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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Arrest Made in Coatesville Homicide**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan and Coatesville Police Chief Jack Laufer announced the arrest of Sheron "Ryda" Purnell for the murder of Kevin Jalbert in Coatesville on October 3, 2016. The defendant was arrested by the Coatesville Police Department and Chester County Detectives on November 2, 2016.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "This homicide took place in a crowded residential area with children out playing in the street. The death of the victim was senseless. The defendant is lucky he did not also gun down an innocent child."

Chief Laufer stated, "This type of violence is inexcusable. The good citizens of Coatesville are outraged by a daytime shooting that endangers children. The Coatesville Police Department will continue to work to reduce violence in the area."

The defendant is 22 years old. He resided at 41 Pennsylvania Avenue, Coatesville, Pennsylvania. He was unemployed.

The facts set forth in the criminal complaint are as follows.<sup>1</sup>

On October 3, 2016, at approximately 6:39 p.m., the Coatesville Police Department received a call for shots fired at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Belmont Street, Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Police arrived at the scene and found the victim, Kevin Jalbert, lying on the grass. The victim had been shot multiple times and later was pronounced dead. The victim is a veteran who previously was being treated at the Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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

A review of video recordings from the area and witness interviews revealed the following information.

The victim was walking down the street when he came into contact with a group of kids. The victim yelled at the juveniles, who then walked away from the victim.

The defendant showed up and engaged in a confrontation with the victim. At first, the confrontation was verbal. The victim and the defendant walked up White Alley, where the confrontation became physical.

The victim was unarmed. The defendant pulled out a black semi-automatic handgun and shot the victim several times. A significant number of adult and juvenile witnesses then scattered from the scene.

The police recovered eight .25 caliber shell casings from the area. The police interviewed a large number of witnesses. Four eyewitnesses identified the defendant as the shooter. The defendant was not permitted to be in possession of a firearm.

An arrest warrant was issued for the defendant on October 31, 2016. The defendant had fled the area after the shooting. The defendant was arrested on November 2, 2016. Because of the murder charge, the defendant is not eligible for bail and was remanded to Chester County Prison.

District Attorney Hogan added, "This case was solved by the courage of the witnesses who were willing to come forward and assist the authorities. Combined with the hard work of the Coatesville Police Department and Chester County Detectives, this type of community cooperation is what Coatesville needs as the city looks to join other Chester County areas that have re-built themselves."

Anybody with information should contact Chester County Detective Kristin Lund at 610-344-6866 or Coatesville Detective Ryan Wright at 610-384-2300.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan