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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARREST WARRANT ISSUED IN THANKSGIVING MURDER INSIDE NORRISTOWN RESIDENCE; Police searching for 19-year-old Kevon Clarke



KEVON CLARKE

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Nov. 26, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Acting Police Chief Todd Dillon announce a joint investigation into a homicide that occurred on Thanksgiving that killed 25-year-old Edilberto Miguel Palaez Moctezuma, who was eating dinner inside of an Arch Street residence. An arrest warrant has been issued for Kevon Clarke, 19, of Basin Street in Norristown, on charges of First-Degree Murder and related offenses.

The murder happened on Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021. Norristown Police were dispatched at 9:28 p.m. to the 1100 block of Arch Street for a male shot. Police arrived to find Palaez Moctezuma unresponsive with a gunshot wound to his torso. He was flown to Penn Presbyterian, where he was pronounced dead. According to family members, the victim was sitting at the table eating dinner when a single shot came through the window and struck him.

A joint homicide investigation was launched by Montgomery County Detectives and Norristown Police. The investigation found that the shooting was connected to a dispute that happened at a Thanksgiving dinner party at the 100 block of Haws Avenue earlier in the day, where four individuals including Clarke and his girlfriend Jacqueline Brown were asked to leave. Following their departure, alcohol was discovered missing, and Brown was texted about the theft by her cousin, who had also

been at the party. Arrangements were made to return the alcohol outside of Clarke's residence on Basin Street, turning it over to the cousin. The cousin double-parked her car outside the residence, saw Clarke exit the residence brandishing a gun and quickly drove off. She heard multiple shots fired as she fled. Clarke then called her on her cellphone, shouting "You trying to set me up, you could have got me (expletive) killed," and then threatened to "bang up your crib," which the cousin took to mean shoot into her residence.

Detectives located seven projectiles in the area of Basin and Arch Streets, as well as one live round. The investigation determined through the use of two different surveillance videos and analysis of the bullet hole in the window that the shot fired into the Arch Street residence killing Pelaez Moctezuma came from Clarke's shooting location. Two other males are seen in the surveillance video running from the shooting scene. The investigation into this homicide is continuing.

An autopsy was performed on Nov. 26, 2021 by Forensic Pathologist Dr. Hannah Kastenbaum with the Philadelphia Coroner's Office, which found that the cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the torso and the manner of death was homicide.

"Mr. Palaez Moctezuma was murdered while eating Thanksgiving dinner inside his home, and to be clear, he and his family were not involved in the dispute between Clarke and others," said DA Steele. "This is the second innocent bystander killed this year by a senseless dispute that turned to gun violence by someone who is not even legally able to own a gun. We hold the people involved in this kind of violence accountable here in Montgomery County. We will find this shooter and the others involved in this killing and seek justice for the murder of an innocent man, who wasn't safe even in the confines of his own home."

An arrest warrant for Clarke charges him with First-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder, Person Not to Possess a Firearm, Carrying a Firearm without a License, Recklessly Endangering Another Person and Possessing an Instrument of Crime. Clarke is 5-feet, 10-inches tall and weighs approximately 150 pounds. He is to be considered armed and dangerous. If you see him, call 911.

Anyone with information regarding this incident, the other two shooters involved or Clarke's whereabouts 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.