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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **INVESTIGATION OF FEB. 27 OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN NORRISTOWN CONCLUDES; OFFICER CLEARED IN USE OF FORCE**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (March 14, 2018)—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced today that the investigation of a Norristown Borough Police Officer's shooting an armed suspect at the rear of 226 E. Chestnut Street in Norristown was a lawful use of force.

The investigation of the shooting was conducted by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau, as is normal procedure for officer-involved shootings in Montgomery County. The Norristown Borough Police Department, the officer involved and the officers on scene cooperated with the investigation. The shooting took place following a 911 call, which came in at 11:23 a.m., about three males fighting. At 11:24 a.m., officers were advised by the police dispatcher that one male possessed a firearm. Responding officers learned that the male with the gun was Damar Coleman, 29, of the 600 block of Swede Street in Norristown, with whom they are familiar. When officers observed Coleman on Green Street, a foot chase ensued. The investigation revealed that Coleman did not follow repeated commands of "Damar, Police, get on the ground." In the rear of 226 E. Chestnut Street, the suspect turned to face the officer holding a silver semi-automatic handgun at chest level. Coleman began moving toward the officer from approximately five feet away, refusing to follow officer commands. The officer fired one shot from his duty weapon, striking Coleman in the shoulder. Coleman was treated at Penn Presbyterian Hospital for a shoulder wound. A Phoenix Arms, Model Raven, .25 caliber semi-automatic handgun with one live round in the magazine and one live round that was part of a double feed were recovered from the scene.

Coleman was charged on March 1, 2018, with Person Not to Possess a Firearm, Receiving Stolen Property, Possessing an Instrument of Crime and Resisting Arrest. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Francis J. Lawrence Jr., who set bail at \$250,000. He was unable to post bail and is currently in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

“The evidence showed that this was an armed and dangerous man—a person not allowed to possess a firearm—who pointed a loaded gun at a Norristown Police Officer at close range, putting police officers and bystanders at risk. That officer discharged his firearm to put a stop to the risk,” said Steele. “Our investigation determined the facts of this case supported the use of deadly force.”

In Pennsylvania, the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer is governed by Section 508 of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. A law enforcement officer is “justified in using deadly force only when he believes that such force is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury to himself or such other person...” 18 Pa.C.S.A. §508(a). In addition, the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers is justified to defeat...the escape of a person who possesses a deadly weapon, or otherwise indicates that he will endanger human life or inflict serious bodily injury unless arrested without delay. 18 Pa.C.S.A. §508(a)(1)(i)(ii).

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.