



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

MARK A. BERNSTIEL

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

JESSE S. KING

CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX

COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090

(610) 278-3095

(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND DRUG DEALER ARRESTED FOR DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH IN FEBRUARY 2021 OVERDOSE DEATH IN CHELTENHAM



JEFFREY LEBRON

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Jan. 12, 2022) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Cheltenham Township Police Acting Chief John Slavin announce the arrest of Jeffrey Lebron, 50, of Cheltenham, on charges of Drug Delivery Resulting in Death related to the Feb. 23, 2021 death of 27-year-old Nathan Lauch in Cheltenham Township. Lebron is the second defendant arrested for Lauch's murder, joining Saeed McCrae, 23, of Elkins Park, who was arrested in July 2021.

Lauch was found dead on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021, by his mother in their home in the 300 block of Cottman Avenue. Cheltenham Police arrived at approximately 6:30 p.m., to find Lauch deceased in his bedroom. Near the body, police located a black cellphone. They also found in the victim's wallet that contained two round yellow pills inscribed with a "T" over "189," wrapped in a piece of a torn receipt.

Cheltenham Township Police and Montgomery County Detectives launched a joint investigation into the overdose death. In the victim's cellphone, detectives found numerous phone calls and text messages between the deceased and McCrae arranging the purchases of drugs. The last was from the day before Lauch was found dead. Cellphone data confirmed the McCrae's and Lauch's phones were communicating with

each other and in the same geographic area as McCrae's apartment the night before Lauch was found dead of an overdose. Undercover detectives also purchased the same pills from McCrae, and a search warrant for McCrae's phone found more than 1,400 texts and calls between McCrae and the deceased. Laboratory testing on the yellow pills located in the deceased's wallet, on the defendant's person and in his apartment found that they contained deadly fentanyl and chlorofentanyl. McCrae was arrested on July 20, 2021.

Soon after, in September 2021, Cheltenham Police learned that McCrae's fentanyl pill supplier was Jeffrey Lebron. A search of McCrae's cellphone for Lebron's phone number yielded hundreds of text messages that were drug-related in nature, discussing the purchasing of illegal drugs and arranging to meet for those purchase. An analysis of Lebron's cellphone confirmed the hundreds of texts and calls with McCrae. An analysis of both cellphones and the call detail records showed that McCrae and Lebron met at least 11 times between February 2020 and February 2021 for the purpose of conducting a drug transaction. A search warrant executed at Lebron's residence found 21 round yellow pills inscribed with a "T" over "189," the same as those found in the deceased's wallet at the time of his death and the same as those purchased by detectives from McCrae.

"This defendant, Jeffrey Lebron, was selling counterfeit oxycodone pills to Saeed McCrae who then sold them to the end users. These counterfeit pills actually contained the even deadlier fentanyl, and caused Lauch's death," said Steele. "These tragic overdose deaths are happening to far too many families, ripping them apart. Montgomery County law enforcement will continue to hold drug dealers accountable for selling the deadly drugs that kill people."

Lebron is charged with felony Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, Possession, Possession With Intent to Deliver, Criminal Use of a Communications Facility and related charges. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Christopher J. Cerski, who set bail at \$500,000 cash. Lebron was unable to make bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is set for 10 a.m., on Feb. 17, 2022, before Magisterial District Judge Elizabeth McHugh Casey.

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.