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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **JAMES CLARK IV CHARGED WITH AGGRAVATED ASSAULT BY VEHICLE FOR AUG. 23 ABINGTON CRASH**



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Sept. 18, 2017) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Abington Township Police Chief John A. Livingood announce the arrest of James H. Clark IV, 32, of Abington, for Aggravated Assault by Vehicle, Reckless Endangerment and other charges related to the August 23rd crash that critically injured a 14-year-old pedestrian in front of Abington Senior High School.

At 2:45 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, Abington Township Police responded to a crash involving a Subaru Forester and a pedestrian at the intersection of Highland Avenue and Canterbury Road in front of Abington Senior High School. Responding officers found an unresponsive 14-year-old girl lying 102 feet south of the crosswalk where the crash took place. She was taken by ambulance to Abington Hospital, then transferred to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The victim suffered liver, kidney and spleen lacerations; fractures to her T3 vertebrae, pelvis and leg; a dislocated shoulder; eye and eyelid injuries; a concussion and multiple abrasions.

A joint crash investigation of the crash by Abington Township Police and Montgomery County Detectives revealed that the victim was walking across Highland Avenue in the marked crosswalk when the Subaru, driven by Clark, struck the pedestrian, who was more than halfway through the intersection at the time of the crash. The victim was hit with such force that she flew up in the air and landed 102 feet away. The investigation also revealed that the vehicle driven by the defendant was speeding, traveling at an estimated speed of at least 46 mph in a 25-mph zone.

"This crash involving a speeding car and a girl crossing a street within a marked crosswalk happened right outside of a high school as teenagers were coming and going to sports tryouts, cheerleading practice and other activities that signal the beginning of the school year," said Steele. "Distracted driving and speed are a deadly combination. Drivers owe it to the community and to our young people to exercise extra caution and pay special attention to their surroundings in and around our schools."

Clark was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Juanita A. Price and was released on his own recognizance. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 1 p.m., Oct. 11, 2017 before Judge Price.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney M. Stewart Ryan.

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.