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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHILADELPHIAN ARRESTED FOR DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH IN EAST NORRITON WOMAN'S OVERDOSE DEATH



CHRISTIAN TALMAN

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Dec. 15, 2022) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and East Norriton Township Police Chief Phil Pulaski announce the arrest of Christian Talman, 37, of Calumet Street in Philadelphia, for Drug Delivery Resulting in Death related to the July 31, 2022 death of 37-year-old Lisa Chekemian in East Norriton Township.

On Sunday, July 31, at 9:54 p.m., East Norriton Township Police were dispatched to a residence on Washington Avenue for a report of an unresponsive woman who was found by her husband. Officers arrived to find Lisa Chekemian, deceased on the living room couch. In the victim's hand was a drawstring bag that contained six purple-tinted glassine bags that contained a white wax bag stamped with the word "WHAM." The baggies contained a white substance of suspected heroin/fentanyl. Near the body, police located a cellphone and an empty syringe.

East Norriton Township Police and Montgomery County Detectives launched a joint investigation into the overdose death. In the victim's cellphone, detectives found a text message between the deceased and Talman that began Thursday, July 28 and ending just hours before Chekemian was found dead. In the texts, the defendant and victim negotiate a price for the drugs as well as arrange for their delivery by Talman using an Uber, which Chekemian arranged and paid for. The Uber picked up Talman

at his home address and stopped at Chekemian's residence, while, according to the text messages, Talman put the drugs and a "rig" or syringe, into her mailbox. The victim paid for the drugs using Talman's Cash App account. Further, Talman warned the victim to "go slow" only use "1/10 instead of 1/5" of a bag, indicating that Talman knew the drugs were capable of killing her.

On the night of July 30 into the early-morning hours of July 31, cellphone data confirmed that Talman's cellphone moved from his home in Philadelphia to the Kensington section of Philadelphia, then to Chekemian's East Norriton residence at approximately 1 a.m. before arriving back at his residence around 2 a.m.

During the week of Aug. 29, 2022, detectives conducted a controlled buy in Kensington of illegal drugs stamped "WHAM," a known "brand" of heroin/fentanyl sold in the area of Kip Street and Indiana Avenue in Kensington. Testing was conducted on the "WHAM" baggies found at the victim's residence and the drugs purchased in Kensington. One of the baggies found at the overdose scene contained cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, tramadol and fentanyl derivatives, while another tested baggie contained fentanyl and a fentanyl derivative. The "WHAM" baggies purchased in the controlled buy were found to contain fentanyl and a fentanyl derivative.

An autopsy was performed on the body of Lisa Chekemian on Aug. 1, 2022 by Dr. Ian Hood, a forensic pathologist with the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, which included ordering toxicology testing on the victim's blood. Following the issuance of the toxicology report, Dr. Hood opined on Nov. 3, 2022, that the cause of death was fentanyl, xylazine and amphetamine toxicity.

Talman is charged with Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, Possession With Intent to Deliver, Criminal Use of a Communications Facility and related charges. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Deborah Lukens, who set bail at \$250,000 cash. Court of Common Pleas Judge Henry S. Hilles III conducted a bail review hearing and held the bail amount at \$250,000 cash. Talman was unable to make bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is set for noon, on Dec. 19, 2022, before Magisterial District Judge Marc A. Alfarano.

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.