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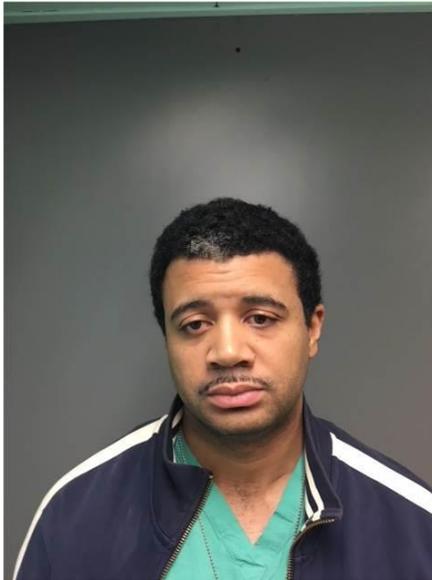
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TRISTIAN JONES ARRESTED FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER OF EBONEY WHITE AND HER UNBORN BABY IN ELKINS PARK



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (March 20, 2018) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Cheltenham Township Police Chief John Frye announce the arrest of Tristian Jones, 35, of Philadelphia for two counts of First-Degree Murder and related charges in the stabbing deaths of Ebony N. White, 31, and her unborn baby on Feb. 19, 2018 in the bedroom of the victim's Elkins Park residence.

At 3:20 a.m., on Feb. 19, the Cheltenham Township Police Department responded to 2029B Mather Way in the Elkins Park section of Cheltenham Township for a reported argument. The 911 call was placed by the victim's 12-year-old daughter from a bathroom of the residence. Cheltenham Township Police Officers arrived on scene and located a deceased female inside the apartment's master bedroom, where she had been stabbed multiple times. The victim's children,

ages 12 and 7, were inside the apartment at the time of the stabbing but were not harmed physically. Ms. White was 7½ months pregnant at the time of her death. The fetus did not survive the attack.

Montgomery County Detectives and Cheltenham Police launched a joint investigation into the two deaths. The investigation revealed that there was no evidence of a struggle elsewhere in the apartment and no evidence of a robbery since laptop computers and Ms. White's pocketbook had not been taken. Video surveillance and cash register receipts revealed the defendant purchased clothing and an Imusa paring knife and cutting board set from a Burlington Coat Factory store earlier that evening.

“Following a thorough investigation by the Cheltenham Police and Montgomery County Detectives, the evidence pointed to the defendant, who has disclosed that the unborn baby was his, and that the defendant's wife did not know about the relationship with Ms. White,” said Steele. “Domestic violence and intimate partner violence like this senseless killing is all too often a hidden crime until it's too late and police arrive to investigate a murder. This attack and murder of a mother and her unborn child happened while her two young children were in the apartment. They could hear their mother being attacked and stabbed to death. The older child very bravely did everything she could to help her mother and had the presence of mind amidst this horrible attack to lock herself in the bathroom to call 911.”

The Montgomery County Coroner's Office performed an autopsy on Ms. White's body and determined that the cause of death for Ms. White was multiple stab wounds, and the cause of death for the male fetus was intrauterine death due to maternal stab wounds. The manner of death for both was homicide. Forensic Pathologist Khalil Wardak later compared an Imusa paring knife purchased by detectives to the fatal stab wounds and opined that the knife is consistent with the stabbing injuries to Ms. White.

Jones was arraigned March 19, 2018, before Magisterial District Judge Elizabeth McHugh. Bail is not available for First-Degree Murder charges, and the defendant was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., March 29, 2018, before Magisterial District Judge Christopher J. Cerski.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alexandria MacMaster.

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.