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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Schemes To Defraud Victims Uncovered



Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman, Lansdale Borough Police Chief Robert McDyre and West Norriton Police Chief Dale Mabry announce the arrest of Danna Shirlette Ntaka, 48, of Wilmington Delaware and Stephen Strobe, 62, of Royersford in two separate schemes to steal money from unwitting victims.

Ntaka is charged with Forgery, Theft by Unlawful Taking, Securing Execution of Documents by Deception and related charges for her role in a rental scam where she stole from the property owner and a prospective tenant. In February 2012, Ntaka leased an apartment on Green Street in Lansdale from landlord Steven Hendricks. According to Hendricks, she told him that her name was "Danna McKellar-Ntaka" and that she was a doctor.

After living at the apartment for a period of time Ntaka listed the same apartment for rent on Craigslist.com. When a prospective tenant responded to the advertisement, Ntaka purported herself to her as the true property owner and executed a fraudulent lease agreement for the apartment. Ntaka collected a \$1,200.00 security deposit from her and \$2,400.00 which constituted the first and last month's rent payments. The "tenant" subsequently discovered the fraud when she called 911 to report a gas leak at the apartment. A longtime neighbor saw the emergency vehicles and notified the legitimate property owner.

Defendant Ntaka was arrested in this home rental scam in Lansdale on September 16, 2015. Her bail was set at \$100,000. The preliminary hearing is scheduled for October 22, 2015 at 12 PM in front of District Justice Sobeck in Blue Bell.

Detective Chad Bruckner conducted a background check on Ntaka and learned that she was born "Danna McKellar" and her current legal name is "Danna Ntaka." He also determined that she has used multiple aliases in the past and that nothing in the background investigation revealed that Ntaka was a doctor or practiced medicine of any kind.

The defendant is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Meghan Carney.

Stephen Strobe has been charged with Forgery, Insurance Fraud, Theft by Deception and related charges after taking more than \$32,000.00 from victims of his scheme where he collected money for a non-existent insurance policy.

In April, 2015, West Norriton Police received a complaint from a couple, who signed a contract with Strobe on September 22, 2012 to invest money into a flexible premium deferred annuity with American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company. They provided two checks to Strobe in the total amount of \$32,123.96 on September 16th, 2012. In February of 2015, the couple requested a statement reflecting the account balance of the annuity. They were provided a statement from Strobe that appeared to be fraudulent. Upon contacting the fraud department at American Equity, the couple was told that the account did not exist within their company.

Detective Michael McGettigan was able to obtain bank records showing that Strobe had deposited the checks into his account on September 17, 2012. Checks were then drawn from his account to pay himself and various parties relating to his personal business in the days following the victim's delivery of the checks. The funds were never forwarded to American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company.

This case will be prosecuted by ADA Alexandria MacMaster of the Economic Crimes Unit.

On September 30, 2015, Steven Strobe was arraigned before District Judge Ester Casillo. Strobe's bail was set at \$10,000 unsecured. The preliminary hearing is scheduled for October 15, 2015 at 11:15 AM before Magisterial District Judge Ester Casillo.

We are alerting the public to these schemes and ask anyone who believes they may have been a victim of either one of these defendants to call Detective Chad Bruckner (267) 642-9413, Detective Michael McGettigan (610) 630-1701 X 309 or Lieutenant Christopher Kuklantz of the Montgomery County Detective Bureau at (610) 278-3685.

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.