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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATTORNEY GENERAL, DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCE THE ARREST OF PHILADELPHIA MAN FOR "DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH" IN UPPER MERION FATAL OVERDOSE



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (April 14, 2017) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Upper Merion Police Chief Thomas Nolan announce the arrest of Angel L. Leon, 44, of Philadelphia on the criminal homicide charge of Drug Delivery Resulting in Death and related charges in the Feb. 23, 2017, overdose death of Roger Korfmann, 52, in Upper Merion Township.

Upper Merion Township Police were called to a hotel in Upper Merion Township at 10:34 a.m. after a maid opened the door to the room to find Korfmann dead on the floor. Seventeen blue wax paper bags stamped "Miami" or "Pepsi" as well as a syringe were found in the hotel room.

“Roger Korfmann died by someone poisoning him, and that someone was a drug dealer. I want to be loud and clear with this message: if you deal drugs like pills, heroin or fentanyl and we can prove that the drugs you sold caused someone’s death, you will be charged with homicide. We will be coming for you and charging you with Drug Delivery Resulting in Death,” said Steele. “This is the second arrest for this charge in 2017, and I expect more arrests in trying to stop the flow of deadly drugs and save lives. We are committed, and our law enforcement community is committed, to stemming the tide of the pain, suffering, addiction and death that those who traffic poison are raining down on our county and bringing into all of our lives.”

Attorney General Shapiro praised the cooperative investigation. “Law enforcement cooperation was critical to solving this case. When law enforcement works together our communities and citizens across Pennsylvania are safer as a result,” said Shapiro.

The ensuing investigation by Upper Merion Township Police, Montgomery County Detective Bureau and the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General revealed that during the three days leading up to Korfmann’s overdose death, he had sent and received drug-related text messages with his heroin and drug supplier. On Feb. 21, 2017, Korfmann called a taxi to drive him to Philadelphia to purchase heroin from Leon. The taxi driver waited while Korfmann purchased the drugs and then drove Korfmann back to the hotel. The next day, on Feb. 22, Korfmann and Leon continued text conversations and arranged to meet again. Sometime after 11 p.m., Korfmann and Leon met at the hotel where Leon delivered drugs to Korfmann.

The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General Bureau of Narcotic Investigations (Philadelphia Region), Upper Merion Township Police Department and the Montgomery County Detective Bureau served a search warrant on April 14, 2017 on Leon’s residence on West Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia. In the residence, law enforcement found and seized 13 bundles of suspected heroin stamped with “Super Mario,” “Pitbull,” “Hurricane,” and “Popeye”; a Springfield Armory, .45 caliber handgun with six live rounds in the magazine; paraphernalia associated with drug trafficking and other items.

On April 6, 2017, Dr. Erica Williams, a forensic pathologist with the Montgomery County Coroner’s Office, ruled the manner of death was accident and opined that Korfmann died as a result of the combined drug intoxication of heroin, fentanyl and acetyl fentanyl. An even deadlier drug than heroin, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 40 to 50 times more deadly than street-level heroin

Leon is charged with Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, which is a felony criminal homicide charge that could result in a sentence of up to 40 years—a similar penalty to third-degree murder. He is also charged with Possession with Intent to Deliver, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, Person Not to Possess a Firearm, Criminal Use of a Communication Facility and related charges.

Leon was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge William I. Maruszczak. Bail was set at \$1 million, and the defendant was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing was set for 10 a.m., April 26, 2017, before Magisterial District Judge James P. Gallagher.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tonya Lupinacci.

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.