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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRD MAN ARRESTED IN NEBRASKA FOR SEPT. 18 MURDER OF INNOCENT BYSTANDER IN NORRISTOWN

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 19, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Acting Police Chief Todd Dillon announce the capture and arrest of Edwin Islas-Cruz, 23, of Norristown, for First-Degree Murder related to the Sept. 18, 2021 shootout on Astor Street that killed innocent bystander Barry Fields. An arrest warrant was issued in Montgomery County for Islas-Cruz on Sept. 25, 2021.

Islas-Cruz was arrested near Grand Island, Nebraska when the 2005 Chrysler he was riding in was stopped for speeding on Interstate 80 by a Nebraska State Police Trooper. Islas-Cruz, who provided the trooper with a false name, was in the vehicle with two other men and a juvenile. Three 9mm handguns were found in the vehicle as well as one pound of marijuana. One of the guns had an obliterated serial number, and two of the guns had extended magazines like those seen on surveillance video from the Astor Street homicide. A dark-colored face mask was found in the vehicle, which is similar to one worn by one of the shooters who exited the Toyota Camry.

All four males were arrested by the state trooper on drug and weapons charges. Islas-Cruz is awaiting extradition to Pennsylvania on charges of First-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder and Person Not to Possess a Firearm.

A fourth shooter is still under investigation. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Norristown Police Department at 610-270-0977 or call the Montgomery County Detectives' Tip Line at 610-278-DOIT (3638). Anonymous text tips can be submitted using MontcoCrimeTips on the STOPit! app. The STOPit! app can be downloaded for free from the App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Androids, then use code MONTCOPA to get the Montgomery County version of the app.

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.