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### **RUSSELL MONTALVO-FERNANDEZ OF PHILADELPHIA BEING SOUGHT FOR JAN 23<sup>RD</sup> MURDER AND ROBBERY IN NORRISTOWN; Two other men in custody for the murder and shooting**



**MONTALVO-FERNANDEZ**

NORRISTOWN (June 11, 2019) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Police Chief Mark E. Talbot Sr. are asking for the public's help in locating Russell Montalvo-Fernandez, 38, of North Sixth Street in Philadelphia. Montalvo-Fernandez is being sought on First-Degree Murder and related charges in connection with the Jan. 23 homicide and shooting in a residence in the 500 block of Cherry Street in Norristown. He is considered armed and dangerous.

On Jan. 23, 2019, Ralph Williams, 66, was found shot to death in his home at 534 Cherry Street in Norristown. His 21-year-old son was also shot during the robbery. An arrest warrant has been issued for Montalvo-Fernandez on charges of First-Degree Murder, Conspiracy, Aggravated Assault, Robbery and related charges. He is described as a Hispanic male, with black hair and brown eyes. He is 5-feet, 7-inches tall and weighs 200 pounds.

Anyone with information regarding Montalvo-Fernandez's whereabouts is asked to contact Norristown Police at 610-270-0977 or Montgomery County Detectives at 610-278-3368. Or anonymous tips can be texted using MontcoCrimeTips on the STOPit! app. The free STOPit! app can be downloaded from the App Store for iPhones or on Google Play for Androids, then enter the code: MONTCOPA. All text tips are completely confidential.

Two other men have been arrested related to the murder and robbery. Henry Diaz-Ayala, 39, of Philadelphia, was arrested on Feb. 17, 2019, for First-Degree Murder and related charges, and Justin Mitchell, 40, of Norristown, was charged with Second-Degree murder, robbery and aggravated assault following the issuing of a Grand Jury Presentment on March 28, 2019.

The murder investigation began when Norristown Police responded to 534 Cherry Street at 9:17 p.m. on Jan. 23, 2019, for a reported shooting. Arriving officers found two men on the second floor of the residence: Williams, who was dead from gunshot wounds and his adult son was also shot but survived. Officers noted a blood trail in the house, through the rear kitchen door and into Maple Alley, consistent with someone bleeding as they fled the residence.

The Montgomery County Detective Bureau and Norristown Police launched a joint investigation. Detectives secured surveillance video from behind the Cherry Street residence, which showed a Chevrolet Impala with a missing driver's side hubcap driving on Maple Alley without headlights and parking behind the residence. Then three men exited the vehicle. The Chevrolet Impala leaves the scene minutes after the 911 call is made. Approximately 30 minutes later, at 9:46 p.m., Diaz-Ayala arrived at Temple University Hospital, driven by Montalvo-Fernandez, and was treated for a stab wound.

Cell phone records for both Diaz-Ayala and Montalvo-Fernandez put them at the residence during the time of the murder, robbery and shooting. The investigation further linked the two defendants to Mitchell. A Grand Jury investigation was launched regarding the incident. The Grand Jury found evidence that Mitchell was involved in the Jan. 23 robbery and murder and recommended charges against him.

On Feb. 7, 2019, Mitchell was arrested for fleeing and eluding regarding an unrelated incident. On March 28, 2019, following the Grand Jury Presentment, Mitchell was charged with Second-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder, Conspiracy, Aggravated Assault, Robbery and related charges. Bail was denied, and he has been in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility since. A preliminary hearing before Magisterial District Judge Margaret Hunsicker is in the process of being rescheduled due to a defense request.

On Feb. 17, 2019, Diaz-Ayala was arrested on charges of First-Degree Murder, Second-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder, Conspiracy, Aggravated Assault, Robbery and related charges. There is no bail available for First-Degree Murder, and he was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. On March 22, 2019, a preliminary hearing was held before Judge Hunsicker, and all charges were held.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Samantha Cauffman and Assistant District Attorney Furreh Qureshi.

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann, Jr.  
First Assistant District Attorney

*CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.*