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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MAN AND WOMAN ARRESTED FOR THE DEC. 17<sup>TH</sup> MURDER OF A NEW YORK MAN IN NORRISTOWN**



**ERICK GALO-PONCE**



**ANA GONZALEZ-MUNGUIA**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Jan. 7, 2023) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Acting Police Chief Michael Bishop announce the arrests of Ana Gonzalez-Munguia, 20, and Erick Galo-Ponce, 20, both of Norristown, for Second-Degree Murder, Theft and related charges stemming from murder of Nilson Velazquez-Cardona of Woodhaven, N.Y. on Dec. 17, 2022. The defendants were taken into custody on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, in Harris County, Texas by U.S. Marshals.

The investigation began at approximately 7:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, when Norristown Police responded to the area of the Stony Creek Office Center at 151 W. Marshall Street for a report of a deceased male under the Stony Creek Bridge. The Hispanic male had no identification, wallet, money, cellphone or other personal property on his person when he was found. An autopsy on the body was conducted by Dr. Ian Hood of the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, who found that the male died of blunt force trauma to the head and the manner of death was homicide.

A homicide investigation was launched by Norristown Police and Montgomery County Detectives. Using a fingerprint reader, detectives were able to identify the deceased male as 23-year-old Nilson Velazquez-Cardona of Woodhaven, N.Y. and determined that Velazquez-Cardona had been reported missing by his brother after he didn't

return home on Dec. 16, 2022, as was expected. The brother told detectives that Velazquez-Cardona left home earlier on Dec. 16, 2022, driving a 2014 grey Nissan Altima and had his wallet and cellphone with him.

The investigation found that after victim was found dead his bank was receiving notifications of someone attempting to use his credit card, including an attempted charge for a motel room in Louisiana rented in the name of Erick Galo-Ponce using a cellphone number that investigators tracked to Ana Gonzalez-Munguia. Galo-Ponce, investigators learned, had recently been evicted from a Cherry Street residence in Norristown for non-payment of rent, and the landlady confirmed that Galo-Ponce had a girlfriend name "Ana." Physical evidence and video evidence showed that the two defendants had been living in an area close to where the victim was found under the Stony Creek Bridge.

Later in the day of the murder, Dec. 17, 2022, video surveillance from a gas station in King of Prussia showed Galo-Ponce filling up the victim's Nissan Altima. Phone records from Gonzalez-Mungai's cellphone show that the phone was in the vicinity at the time of the murder, then moved to the King of Prussia gas station before traveling through Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and into Texas, where investigators learned Galo-Ponce had lived previously and had relatives in the vicinity.

"This was excellent detective work to identify the victim and then subsequently identify the two defendants by tracking them across the country as they fled," said Steele. "We are grateful for the assistance of the U.S. Marshal's in arresting these fugitives."

Galo-Ponce and Gonzalez-Munguia will be extradited to Montgomery County to face charges of Second-Degree Murder, Conspiracy, Theft by Unlawful Taking, Access Device Fraud, Conspiracy, Receiving Stolen Property and other charges. They will be arraigned upon their return to Pennsylvania.

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.*