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**PRESS RELEASE**

**DEAD WOMAN FOUND IN POND TIED TO CINDER BLOCK**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced that police had found a dead woman in a pond located in East Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The woman's body was tied to a cinder block. The body was located on Memorial Day, May 30, 2016.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "Sadly, somebody threw this woman away like a piece of trash. Our first job is to identify the victim. Then we will find out how she died and who was involved."

On May 30, 2016 at approximately 11:15 a.m., a citizen reported seeing a body in a pond off of Zeiber Road in East Coventry Township, Chester County. The pond is a popular swimming and fishing hole that is part of Pigeon Creek. The area is isolated and rural.

The East Coventry Police Department, Chester County Detectives, Chester County Coroner's Office, and fire departments responded to the area. When they attempted to retrieve the body from the water, they discovered that the woman's body was tied to a cinder block on the bottom of the pond.

The woman's body and the cinder block eventually were removed. Interviews of people in the area revealed that children had been swimming in the pond the afternoon before, so the body had been dropped off in the interim time period.

The body was an African-American female, approximate age of 25-35. She was approximately 5'6" and 130 pounds, with short hair. The woman was dressed in long shorts and a short-sleeved shirt, without any shoes. She had bracelets on both wrists and rings on her fingers. The rings were of a horse and an anchor. She had a tattoo on her left shoulder. See attached photographs of tattoo, jewelry, and clothing.

The woman's body had no gunshot wounds or blunt force trauma. There were no signs of strangulation. There was no water in her lungs, indicating that she did not drown. She was dead when she was placed in the water.

East Coventry is located near Pottstown and Phoenixville. This is an active and ongoing investigation. Anybody with information should contact Chester County Detective Sergeant Tom Goggin at 610-344-6866.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan