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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN NORRISTOWN CLEARS OFFICERS IN USE OF FORCE

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (June 10, 2022)—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced today that the investigation of the May 21, 2022 incident in Norristown where police officers discharged their weapons was a lawful use of force.

The independent investigation of the shooting was conducted by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau, as is normal procedure for officer-involved shootings in Montgomery County. The Norristown Police Department and the officers involved cooperated with the investigation. As part of the investigation, County Detectives interviewed witnesses, obtained videos, collected on-scene evidence and evaluated ballistic evidence.

The investigation found that Norristown Police Command had alerted all officers on May 17, 2022 that credible information indicated that Mark Simpkins Jr., who was wanted on a Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole warrant, was in Norristown. On May 21, 2022, at approximately 6 a.m., a Norristown Police Sergeant on patrol spotted Simpkins heading into the A-Plus store on Main Street. Additional officers responded, and when they tried to stop Simpkins, he fled on foot eastbound on West Lafayette Street. As Simpkins ran into a breezeway between two residences, he fired a gunshot, and officers returned fire. Simpkins was then taken into custody in the rear yard of a residence in the 600 block of West Lafayette Street. Police immediately rendered aid to Simpkins for a bullet wound to his left leg. He was transported to Paoli Hospital, where he was treated for the non-life-threatening injury.

“The defendant’s weapon discharged in close proximity to the Norristown Police officers while in the breezeway’s enclosed area, leading them to fear for their lives. Thankfully, no lives were lost during this incident, and the wanted defendant was taken into custody,” said DA Steele. “After review of all of the evidence, I have concluded that this was a lawful use of force.”

In Pennsylvania, the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer is governed by Section 508 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. A law enforcement officer is “justified in using deadly force only when he believes that such force is necessary to prevent

death or serious bodily injury to himself or such other person...” 18 Pa.C.S.A. §508(a). In addition, the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers is justified to defeat...the escape of a person who possesses a deadly weapon, or otherwise indicates that he will endanger human life or inflict serious bodily injury unless arrested without delay. 18 Pa.C.S.A. §508(a)(1)(i)(ii).

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele