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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mass Texts Lead To Dismantling of Heroin Trafficking Operation

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, along with Berks County District Attorney John Adams, Pottstown Police Chief F. Richard Drumheller, Lower Pottsgrove Police Chief Mike Foltz, and Lower Merion Police Superintendent Michael McGrath announce the filing of charges against five (5) individuals involved in the widespread distribution of heroin and cocaine in the western end of Montgomery County.

Since June 2015, detectives from the Montgomery County District Attorney's Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) and the Pottstown Police Department have been investigating heroin and cocaine trafficking in the Pottstown area. Despite the arrests of individuals involved in drug sales on June 5, 2015, the drug trafficking organization continued to operate. Therefore, warrants issued today represent superseding criminal complaints for the principals engaged in selling heroin and cocaine to an approximately sixty-six (66) addicts from the Western portion of Montgomery County. The defendants engaged in mass-group texts to potential buyers revealing the types, stamps, and locations where heroin and cocaine could be purchased.

In the past several years, the District Attorney's Office and Police Departments throughout Montgomery County have made heroin trafficking investigations a high-priority. Heroin related overdoses of users are being seen throughout the County. From January 2015 through May 31, 2015, forty-nine (49) police calls involving heroin overdoses were reported to the District Attorney's Office. Twenty-one (21) of those calls during that time period resulted in the deaths of the addicts. Law enforcement is aware of the rise of opioid addiction, particularly among youth who first experiment with prescription pain medication and then opt for often the cheaper alternative of street heroin. Today's arrests are of individuals servicing a Montgomery County customer base and who profited by setting up their drug business in hotels local to users in Pottstown, Douglasville, Lower Pottsgrove and portions of Berks County.

The investigation included physical surveillance of hotels where detectives witnessed dozens of individuals entering and exiting rooms where the drugs were sold. Some of those individuals were stopped shortly after departing the hotel, and heroin they bought from their dealer was seized.

In total, 1,108 bags of heroin, 109 bags of cocaine, \$5,419 in cash, 2 firearms, and 12 cell phones were seized. Criminal complaints have been filed against the following individuals:

Defendant One: Tyrig Darnell Coleman:



Defendant Two: Martez Eric Cooper:



Defendant Three: Khaleaf Quinton Lindsay



Defendant Four: Ryan Richard Conquest:



Defendant Five: Tyrek Waples:



This investigation is the result of information provided by the community, the father of a drug overdose victim, and thorough investigative work by law enforcement and analysts working together in a concerted effort to stem the tide of these insidious drugs.

The community is reminded to report illegal drug activity via the Montgomery County District Attorney's website or by calling the tip line (610) 289-DO IT.

The defendants will be arraigned this afternoon before Magisterial District Judge Thomas A. Palladino. Preliminary hearings will be scheduled by the Judge. This case will be prosecuted by the Captain of the Narcotic Unit, Assistant District Attorney Kelly Lloyd.

Approved for release,

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.