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WANTED MAN ARRESTED AFTER EXCHANGING SHOTS WITH NORRISTOWN POLICE



MARK SIMPKINS JR.

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (May 21, 2022) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Police Chief Derrick Wood announce the arrest of Mark Simpkins Jr., 29, of Norristown, on multiple felony charges, including Aggravated Assault on Police Officers, after he fired at police as they were attempting to take him into custody on an arrest warrant issued by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole on Oct. 4, 2021.

The incident began today at approximately 6 a.m., Saturday, May 21, 2022, when a Norristown Police Sergeant on patrol spotted Simpkins heading into the A-Plus store on Main Street. Additional officers responded, and when they tried to stop Simpkins, he fled on foot eastbound on West Lafayette Street. As Simpkins ran into a breezeway between two residences, he fired a gunshot, and officers returned fire. Simpkins was then taken into custody in the rear yard of a residence in the 600 block of West Lafayette Street. Police immediately rendered aid to Simpkins for a bullet wound to his left leg. He was transported to Paoli Hospital, where he was treated for the non-life-threatening injury.

A black pistol magazine and cellphone was found on the ground next to Simpkins, and multiple baggies of cocaine were recovered from Simpkins' sweatpants pocket. Police located a Sig Sauer 9mm handgun in an adjacent rear yard. Montgomery County Detectives determined that one shot had been fired from the 9mm handgun, which had been reported as stolen during a burglary in Philadelphia on April 26, 2021.

Simpkins was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault on Police Officers, Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Person Not to Possess a Firearm, Possession With Intent to Deliver and related charges. He will be arraigned later today, at which time a preliminary hearing will be set.

As is protocol, the Montgomery County Detective Bureau will investigate the officer-involved shooting.

Approved for release:
Kevin R. Steele