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EVAUGHN-SHA WALTERS PLEADS GUILTY TO HOMICIDE BY VEHICLE IN ROUTE 422 RACING CRASH

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 12, 2017) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced that Evaughn-Sha Walters, 21, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty to Homicide by Vehicle in connection with the racing crash on Route 422 in West Pottsgrove that claimed the lives of two people and an unborn baby.

Walters entered the guilty plea today before Judge Todd D. Eisenberg, taking responsibility for his actions on the night of Feb. 4, 2017. Walters was drag racing another car driven by Shone Santiago that crashed and killed Santiago's passengers—Anthony Rodriguez, 23, Marissa Kelly, 20, and her unborn child.

Investigators determined that Santiago and Walters were racing eastbound on Route 422 when Santiago lost control of his car, crashed through the right guard rail, and became airborne. The car traveled approximately 200 feet from the roadway, struck trees and came to rest on its roof. Investigators determined that Santiago was driving at a minimum speed of 121 mph just before the crash, in an area with a posted work zone speed limit of 40 mph. The investigation also determined that Santiago and Walters were engaged in a previous race that took place on Route 100 approximately one hour before the fatal crash on Route 422. Investigators downloaded a video of the earlier race from Walters' cell phone, which he took as he was racing Santiago. In the video, Walters' speedometer indicates a speed of 137 mph.

Deputy District Attorney Thomas W. McGoldrick, who prosecuted the case, says Walters' plea to two felony counts of Homicide by Vehicle was appropriate. "Two people and an unborn fetus died. It's tragic, and it's made all the more tragic because it was caused by the sustained reckless behavior of car racing. Today, the defendant took responsibility for his actions and showed remorse." He will be sentenced in approximately 60-90 days.

Charges against Santiago are pending and include two counts of Third Degree Murder, one count of Third Degree Murder of an Unborn Child, two counts of Homicide by Vehicle, Driving Under the Influence and Recklessly Endangering Another Person.

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.