



## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**KEVIN R. STEELE**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.**

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY**

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

**SAMUEL J. GALLEN**

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

**JESSE S. KING**

CHIEF OF STAFF

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX**

**COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU**

**(610) 278-3090**

**(610) 278-3095**

**(610) 278-3368**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **TERRELL RUSSELL ARRESTED ON CHARGES RELATED TO FATAL HIT-AND-RUN OF SHANNA HURDLE IN CHELTENHAM**



**TERRELL RUSSELL**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 19,2020) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Cheltenham Township Police Chief John Frye announce the arrest of Terrell Russell, 25, of Philadelphia, on charges related to the fatal hit-and-run crash in Cheltenham that killed Shanna Hurdle.

On Sunday, Sept. 27 at 8:12 p.m., Cheltenham Township Police responded to Cheltenham Avenue near Ogonz Avenue for a report of a pedestrian-vehicle crash. Police arrived to find a deceased female, later identified as 30-year-old Shanna Hurdle, lying in the westbound left-turn lane of Cheltenham Avenue. The striking vehicle fled the scene.

Crash investigation and reconstruction experts from both Cheltenham Police and Montgomery County Detectives determined that the victim was struck while standing in the center left-turn lane when she was struck by the white vehicle driven by Russell. Ms. Hurdle was thrown 152 feet. The striking vehicle braked upon impact then continued westbound and drove over the body as it was lying in the roadway. Officers recovered broken grill and trim parts that were stamped with General Motor part numbers, which led investigators to determine that the striking vehicle was a 2020 GMC Acadia. Video recovered of the crash showed the white Acadia had

sustained front-end damage that included hood damage, crumple damage and damaged trim pieces.

Police investigators obtained a list of all GMC Acadias owned in Montgomery, Philadelphia, Bucks and Delaware counties and systematically eliminated the vehicles based on trim packages, then made more than 100 in-person checks of the remaining vehicles to look for crash damage. After all vehicles were eliminated, they turned to Acadias from rental companies that were thought to be in the area, which led them to Russell. Records from Enterprise Rental on Cheltenham Avenue showed that the defendant had rented the vehicle on Sept. 18, 2020 and had not returned it on time, then twice extended the rental contract and still had not returned the vehicle to the rental company.

The investigation also obtained video from local business and residential surveillance camera systems, allowing detectives to track the striking vehicle from fleeing the scene westbound on Cheltenham Avenue, south on Upsal Avenue, then west on Michener Avenue before losing the vehicle a few blocks from the defendant's residence. Additional video footage shows a vehicle with hood damage stop behind in the alley behind Russell's Fayette Avenue residence, then depicts a black male walk around the vehicle a couple of times, at one point looking under the front passenger side of the car using a lighting device to assist him. Data from the defendant's cellphone shows the phone traveling from the crash scene to his residence, using the same route as that depicted in the video surveillance obtained. On Oct. 15, 2020, the Acadia rented by Russell was recovered. It showed an attempt had been made to fix the damage to the vehicle.

"This was an excellent investigation that combined high-tech investigative techniques with good old-fashioned police work to lead us to this defendant. I also want to thank the public for helping with tips following the release of the still images of the car we were looking for," said Steele. "Our thoughts and prayers remain with the victim's family and can only hope that knowing who hit Shanna and then left the scene of her death helps them during this difficult time."

Russell was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving death, tampering with evidence, failing to render aid, careless driving leading to an unintentional death and failure to notify police of an accident. He was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Elizabeth McHugh Casey, who set bail at \$50,000 unsecured. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Oct. 29, 2020, before Magisterial District Judge Christopher J. Cerski.

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.*