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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREDERICK CLEA ARRESTED FOR MURDERS OF HIS WIFE, MOTHER-IN-LAW AT THEIR CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP RESIDENCE



FREDERICK CLEA

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (July 26,2020) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Cheltenham Police Chief John Frye announce the arrest of Frederick J. Clea, 57, of 7780 Green Valley Road, for two counts of First-Degree Murder and related charges in the homicides of his wife, Latiya Clea, 41, and his mother-in-law, Mekenda Saunders,75.

On Saturday, July 25 2020, at 12:09 p.m., Cheltenham Police responded to 7780 Green Valley Road after a female from the residence called 911 for a domestic disturbance. Cheltenham Police Officers arrived on scene and located the two victims, who both lived at the residence. Latiya Clea and Saunders suffered apparent gunshot wounds and were pronounced dead at the scene by personnel from Cheltenham Township EMS. The defendant answered the door when police arrived. A Glock semi-automatic handgun was recovered at the scene.

Cheltenham Police and Montgomery County Detectives conducted a joint investigation into the apparent homicides. The investigation revealed that the defendant and his wife were engaged in a verbal argument when the shooting occurred.

“The combination of a recently purchased gun and anger toward his wife and mother-in-law proved deadly,” said Steele. “Tragically, two young children are now left without parents and a grandparent in their lives, and the defendant faces spending the rest of his life in prison.”

Autopsies on the bodies were conducted today by Dr. Gregory McDonald of the Montgomery County Coroner’s Office. Dr. McDonald determined that Latiya Clea died of multiple gunshot wounds, sustaining five gunshot wounds, and Saunders died of a gunshot wound to the chest. The manner of death for both victims was homicide.

Frederick Clea was charged with two counts each of First-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder and Possessing an Instrument of Crime. He was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Christopher J. Cerski. Bail is not available for First-Degree Murder, and the defendant was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., Aug. 6, 2020, before Judge Cerski.

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.