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MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
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### **MATTHEW WERTZ JR., 28, ARRESTED FOR MURDER OF HIS AUNT IN CONSHOHOCKEN**



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Dec. 17, 2016) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Conshohocken Borough Police Chief Michael Orlor announce the arrest of Matthew J. Wertz Jr., 28, of 909 Hallowell Street in Conshohocken, for First-Degree Murder and related charges in the stabbing death of his aunt, Catherine Wanamaker, 60, on Dec. 16, 2016.

At 5:14 a.m., Conshohocken Borough Police responded to a call of a woman screaming and a dog barking at 909 Hallowell Street in Conshohocken Borough. Upon arrival, officers found the residence secure. After forcing their way in, officers found the body of Ms. Wanamaker lying on the floor, dead from multiple stab wounds throughout her

body. They also found Wertz kneeling several feet away and observed him to be stabbing himself in his throat area. Police were able to disarm him. The defendant was transported to Lankenau Hospital for treatment.

The Montgomery County Coroner's Office completed an autopsy this afternoon and confirmed the existence of nearly 40 stab wounds on the victim. He opined the cause of death is multiple stab wounds and the manner of death is homicide.

"This is a terrible tragedy. A woman opened her door to a relative who had just been released from jail, and in return she was brutally murdered," said Steele.

The defendant was taken into custody upon his discharge from the hospital and arraigned today before Magisterial District Judge Henry Schireson. Bail was denied. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., Dec. 29, 2016 before Magisterial District Judge Deborah Lukens.

The case will be prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Samantha Cauffman.

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**