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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Joint Investigation Initiated into the Deaths of Two in the Schuylkill Canal

District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Upper Providence Police Chief Mark Toomey announce a joint investigation into an incident where Lauren Ann Magargal, age 25, and Clinton Berger, age 29, both died in the Schuylkill Canal.

On Monday, October 5, 2015 at approximately 11:34 PM, Upper Providence Police responded to the area of 400 Towpath Road in Mont Clare, Montgomery County. The location of the incident is near Lock 60 in the Schuylkill Canal Park. A joint investigation by the Upper Providence Police and Montgomery County Detectives was initiated to determine whether the actions of the driver are criminal.

A preliminary investigation has revealed that the driver of the vehicle backed the car up out of a parking area, traversed over the paved canal roadway and onto a grass embankment causing the car to flip into the canal water. When First Responders arrived at the scene they found the car on its roof in the water. It was determined at the scene that the 21 year old driver was able to get out of the vehicle and a 25 year old rear seat passenger was also able to get out of the vehicle after entering the water.

Autopsies were conducted today at the Montgomery County Coroner's Office and the forensic pathologist determined that the cause of Magargal and Berger's death was drowning.

The investigation into the incident is ongoing.

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.