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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAREEM WELTON CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER AFTER POINTING STOLEN VEHICLE AT RUNNER IN COLLEGEVILLE, HITTING AND SEVERELY INJURING HIM



KAREEM WELTON

NORRISTOWN (July 28, 2021) -- Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Collegeville Borough Police Chief Barton Bucher announce the arrest of Kareem Welton, 40, of 23rd Street in Philadelphia, on charges of Attempted Murder and Aggravated Assault related to a hit-and-run on Main Street in Collegeville that left a 38-year-old man seriously injured. Following the crash in Collegeville, Welton was apprehended in nearby Trappe, ending what had been a dangerous and reckless high-speed drive from Center City Philadelphia—where one victim died and others were injured—into Montgomery County.

At 5:54 a.m., a Collegeville Police Officer was on routine patrol when he received a radio broadcast about a stolen gray Nissan Altima was headed west on Ridge Pike/Main Street. The officer spotted the vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed after crossing the Perkiomen Bridge. He activated his emergency lights, then briefly lost sight of the vehicle. Seconds later, the officer came across a pedestrian that was lying in the roadway and stopped to assist the 38-year-old injured runner who had been struck by the Altima. The hit-and-run victim was life-flighted to a Philadelphia hospital with severe injuries including a broken spine and fractures to his ribs and leg. He is expected to survive.

An investigation by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau and Collegeville Police found that, according to witnesses, the driver of the Altima crossed the oncoming lane of travel, intentionally struck the runner and then returned to his proper westbound travel lane before driving off west on Main Street. The defendant then pulled the Altima into an Exxon station in Trappe. He got out of the car, removing a puppy from the backseat. He then attempted to steal a bicycle but was confronted by the owner. Police took the defendant into custody without incident.

“This defendant was not only driving recklessly and at a high rate of speed, but he intentionally targeted the runner and hit him, attempting to kill him,” said DA Steele. “The intention to kill and seriously injure people can be seen in the defendant’s actions throughout the night.”

Welton was arrested and charged with Attempted Murder and Aggravated Assault for his conduct in Montgomery County. The Montgomery County investigation is ongoing. The investigation into the defendant’s other actions throughout the night is also continuing.

The defendant was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Maureen Coggins. Public Defenders asked for unsecured bail, and prosecutors requested no bail. Judge Coggins set bail at \$2 million cash, and he was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is in the process of being scheduled.

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.