



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 311
NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
19404-0311

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX
COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090
(610) 278-3095
(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2016

PHILADELPHIA MAN CHARGED FOR SERIES OF OVERNIGHT BURGLARIES IN FIVE COUNTIES



NORRISTOWN, Pa.—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Cheltenham Township Acting Police Chief John Frye, with the aid of law enforcement agencies from Montgomery and four surrounding counties, announce the arrest of Larry Rafiq Samuels for a series of burglaries and attempted burglaries in Montgomery County, Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County and Philadelphia County.

After a lengthy and thorough investigation, Samuels was charged with 89 incidents of burglary between August 31, 2014 and July 3, 2015. Charges include 66 counts of overnight burglary with people present in the home, two counts of overnight burglary where no one was home, two counts of non-residential burglary and 19 counts of attempted residential burglary. Additionally, Samuels is also facing charges related to three overnight burglaries and one attempted burglary on July 19, 2015, in Cheltenham Township, which are part of the same crime spree. Money, cell phones, Apple electronic devices and purses were the most common articles stolen from homeowners. All told, the victims suffered financial loss in excess of \$200,000.

A large-scale investigation was underway by a Task Force in July 2015 to address a rash of overnight burglaries during which families were present. This Task Force investigated overnight residential burglaries in 2014 and 2015 in Montgomery and the surrounding counties. A break came on July 19, 2015, when Cheltenham Township police officers responded to reports of three overnight burglaries and one attempted burglary. At two of these homes, surveillance video was obtained of Samuels, who was later identified with the aid of this Task Force. The burglaries followed a pattern: they occurred very near SEPTA regional rail stops; money and small electronics were the sought after items; items unwanted by the burglar were left strewn in yards on the way to the next home; and the burglar would sometimes take food and drinks from the home.

The investigation involved police from Cheltenham Township, Abington Township, Upper Dublin Township, Jenkintown Borough, Lansdale Borough, Lower Merion Township, Whitemarsh Township, Lower Gwynedd Township, Hatfield Township and Springfield Township in Montgomery County. They were aided by Pennsylvania State Police—Media Station, Radnor Township, and Nether Providence Township of Delaware County; the Philadelphia Police Department; Doylestown Township of Bucks County; and Tredyffrin Township and Easttown Township of Chester County. The Montgomery County Detective Bureau and the Mid-Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLLEN) also aided in the analysis of more than a year of records and reports.

The defendant was arraigned on July 7, 2016 before Magisterial District Judge Elizabeth McHugh, who set bail at \$500,000. The defendant failed to make bail and is in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. All charges against the defendant were held at a July 14, 2016 preliminary hearing. The defendant's formal arraignment is scheduled for August 31, 2016.

Assistant District Attorneys Lauren McNulty and Katelyn Damanis will prosecute the case.

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann, Jr.
First Assistant District Attorney

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.