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PRESS RELEASE

Coatesville Woman Charged With Firing Multiple Shots into Residence

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and Valley Township Police Department announce the arrest of Nijmeh May Shihadeh for firing multiple shots into a residence at the 1100 block of Valley Station Road in Valley Township on January 19, 2020. The defendant is charged with three counts of attempted homicide, burglary, persons not to possess a firearm, and related charges. Three people were in the residence at the time of the shooting.

District Attorney Deb Ryan stated, "It is fortunate that no one was injured as a result of this reckless shooting. The defendant was ineligible to own or possess a firearm when this occurred. These types of offenders will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Chief Brian Newhall of the Valley Township Police Department said, "We greatly appreciate the assistance of the South Coatesville Police Department, the Coatesville City Police Department and the Chester County Detectives. Everyone worked closely together to bring this event to a quick and safe resolution."

The allegations from the criminal complaint¹ are as follows:

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

On January 19, 2020, the Valley Township Police Department were dispatched to a residence at the 1100 block of Valley Station Road for the report of shots fired involving a female, later identified as the defendant. During the investigation police learned that the defendant, the landlord of the property, entered the residence without permission at approximately 3:30 a.m. Upon entry the defendant engaged in an argument with another female present in the home. The defendant was allegedly looking for another male resident who was upstairs asleep. When the defendant found the male resident she pointed the gun in his face and accused him of stealing liquor from her earlier that evening at another location. A third male, who had been sleeping in the residence, told the defendant leave the property. The defendant refused to leave the premises and the third male called 911 for help. The defendant then followed the third male upstairs and pointed at gun at two of the victims. The defendant pointed the gun at the face of the female victim and fired one round into the floor. The defendant then went back to second floor and fired at least one more shot, breaking a bottle, before leaving the residence. Two of the victims escaped out of the third floor window onto the roof.

The defendant was seen and/or heard firing four more rounds outside of the property. One bullet struck a vehicle and the other struck the door frame of the residence. Soon thereafter, the defendant was taken into custody. A black, semiautomatic 9mm caliber Berretta firearm was located in the vehicle in which the defendant was found. A total of six 9mm shell casings were recovered from the scene. As a result of a previous conviction the defendant is not permitted own or possess a firearm.

The defendant is 43 years old.

Shihadeh was arrested on January 19, 2020. Bail was set at \$1,000,000 cash. The defendant was ordered to have no contact with the victims and to have a drug and alcohol evaluation. The defendant was unable to post bail and was remanded to Chester County Prison. A preliminary hearing is scheduled on January 27, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at District Court, 15-1-05, before Magisterial District Judge Koon.

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Approved for release:

Deborah Ryan
District Attorney