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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INMATE JOSEPH HODUM NOW CHARGED WITH MURDER AFTER FORMER CELLMATE DIED FROM THE ATTACK



JOSEPH HODUM

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (May 10, 2019)—Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced that charges against Joseph Michael Hodum, 38, of Philadelphia, have been upgraded to First-Degree Murder following the death and subsequent autopsy on Stephen Klampfer, of Norristown. Hodum attacked and beat the victim on March 30, 2019, while both were in the medical area of the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

Montgomery County Detectives launched an investigation into the attack after being contacted by administrators from the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. The investigation revealed that at 8:27 a.m., inmate and defendant Hodum was standing at his cell door yelling while the victim was lying face up on his bunk in the locked cell. The defendant left the cell door and began

punching the victim in the head multiple times, before the victim appeared to move himself to the floor to escape the attack. The defendant continued the attack by raising his knee and stomping on the victim's head more than 20 times, continuing after the victim lost consciousness and until MCCF correctional officers intervened. The victim was airlifted by helicopter to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. Klampfer died on April 13 at the hospital without ever having regained consciousness following the attack.

An autopsy was conducted by Forensic Pathologist Dr. Albert Chu of the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office on April 14, 2019. Based on his findings, Dr. Chu determined the cause of death was complications of blunt impact head trauma and the manner of death was homicide.

Hodum was arraigned on the new charges before Magisterial District Judge Cathleen Kelly Rebar, who denied bail as required for First-Degree Murder charges. The defendant remains in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for noon, May 21, 2019 before Judge Rebar.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Laura Bradbury and Gwendolyn Kull.

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.