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ALFRED DUKES JR. OF NORRISTOWN ARRESTED FOR GUN TRAFFICKING



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (April 28, 2107)—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Sam Rabadi announce the arrest of Alfred L. Dukes, Jr., 46, of Norristown, for trafficking illegal firearms. Dukes was charged with 18 counts of illegal sale or transfer of a firearm—the first count is a second-degree misdemeanor and the subsequent counts are second-degree felonies.

The joint investigation by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau's Violent Crime Unit and the ATF began when four firearms were seized in Bronx, N.Y. in relation to a criminal investigation. All four guns were registered to Dukes, who had never reported them missing or stolen. Law enforcement identified a total of 19 firearms purchased by and registered to Dukes: six 22 caliber handguns, nine .380 caliber handguns, two 40 caliber handguns, one 25 caliber handgun and a shotgun. All of the identified firearms were purchased from 2009 to 2016 from federally licensed firearms dealers located within Montgomery County.

Nine of these firearms were seized in separate criminal investigations—six seizures occurred in Bronx, N.Y., one in Suffolk County, N.Y. and two in the Municipality of Norristown. These firearms were not seized from Dukes, and the only commonality among the investigations was that all of the firearms were registered to Dukes. The purchase of these firearms, the way they were recovered and his inability to produce the other nine firearms are all indicators of illegal trafficking of firearms and/or the straw purchasing of firearms.

“Dukes bought these guns in Montgomery County and got them in the hands of criminals from New York to Norristown who were not legally allowed to buy or possess firearms. His actions thereby facilitated the illegal activities of other criminals. Law enforcement everywhere takes that crime very seriously since firearms, especially illegally obtained firearms, are at the root of many of the worst crimes like homicides, robberies and drug dealing,” said Steele. “Getting a supplier of illegal guns off the street makes Montgomery County and the region that much safer.”

“ATF targets those individuals who unlawfully put illegal firearms into the hands of violent criminals,” said Rabadi. “We will continue to work with our partners to aggressively dismantle firearms trafficking schemes.”

Dukes was arraigned on April 26, 2017 before Magisterial District Judge Cathleen Kelly Rebar, who set bail at \$350,000 cash. He failed to make bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m., May 10, 2017 before Judge Ester J. Casillo.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Laura Bradbury, Captain of the Firearms Unit.

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.