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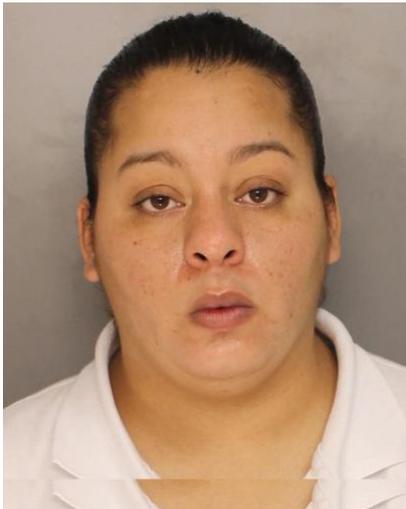
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KENSINGTON WOMAN ARRESTED FOR DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH RELATED TO JUNE 15th OVERDOSE DEATH IN UBER



JESSICA LOPEZ

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Jan. 27, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Lower Merion Township Police Superintendent Michael J. McGrath announce the arrest of Jessica Lopez, 27, of Philadelphia, for Drug Delivery Resulting in Death related to the death of Matthew Warren, 33, of Narberth, who overdosed and died in an Uber in Lower Merion Township.

On Monday, June 15, 2020, at approximately 5:28 p.m., Lower Merion Police responded to the intersection of St. Asaphs Road and Conshohocken State Road in Bala Cynwyd for a medical emergency. Police arrived to find a deceased male, later identified as Warren, lying across the back seat of a car being used as an Uber. The Uber driver told police he had picked up the victim on East Sterner Street in the Kensington section of Philadelphia and was driving the passenger to his home in Narberth when Warren became unresponsive. The driver pulled over and called 911.

Lower Merion Township Police and Montgomery County Detectives launched a joint investigation into the death. On Warren's person, they found a cellphone, credit

cards, a money clip and seven small plastic baggies, stamped in red with “ROCKY,” containing a powdery substance. They also found two empty baggies of the same type and a straw, consistent with being used to snort heroin/fentanyl.

Detectives reviewed the victim’s phone and using text messages, Uber receipt records, records from a money transfer app, cell site analysis and other investigative methods, they determined that on the day of his overdose death, Warren made a \$90 ATM withdrawal before leaving his residence in an Uber at 4:01 p.m. At 4:34 p.m., he was dropped off on East Sterner Street in Philadelphia, a few houses away from Lopez’s residence, who texted to meet her outside down the block. He replied and asked Lopez: “Can I go in your car real fast?” “So I can do it?”, meaning some of the drugs. In the 15 minutes he was in Kensington, Warren sent money to the CashApp account \$cashapp131, and at 4:47 p.m., he was picked up by an Uber on East Sterner Street. They were en route to his Narberth residence when he suffered the fatal overdose, and the driver pulled over and called 911 at 5:28 p.m. The investigation also found that Warren had previously sent 33 payments totaling approximately \$1,900 to the CashApp account \$cashapp131 from Nov. 20, 2019 through June 15, 2020, the date of Warren’s death. Warren’s history using Uber also revealed multiple trips to East Sterner Street in Philadelphia.

A search warrant was executed on Lopez’s residence, where she lived with her 18-month-old son, and her car on July 21, 2020. Drug packaging materials and paraphernalia, scales, a loaded .32 caliber Deringer firearm, marijuana and several pills were seized, as well as her cellphone.

“During a six-month time period prior to his death, Warren paid this defendant nearly \$2,000 in 33 payments through a cash transfer app and took multiple Ubers to and from her residence in Kensington—the same spot where she sold him the fentanyl that killed him,” said DA Steele. “Matthew Warner was just one customer of hers and now he’s dead. Drug dealers need to know that law enforcement in Montgomery County will continue to hold drug dealers accountable for selling the deadly drugs that kill people.”

NMS Laboratories analyzed the contents of the seven baggies found on Warren at the time of his death and found they contained a combination of caffeine, 4-ANPP, acetylfentanyl, fentanyl, heroin and zylazine. The two empty bags stamped “ROCKY” and the straw were found to contain caffeine and fentanyl in one bag and 4-ANPP, caffeine, fentanyl and heroin in the other bag and the straw.

The Montgomery County Coroner’s Office performed an autopsy on Warren’s body on June 16, 2020. Following the autopsy and results of toxicology tests, Forensic Pathologist Dr. Kahlil S. Wardak ruled on Jan. 7, 2021 that the cause of death was a lethal dose of fentanyl.

Lopez was arrested Jan. 26, 2020 on charges of Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, Possession with Intent to Deliver, Person Not to Possess a Firearm, Criminal Use of a Communications Facility, Recklessly Endangering Another Person and related charges. She was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Michael P. Quinn, who set bail at \$350,000 cash. Lopez was unable to make bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing was set for 9:30 a.m., on Feb. 5, 2021, before Magisterial District Judge Karen Zucker.

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.