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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2016

PHILADELPHIA MAN ARRESTED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE



NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele joins with other law enforcement officials in announcing the arrest of Bruce “Cash” Steele, 44, of Philadelphia, for 34 felony counts related to Trafficking of Individuals, Prostitution, Involuntary Servitude and other offenses.

On August 12, 2016, detectives from the Major Crimes Unit of the Montgomery County Detective Bureau served a search warrant on the defendant’s home, arrested him and rescued two women who he was currently victimizing. These victims, along with others, cooperated with investigators and provided detailed statements outlining their victimization. With the assistance of the Salvation Army’s “Stop Trafficking”

initiative, the victims were transported to safe places where their needs will be addressed.

An extensive investigation showed that the defendant was illegally operating his human trafficking in a five-county region of Southeastern Pennsylvania, including Montgomery County. This illegal operation was sophisticated and organized. The evidence showed that the defendant intentionally targeted women who were drug addicted and had little or no resources. He subjected trafficked women to involuntarily servitude through the use of violence, the threat of violence, coercion, duress and by providing or withdrawing access to the drugs to which the victims were addicted.

The Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and the Montgomery County Detective Bureau were assisted with this investigation by the Upper Merion Township Police, Horsham Township Police, Lower Pottsgrove Township Police, Upper Moreland Township Police, Tinicum Township Police, East Whiteland Township Police, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Chester County District Attorney's Office, Delaware County District Attorney's Office, Pennsylvania State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Anyone with additional information regarding the illegal activities of Bruce "Cash" Steele, including prior victims, are asked to contact Montgomery County Detectives at 610-278-3368.

The defendant was arraigned August 12, 2016 before Magisterial District Judge James Gallagher, who set bail at \$1 million cash. The defendant failed to post bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is schedule for 10 a.m., August 25, 2016 before Magisterial District Judge Harry Nesbitt in Horsham.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sophia Polites.

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.