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### **RONALD PURVIS OF POTTSTOWN CHARGED WITH DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH IN MARCH 30 FATAL OVERDOSE**



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 2, 2017) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Pottstown Borough Police Chief F. Richard Drumheller and Lower Merion Police Superintendent Michael McGrath announce the arrest of Ronald Purvis, 32, of Pottstown, on the criminal homicide charge of Drug Delivery Resulting in Death in the March 30, 2017, overdose death of Kevin High, 29, of Sanatoga, Pa., on March 30, 2017

Pottstown Borough Police responded to an East High Street apartment in the early morning hours of March 30, 2017 to find a deceased male lying at the bottom of a stairway inside the apartment building. The ensuing investigation by the Pottstown Police Department revealed that at 3:10 p.m., March 29, Mr. High arrived at the defendant's apartment where the defendant gave him a baggie from a drawer in the living room, which usually contained heroin, and the contents of a metal container, which usually contained methamphetamine. Mr. High ingested both and quickly

showed signs of distress. While Mr. High was apparently overdosing, the defendant and a neighbor carried him into the hallway of the apartment building, where he later died. The investigation further revealed that the defendant intentionally destroyed videotapes and other evidence prior to calling 911.

An autopsy by Montgomery County Coroner's Office determined that the cause of Mr. High's death was due to combined drug intoxication by methamphetamine and synthetic opioids.

Purvis is charged with Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, a felony criminal homicide charge that could result in a sentence of up to 40 years—a penalty similar to third-degree murder—as well as Involuntary Manslaughter, Possession with Intent to Deliver, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution, Obstruction of Justice, Tampering with Evidence and Abuse of Corpse.

“Rather than call 911, the defendant carried the overdosing man out into the hallway of the apartment building, went shopping and left him to die,” said DA Steele. “Kevin High died from being poisoned by these deadly drugs provided to him by a dealer. I cannot say this enough: dealers peddling their poison should think twice about doing so in Montgomery County because if someone dies and we can prove it was from the drugs you provided to them, you are on the hook for homicide. This is our fifth arrest for this charge in 2017, and more arrests will be coming. Our law enforcement agencies are working together to combat this terrible epidemic, and we are committed to stemming the tide of the pain, suffering, addiction and death that those who traffic poison are raining down on our county and bringing into all of our lives.”

Purvis was arraigned Sept. 27, 2017, before Magisterial District Judge Edward C. Kopp Sr., who set bail at \$500,000. The defendant was unable to post bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is set for 12:15 p.m., Oct. 11, 2017, before Judge Kopp.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Brianna Ringwood.

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.