



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

SAMUEL J. GALLEN

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

JESSE S. KING

CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX

COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090

(610) 278-3095

(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kate Delano 610-278-3148

SHONE SANTIAGO PLEADS GUILTY TO THREE COUNTS OF THIRD-DEGREE MURDER IN ROUTE 422 RACING CRASH

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 17, 2017) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced that Shone Santiago, 22, of New York, N.Y., pled guilty to two counts of Third-Degree Murder and one count of Third-Degree of Murder of an Unborn Child in for the racing crash on Route 422 in West Pottsgrove that claimed the lives of two people and an unborn baby. Santiago entered the guilty plea today before Judge Todd D. Eisenberg, taking responsibility for his actions on the night of Feb. 4, 2017. Santiago was drag racing another car driven by Evaughn-Sha Walters when the car driven by Santiago crashed killing his passengers—Anthony Rodriguez, 23, Marissa Kelly, 20, and her unborn child.

Investigators determined that Santiago and Walters were racing eastbound on Route 422 when Santiago lost control of his car, crashed through the right guard rail, and became airborne. The car traveled approximately 200 feet from the roadway, struck trees and came to rest on its roof. Investigators determined that Santiago was driving at a minimum speed of 121 mph just before the crash, in an area with a posted work zone speed limit of 40 mph. The investigation also determined that Santiago and Walters had engaged in a previous race that took place on Route 100 approximately one hour before the fatal crash on Route 422.

Deputy District Attorney Thomas W. McGoldrick, who prosecuted the case, says Santiago's plea to a count of Third-Degree Murder for each of the lives lost reflects the seriousness of the charges he faced. "The defendant was racing another car on a county highway with speeds that are astoundingly fast and he did it with two people in the car, one of whom was pregnant, and with marijuana in his system. We will not tolerate drag racing of any type in Montgomery County, and anyone who engages in such reckless and dangerous behavior will be charged to the fullest extent available. These lives lost were an avoidable tragedy."

Walters pled guilty on Oct. 12, 2017 of Homicide by Vehicle. Both defendants are being held in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility awaiting sentencing hearings, which will be held for each defendant within 60 to 90 days.

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.