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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **KAREEM REED ARRESTED ON GUN TRAFFICKING CHARGES RELATED TO MULTIPLE STRAW PURCHASES OF FIREARMS**



**KAREEM REED**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Dec. 12, 2022) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Cheltenham Township Police Chief John Slavin announce the arrest of Kareem Reed, 23, of the Spring Garden section of Philadelphia, on multiple felony charges related to the straw purchasing and trafficking of firearms.

The joint investigation by Montgomery County Detectives, the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General's Gun Violence Task Force and the Cheltenham Police Department into the Reed's gun purchasing activity began when a firearm was recovered in the possession of a defendant who was under the age of 21 and therefore, could not legally own or possess a firearm following an April 16, 2022 shooting in the Wyncote section of Cheltenham Township. The investigation also found evidence that the firearm was most likely the weapon used in a gunpoint carjacking in Philadelphia the same day as the Cheltenham shooting. The recovered firearm, a Glock 23 Gen 4, .40 caliber semi-automatic firearm—had been purchased on June 20, 2021 by Reed and had not been reported as lost or stolen, indicating it was a straw purchase. A "straw purchase" is when a person with a clean background purchases firearms specifically on behalf of another person to conceal the true ownership of the firearm. Persons who are unable to

legally purchase a firearm would include convicted felons, domestic violence misdemeanants, juveniles and mentally ill individuals.

After the firearm was recovered from the underage defendant, a joint investigation began into Reed's firearm purchases. By going through hard copies of ATF and Pennsylvania State Police purchasing forms at gun stores, detectives found that from April 7, 2021 to Nov. 13, 2021, Reed purchased four firearms. Three of the firearms were purchased at a gun store in Chalfont in Bucks County and one was purchased in Lafayette Hill in Montgomery County. Further investigation included reviewing call and texting records, which showed that Reed was selling the firearms illegally and instructing the purchaser to obliterate or remove the gun's serial number, which is a separate crime.

Detectives interviewed the defendant and gave him the opportunity to produce the firearms he had purchased. He came back to detectives with two firearms, one of which had a partially obliterated serial number. Detectives recovered another firearm, which Reed had illegally transferred to an individual known as "Na," from a vehicle at the Philadelphia Parking Authority impound lot where "Na's" vehicle had been towed. Thus, through this investigation, detectives were able to recover all four firearms.

"Buying and trafficking firearms to criminals is always a threat to public safety and is an egregious crime since the illegal firearms are often used in violent crimes, as this case shows," said DA Steele. "We have firearms laws for a reason—and one of the biggest is to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and keep our communities safe."

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro echoed DA Steele regarding the importance of these gun trafficking firearms. "This case demonstrates how illegally trafficking firearms brings violence into our communities, and how collaboration by law enforcement agencies is critical to public safety," said AG Shapiro. "We seized these illegal firearms by working together, and our agencies will continue to prioritize keeping crime guns from hitting the streets to make sure Pennsylvanians stay safe."

Reed was arrested on multiple felony charges of Unlawful Sale/Transfer of a Firearm, Dealing in the Proceeds of Unlawful Activities and Obliterating/Altering Marks on a Firearm, as well as a misdemeanor charge of Materially False Statements to Authorities. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Magisterial District Judge James P. Gallagher, who set bail at \$100,000, 10 percent. During a bail review hearing, Court of Common Pleas Judge Henry S. Hilles III modified bail to \$99,000, 10 percent. Additional conditions of bail include "defendant is not to possess or purchase any firearm."

The defendant was unable to post bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 11:15 a.m., Dec. 22, 2022 before Judge Gallagher. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Scott Frank Frame.

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.*