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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORRISTOWN TEEN CHARGED WITH THIRD-DEGREE MURDER IN JAN. 3rd SHOOTING DEATH

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Jan. 6, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Police Chief Mark E. Talbot announce the arrest of Victor Bell Jr., 16, of Norristown, for the shooting death of 23-year-old Diamond Rahatt in her Norristown home.

On Sunday, Jan. 3, at approximately 1:39 p.m., Norristown Police responded to 1409 Markley Street for a reported shooting. Arriving officers found Rahatt in her bedroom of the residence suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. She was transported to Paoli Hospital, where she was pronounced dead Sunday evening. Dr. Erica Williams, a forensic pathologist with the Chester County Coroner's Office, performed an autopsy on Jan. 5, 2021, which determined Rahatt died as a result of a single gunshot wound to the head and the manner of death was homicide.

Norristown Police and Montgomery County Detectives launched a joint investigation into the homicide. Processing of the crime scene found a Springfield Arms .40 caliber firearm next to Rahatt's body on the bed, which was supine on the bed. The gun was legally registered to the victim. A bullet strike was located on a bedroom wall, consistent with her being seated at the time of the bullet strike and a single cartridge casing was recovered in the bedroom. The defendant, who was a longtime friend of the victim, posted a video of himself playing around with the victim's gun shortly before the shooting. He left the home immediately after Rahatt was shot.

"Diamond Rahatt had her whole life ahead of her—a life cut short by the reckless handling of a gun. The death of this young woman is a tragedy, and our hearts and prayers go out to her family," said DA Steele. "The defendant was playing around and taking photos with a loaded gun without any regard for the danger and threat to human life the behavior posed. It was reckless and now a young woman is dead."

Bell is charged with Third-Degree Murder, Possessing an Instrument of Crime and Manslaughter. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Juanita Price, who denied bail. The defendant was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional

Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., Jan. 15, 2020, before Magisterial District Judge Gregory Scott.

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.