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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARGES UPGRADED TO 3RD DEGREE MURDER IN LOWER PROVIDENCE CRASH THAT KILLED A WOMAN AND HER UNBORN BABY



EVERETT CLAYTON

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Dec. 21, 2022) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Lower Providence Township Police Chief Michael Jackson announce that two counts of Third-Degree Murder have been filed against Everett Clayton, 56, of Charleston, W.Va., related to the crash in Lower Providence Township that killed 31-year-old Kellie Adams, of Lansdale, and her unborn baby Emersyn Grace Adams.

The additional charges come after the joint investigation of the crash by the Lower Providence Police, Montgomery County Detective Bureau and members of the Regional Crash Reconstruction Team revealed new information regarding the head-on crash that occurred just before 3 p.m. on Aug. 25, 2022, in the 500 block of South Park Avenue. The crash involved a 2003 Ford F650 XLT Super Duty dump truck driven by the defendant and a 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe driven by Ms. Adams. Ms. Adams was pronounced dead at the scene, and the baby was later delivered stillborn. The driver of the dump truck was not injured and admitted to police following the crash that he had been drinking Sly Fox IPA beers. Blood testing found that Clayton had a blood alcohol content of .076, just under the legal limit to drive.

The joint investigation recovered cellphone video of Clayton's driving for more than 25 minutes leading up to the fatal crash. The defendant had been recording video on his cellphone, which was located on his vehicle's dashboard, facing out the front

windshield. The recovered video shows that Clayton was excessively speeding, tailgating other vehicles and was continuously operating his vehicle in a reckless manner. The video starts 25 minutes and 27 seconds prior to the fatal crash and shows several near-miss incidents with other vehicles prior to the fatal crash. Specifically:

- At 00:36 into the recording, Clayton's vehicle comes to an abrupt stop behind a pickup truck on Sumneytown Pike at Swedesford Road in Upper Gwynedd Township. Clayton can be heard swearing as he is trying to stop.
- At 12:38, Clayton's vehicle at Valley Forge Road at Rt. 73 in Worcester comes up fast on the rear of a stopped pickup truck. The pickup truck pulls off the road to the right to get out of the way.
- At 14:39, Clayton's vehicle at 1814 Valley Forge Road Worcester nearly hits a landscaping trailer that is stopped partially on road. Clayton swerves into the oncoming lane of traffic, almost striking oncoming cars, which have to swerve to get out of his way.
- At 22:15, Clayton, traveling on North Park Avenue at Ridge Pike in Lower Providence, nearly hits the back of a pickup truck driving in front of him.
- At 25:27 in the video, the fatal crash occurs.
- Throughout the video, the dump truck driven by Clayton is traveling at speeds exceeding the speed limit by anywhere from a few miles per hour to 26 miles over the speed limit.

"In every fatal crash Homicide by Vehicle case, we keep investigating even after the initial arrest. In this case, we were able to find evidence that showed the defendant's actions exhibited sustained recklessness over a period of time leading up to the fatal crash," said Steele. "That is the standard for Third-Degree Murder, and the new charges were added."

The joint investigation had previously found that Clayton was operating the dump truck at a speed of approximately 58 miles per hour as he navigated a curve in the road immediately prior to the fatal crash. The excessive speed caused Clayton to be unable to keep the dump truck in his own lane of travel, applying rapid steering movements that caused the truck to cross over the yellow center lines. His vehicle's front driver side struck the Chevrolet Tahoe's front driver's side with such a violent impact that it immediately stopped all forward momentum of the Tahoe and caused the dump body portion of the dump truck to fully separate from the chassis, sending the chassis rolling.

Detectives investigating the crash found that dump truck was owned by Patrick Doran, who had purchased it on July 6, 2022, under the false name of "Jacob Fury," presenting a fictitious New York State driver's license to complete the transaction. Doran never titled the vehicle in any state, did not have it inspected, registered or insured as required under state law, and operated the vehicle without complying with proper federal laws for this size vehicle. An arrest warrant for Doran was issued on Oct. 28, 2022.

Clayton, who has been at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility on \$500,000 cash bail since his arrest in early November, is now charged with Third-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder of an Unborn Child, Homicide by Vehicle, as well as

numerous summary counts including Careless Driving/Unintentional Death, Reckless Driving, Driving at an Unsafe Speed, and multiple other offenses related to the unsafe and unregistered condition of the dump truck. He was arraigned on the recent charges on Dec. 20, 2022, by Magisterial District Judge Maureen Coggins, who set bail at \$500,000 cash. At a bail review hearing on Dec. 21, Court of Common Pleas Judge Henry S. Hilles III kept bail at \$500,000 cash and added a no driving condition should the defendant make bail.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Jan. 17, 2023, before Magisterial District Judge Cathleen Kelly Rebar. The case will be prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Edward F. McCann Jr. and Assistant District Attorney Gabrielle Hughes.

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.