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April 2, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

**Shooting in East Coventry
Involving Juveniles**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and the East Coventry Police Department announced that there was a shooting on April 1, 2019 in East Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The shooting took place near the border between Chester County and Montgomery County. The shooter is a 15 year old male and the victim is a 15 year old male. The shooter has been charged with attempted murder and related offenses as an adult. The victim is currently hospitalized for his injuries.

The allegations of the criminal complaint are as follows:¹

Lower Pottsgrove Police, Montgomery County, responded to the area of Porter Road, Lower Pottsgrove near an abandoned railroad bridge by the Schuylkill River for a report of a shooting at approximately 3:44 P.M. on April 1. While en route, the police received information that the shooter was a 15 year old male, along with a description of the shooter and his name. Police located the juvenile on the Montgomery County side of the Schuylkill River. The juvenile had visible blood stains on his clothing.

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

Lower Pottsgrove Police then located the victim, a 14 year old male, on the Chester County side of the old abandoned railroad bridge by the river. The victim was under the bridge near the river and had gunshot wounds to his abdomen and his shoulder. The victim was flown to a trauma center where he underwent emergency surgery.

The police also located a third juvenile who was a witness to the shooting. The Chester County Detectives assisted the East Coventry and Lower Pottsgrove Police during the investigation. The investigation revealed that the three juveniles were all friends from a school in Montgomery County. Over this past weekend, there was a dispute between the juveniles. On Monday, April 1, the juveniles decided to cross the bridge from Montgomery County to Chester County to find an isolated location for a fight. Prior to any physical altercation, the defendant fired a handgun three times, striking the victim twice. The firearm was recovered at the scene by law enforcement. The firearm was registered to the same address where the defendant lives in Montgomery County.

Due to the facts of the case and the nature of the charges, the defendant was directly charged as an adult. The defendant is currently incarcerated at Chester County Prison.

East Coventry Police Chief Bill Mossman stated, “The East Coventry Police, the Chester County Detectives, and the Lower Pottsgrove Police worked together to solve this crime. East Coventry is a safe community and this type of gun violence is out of the ordinary.”

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, “30 years ago, this incident would have been a fist fight and nothing else. But the defendant decided to bring a gun to the fight, almost leading to the first Chester County murder of 2019. Chester County law enforcement did an excellent job of working with Montgomery County law enforcement on this investigation. Fortunately for us, we seldom see this type of violence by juveniles in Chester County.”

Anyone with information regarding this crime should contact Chester County Detective Kristin Lund at 610-344-6866.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan