff's Deputy with a knife at the security entrance to the Chester County Justice Center in West Chester at approximately 11:50 A.M. today. In response to the attack, a second Sheriff's Deputy fired his weapon, striking the attacker. The attacker has been identified as Curtis Smith, age 34, of Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

The Sheriff's Deputy who was attacked suffered knife wounds to his hand and arm. The Sheriff's Deputy was transported to Chester County Hospital and then flown to a trauma unit. The Sheriff's Deputy is in stable condition. Smith was administered first aid on the scene by Chester County Deputy Sheriffs and Emergency Responders. Smith was transported to Paoli Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Smith was arrested by the Secret Service in March for jumping the fence at the White House.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "In Chester County, we have trained intensively to deal with the threat of an attacker in the Justice Center or any other public building. Today, that training paid off. The armed attacker was immediately neutralized by the Sheriff's Deputies. Law enforcement responded to

make sure that all of the citizens, judges, and court staff were safe. This was a model response to a violent incident.”

The Chester County Sheriff’s Office, with the assistance of the Chester County Detectives and the West Chester Police Department, put the Justice Center on lockdown after the incident. The Justice Center is closed to the public for the rest of the day. This case is being investigated by the Chester County Detectives. Anyone with further information should contact the Chester County Detectives at 610-344-6866.

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Approved for release:



Thomas P. Hogan