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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PEDESTRIAN STRUCK AND KILLED IN POTTSTOWN IN HIT AND RUN; POLICE SEEKING INFORMATION

On Friday, March 3, 2017 at 7:54 p.m. the Pottstown Borough Police Department responded to a report of a pedestrian struck on Pennsylvania Route 100 southbound, just south of the intersection with Shoemaker Road. Upon arrival police found 24-year-old Donald Purnell, of Pottstown, dead on the scene. Mr. Purnell had been walking to his 8 p.m. shift at the adjacent Wendy's Restaurant when struck.

The Pottstown Borough Police Department contacted the Montgomery County Detective Bureau for assistance. A joint investigation was initiated. The on-scene investigation, as well as interviews with witnesses, have led investigators to believe a dark-colored pickup truck travelling south on Route 100 struck Mr. Purnell at highway speed and immediately fled the scene. The pickup truck was last seen going south on Route 100 toward King Street. This vehicle should have front-end damage from the impact.

In the aftermath of the crash, the victim was struck by a second vehicle. The driver of the second vehicle did not see the victim lying on the highway prior to striking him. The driver of the second vehicle stopped immediately, remained on scene and was cooperative with the police investigation.

Investigators are asking for assistance from the public. Anyone who witnessed Mr. Purnell being struck, was present immediately afterward or has information as to the vehicle and/or driver which first struck Mr. Purnell are asked to phone the Pottstown Borough Police Department at 610-970-6570.

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann, Jr.

First Assistant District Attorney