



# 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

**MARK A. BERNSTIEL**

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

**BRIANNA L. RINGWOOD**

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

Contact: Kate Delano 610-312-3487 cell

## **DA OFFERS \$5,000 REWARD FOR INFO LEADING TO ARREST OF RAFIQ THOMPSON FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER IN KING OF PRUSSIA**

**WANTED**  
**\$5,000 REWARD**

**RAFIQ THOMPSON SHOULD BE CONSIDERED  
ARMED & DANGEROUS. IF SEEN, DO NOT  
APPROACH, CALL 911.**



**THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S  
OFFICE is offering a \$5,000 REWARD for information  
leading to the apprehension of RAFIQ THOMPSON,  
who is charged with the FIRST-DEGREE MURDER of  
Tamara Cornelius on April 8, 2022 in King of Prussia.**

**IF YOU HAVE INFO, CONTACT:**  
Montgomery County Detective Bureau  
610-226-5553  
Upper Merion Police Department  
610-265-3232

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (April 11, 2022) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Upper Merion Police Chief Thomas Nolan announce a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Rafiq Thompson, 38, of North 47th Street in Philadelphia. Thompson is wanted for the murder of 31-year-old Tamara Cornelius at a King of Prussia gas station.

The murder of Cornelius happened on Friday, April 8, 2022. At 10:22 p.m., Upper Merion Township Police were dispatched to the Exxon Station at 113 N. Gulph Road for a report of shots fired. They arrived to find Tamara Cornelius lying in the gas station parking lot suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. She was transported to Paoli Hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 11:09 p.m.

A joint homicide investigation by Upper Merion Township Police and the Montgomery County Detective Bureau found that the defendant and victim had a prior relationship and that the two had talked briefly at 9:11 p.m. before she went in to have dinner at The Cheesecake Factory. The investigation revealed the victim left

the restaurant at 10:15 p.m., walked to the mall parking garage, then drove to the Exxon station. The defendant followed her. While Cornelius is pumping gas, Thompson stepped out of his car, spoke to the victim and then shot her multiple times, continuing as she attempted to run away.

An autopsy was performed today by Forensic Pathologist Erica Williams of the Chester County Coroner's Office, which found that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds and the manner of death was homicide. The autopsy also found that Cornelius was pregnant at the time of her death.

"This was a chilling murder of a young woman and her unborn child. We will be filing an additional homicide charge against the defendant—Murder of an Unborn Child," said DA Steele.

Thompson is Black, stands 5-feet, 7-inches tall, and weighs approximately 167 pounds. If Thompson is spotted, call 911 immediately. Thompson is to be considered armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information about Thompson's whereabouts is asked to call the Montgomery County Detectives at 610-226-5553 or Upper Merion Police at 610-265-3232. 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.*