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STEPHEN MOORE ARRESTED FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER IN THE EASTER SUNDAY HOMICIDE IN POTTSTOWN



STEPHEN MOORE

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Dec. 4, 2019) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Pottstown Borough Police Chief Mick J. Markovich announce the arrest of Stephen Moore, 32, of Pottstown, with First-Degree Murder for the April 21 shooting death of Joshua Smith at 625 Industrial Highway in Pottstown.

Pottstown Police responded to a reported shooting at 625 Industrial Highway, about 12:26 p.m., where they found the victim, who had been shot multiple times. The Montgomery County Detective Bureau and the Pottstown Police launched a joint investigation into the homicide. The investigation learned that Moore and Smith left Smith's residence together earlier in the day in a silver Jeep, driven by Moore and owned by Moore's wife. The victim and defendant went together to the Home Depot store in Pottstown and were captured on surveillance video purchasing a screwdriver just minutes before the shooting, which occurred next to a parked U-Haul truck.

As Pottstown Police were responding to the homicide scene, a Pottstown police officer observed a silver Jeep traveling at a high rate of speed eastbound on Industrial Highway, away from the shooting scene, and began following the Jeep. The officer saw the Jeep crash at the intersection of High and Wilson streets, and as police approached the crash, the male driver exited the Jeep and fled the scene on foot. Following the crash, detectives recovered a Ruger .38 caliber pistol, a Taurus 9 mm pistol and two cellphones from the Jeep. Ballistics tests determined that a bullet recovered from the deceased's body was fired from the Ruger .38 caliber firearm found in the Jeep.

An arrest warrant was issued for Moore on April 24, 2019. On Dec. 3, 2019, Moore was arrested inside a residence in the 800 block of North Charlotte Street in Pottstown by the Montgomery County SWAT Western Region. He was arraigned on charges of First-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder and Possession of a Firearm Prohibited before Magisterial District Judge Edward C. Kropp Sr. No bail is available for First-Degree Murder, and he was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., on Dec. 19, 2019, before Judge Kropp.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Samantha Thompson and First Assistant District Attorney Edward F. McCann, Jr.

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann, Jr.
First Assistant District Attorney

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