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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KHALIF SINCLAIR ARRESTED FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER OF HIS NEIGHBOR IN NORRISTOWN



KHALIF SINCLAIR

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Jan. 7, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Police Chief Mark E. Talbot announce today's arrest of Khalif Sinclair, 23, of Norristown, for the murder of 21-year-old Abdur Small in his Norristown home on Nov. 20, 2020. An arrest warrant was issued for Sinclair on Dec. 18, 2020, and U.S. Marshals arrested him today in Marcus Hook, Pa.

On Nov. 20, 2020, at approximately 5:34 p.m., Norristown Police responded to 502 West Lafayette Street for a reported shooting. Arriving officers located Small inside the living room of the residence suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. Small was transported by ambulance to Suburban Community Hospital and then flown to Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia, where he was later pronounced dead. The Philadelphia Medical Examiners Officer performed an autopsy on Nov. 22, 2020, which determined Small died as a result of a gunshot to the head and the manner of death was homicide. A .22 caliber bullet was recovered from the victim's head.

Norristown Police and Montgomery County Detectives launched a joint investigation into the homicide. Video surveillance recovered by detectives showed that Sinclair, who lives next door at 500 West Lafayette Street, and several occupants of Small's home were involved in a verbal altercation around 2:45 p.m. that afternoon.

Witnesses said Sinclair wanted to fight the occupants of the home. Less than three hours later at approximately 5:30 p.m., according to witness accounts and surveillance video, Sinclair walked onto the porch of 502 West Lafayette Street and fired two shots from his 9mm handgun into the residence, prompting one of the home's residents to return fire using a .22 caliber firearm. Small was closest to the door as the shots were fired, and he was hit by a bullet that the autopsy confirmed was fired by one of home's other occupants.

"The defendant went to the residence with the specific intent to kill and his actions directly resulted in the death of Abdur Small," said DA Steele. "If he had not gone to the door of that residence, armed with a handgun and then fired into the residence, the other occupant of the house would not have fired his weapon in self-defense, and Small would still be alive today."

Sinclair is charged with First-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder, Person Not to Possess a Firearm, Possessing an Instrument of Crime and Recklessly Endangering Other Persons. He was arraigned today before Magisterial District Judge Francis Lawrence. There is no bail available for First-Degree Murder, and the defendant was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Jan. 14, 2021 before Judge Lawrence.

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.