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PRESS RELEASE

**District Attorney's Office Report on
Troopers Discharging Firearms**

On February 1, 2019, two Pennsylvania State Police ("PSP") Troopers discharged their weapons in the line of duty. A suspect named Jeremy Oatman had led the Troopers on a high-speed vehicle pursuit after fleeing a traffic stop. Oatman also had an open criminal warrant. At the conclusion of the pursuit, Oatman jumped out of his vehicle and pointed a handgun at the Troopers. The Troopers fired multiple times at Oatman, striking but not killing him. When the Troopers went to render aid to Oatman, they discovered that the handgun actually was a very realistic looking pellet gun. Oatman later admitted that he did not want to go back to jail and was attempting to force the Troopers to shoot and kill him.

Pursuant to the policy of the Chester County District Attorney's Office (the "DAO"), the DAO was notified of this Trooper-involved shooting and conducted an independent investigation, working with members of PSP. The final police report in this case was received by the DAO on March 12, 2019.

The DAO conclusion is that the firearm discharges constituted a lawful use of force by the Troopers pursuant to 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. §508. Oatman has been charged with fleeing and eluding, aggravated assault, and related charges.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan