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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FENTANYL SUPPLIER PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND IS SENTENCED TO 18-40 YEARS



Miguel Figueroa

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (December 20, 2018) - Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Berks County District Attorney John T. Adams announced today that Miguel A. Figueroa, 34, of Reading, PA. pled guilty to multiple counts of Corrupt Organizations, Possession with the Intent to Deliver Fentanyl and Cocaine, Conspiracy to Possession with the Intent to Deliver Fentanyl and Dealing in Proceeds of Unlawful Activity. He was sentenced to 18-40 years in state prison.

In June 2018, Figueroa, along with his co-conspirators were arrested for operating one of the largest Fentanyl Trafficking Organizations in Montgomery County following a wiretap investigation. At the time of his arrest, Figueroa was preparing to deliver 200 grams of Fentanyl – an estimated 6,600 doses of uncut Fentanyl– to a co-conspirator when law enforcement apprehended him.

“Figueroa was dealing in death. He was delivering the poison that has fueled addictions and overdoses that have affected so many people in Montgomery County

and the surrounding region,” said Steele. “This sentence sends a strong message to anyone who is trafficking and selling Fentanyl and other deadly drugs in Montgomery County and in our region that we will tirelessly work to bring them to justice.”

Dubbed “Operation Poison Control” this investigation led to the arrest of 25 people in June 2018. To date, 16 people have pled guilty and nine are awaiting trial.

The arrests were the result of a multi-agency investigation involving the following: The Montgomery County District Attorney’s Violent Crime Unit (VCU) and Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET); the Berks County District Attorney’s Detective Unit; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bucks and Montgomery County Safe Streets Task Force; the Pottstown Borough Police Department; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF); the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Bureau of Narcotics Investigation (BNI); the Muhlenberg Township Police Department; the Reading City Police Department; the Allentown Police Department; the Lehigh County Detective Bureau and the Pennsylvania State Police, all participated in this investigation.

This joint investigation involved the use of electronic surveillance, visual surveillance, fixed surveillance, search warrants, controlled drug buys, confidential informants (CIs), and tips from concerned citizens.

“On June 1, 2018, we learned through intercepted phone communications that Figueroa was meeting a co-defendant at his residence to deliver the Fentanyl,” said Steele. “We knew we had to try and stop that significant amount of deadly poison from going out on the street, so we moved quickly to set up law enforcement teams to arrest the defendants and serve 15 search warrants on their homes and vehicles.” Figueroa and a co-defendant were taken into custody and seized from Figueroa’s vehicle was nearly 200 grams of Fentanyl and a firearm. Other executed search warrants yielded varying amounts of Fentanyl, cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, pills, handguns, drug cutting agents and drug packaging materials.

Figueroa had access to assets and U.S. Currency generated by his illegal activity and attempted to legitimize these assets in hopes of preventing law enforcement from discovering them. Through the use of wiretaps, surveillance and search warrants, law enforcement soon learned that Figueroa continued his illegal activities while incarcerated, instructing various individuals in an attempt to conceal the source, location and ownership of illegally obtained proceeds in violation of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, Title 18, Section 5111 Dealing in Proceeds of Unlawful Activity. As a result of this investigation, law enforcement seized assets and U.S. currency. Figueroa was arrested on additional charges on November 15, 2018. At the time of his plea, Figueroa admitted to his role in the drug trafficking organization, as well as his attempts to hide ill-gotten gains that were generated by his long-standing drug trafficking business.

“Operation Poison Control” is being prosecuted by Assistant Chief of the Trials Division Tonya Lupinacci, who oversees the Firearms and Narcotics Units, and the Captain of the Firearms Unit Laura Bradbury.

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.