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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JAMES PUIA OF BRIDGEPORT ARRESTED FOR THE MURDER OF DONNA MARIE DONATO ON THE DEKALB STREET BRIDGE



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Jan. 16, 2018) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Bridgeport Borough Mayor Mark Barbee announce the arrest of James Bruce Puia, 51, of Bridgeport, for First-Degree Murder and related charges in the stabbing death of Donna Marie Donato, 62, on the DeKalb Street Bridge on Jan. 15, 2018.

At approximately 3:06 p.m., Bridgeport Borough Police responded to a report of an assault on the Route 202 DeKalb Street Bridge where they found pedestrian Puia, who had blood on his face and hands. Norristown Police located a deceased female, later identified as Ms. Donato, lying on the northbound walkway of the bridge. The victim and the defendant had previously dated, according to the defendant.

The Montgomery County Coroner's Office completed an autopsy on Jan. 16, 2018, and opined that Donato died as a result of multiple stab wounds. The manner of death was ruled homicide.

The defendant was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge James P. Gallagher. Bail was denied. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., Jan. 30, 2018 before Judge Gallagher.

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.