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JOSE VANEGAS CHARGED IN ROOFTOP BURGLARIES OF COSTCO, FOUR OTHER LOCATIONS



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (April 13, 2017) —Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Upper Merion Township Police Chief Thomas Nolan, Montgomery Township Police Chief J. Scott Bendig, Hatfield Township Police Chief William J. Tierney, Lower Salford Police Chief Thomas A. Medwid and Norristown Borough Police Chief Mark E. Talbot announce the arrest of Jose Vanegas, 44, of Malvern, for a series of five rooftop burglaries that involved the theft of more than \$100,000 in cash, jewelry and a handgun.

Vanegas was charged with multiple counts of Burglary, Criminal Trespass, Criminal Conspiracy, Theft by Unlawful Taking, Receiving Stolen Property, Person Not to Possess a Firearm, Receiving Stolen Property and other related charges.

The joint investigation into the rooftop burglaries, which occurred Feb. 6 to March 5, 2017, revealed that Vanegas and a juvenile co-conspirator planned and executed the five burglaries, gaining entry most often from the roof. The five burglaries, their method of entry and amount stolen were:

- Costco in Upper Merion: through the skylight, more than \$82,000 of jewelry;
- Patel Food Market in Montgomery Township: through duct work from the roof, \$700 stolen;
- Lansdale Meats & Deli in Hatfield Township: through duct work from the roof, \$12,000 cash and a handgun;
- Cinco de Mayo Supermarket in Norristown: through a smashed window of a door, \$6,600 cash and Guatemalan phone calling cards;
- Norris Beer Deli in Norristown: climbed a drain pipe into a third-floor window, \$1,000 cash.

Vanegas was arraigned April 12, 2017 in front of Magisterial District Judge Harry Nesbit. Bail was set at \$99,000 cash. The defendant failed to make bail and is in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is set for 11:30 a.m., April 25, 2017, in front of Magisterial District Judge Andrea Duffy.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Kelli McGinnis and Evan Correia.

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.