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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Alleged Heroin Dealer and Girlfriend  
Arrested in Murder-For-Hire Plot**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of co-defendants Christopher Pickard and Latrice Harrington in a murder-for-hire scheme. Pickard originally was arrested on heroin dealing charges and incarcerated at Chester County Prison. He believed another man was “ratting” on him, cooperating with the police. Pickard and Harrington then arranged for a “hitman” to kill the victim. They supplied the hitman with money and two firearms, told the hitman where the victim lived, provided photos of the victim, and confirmed the murder of the victim with the hitman in recorded phone calls. The hitman was an undercover law enforcement officer and the victim was kept safe at all times.

Pickard is 29 years old. He was a resident of State College, Pennsylvania.

Harrington is 27 years old. She also was a resident of State College, Pennsylvania.

District Attorney Hogan stated, “For a criminal, desperate times call for desperate measures. Knowing that he had been caught with heroin, and suspecting that somebody was cooperating with the police, defendant Christopher Pickard

decided to have somebody killed rather than face justice. He and his co-defendant now will pay the price for this cold-blooded scheme.”

Pennsylvania State Police Sgt. Keye Wysocki stated, “This case is a clear example of how dangerous drug traffickers can be in the United States. Within days of being arrested and from within prison, the defendant orchestrated a murder-for-hire in an attempt to elude a conviction for a drug arrest.”

The facts alleged in the criminal complaints are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

On August 3, 2017, defendant Christopher Pickard was arrested on drug-related charges in Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Pickard had 813 baggies of heroin in his car. There also was a passenger in Pickard’s car, who was released and who later became the target of Pickard’s murder scheme.

After his arrest, Pickard was remanded to Chester County Prison. Pickard then began to suspect that the passenger in his car was cooperating with the police in the drug investigation, or, as Pickard put it, the passenger was “ratting” on him to the police.<sup>2</sup>

Law enforcement then received information that Pickard wanted to solicit a hitman to kill the passenger (hereinafter referred to as the “victim”). Pickard was provided with a telephone number for a hitman, who actually was an undercover police officer.

Pickard then worked with his co-defendant Latrice Harrington to arrange for the murder of the victim. Pickard offered the hitman “\$2,000 cash and an ounce of the dog food” (code for heroin) to kill the victim. Harrington, Pickard’s girlfriend, worked with Pickard to funnel communications between Pickard and the hitman.

The defendants arranged for the hitman to see pictures of the victim on the social media sites Facebook and Snapchat. The defendants identified the victim’s residence and a good time of day for the murder.

Harrington then picked up two firearms for Pickard, a sawed-off shotgun and a .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol. Harrington delivered the firearms and a

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

<sup>2</sup> In fact, the passenger was not cooperating with the police.

\$300 down payment to the hitman for the murder. Pickard promised to supply the hitman with heroin when Pickard got out of prison.

The defendants then confirmed that the hitman had murdered the victim. The hitman informed Harrington, "He's dead.... the dude's gone and he's not breathing and he's out of the state many states away." Harrington replied, "Alright that's always good news thank you so much for that." Harrington then related to Pickard, "That thing is done, you don't have to worry about somebody anymore."

The defendants have been charged with conspiracy and solicitation to commit murder, weapons charges, and related offenses.

District Attorney Hogan added, "This is a clear example of the 'Stop Snitching' culture that is pervasive in drug cases and cities like Philadelphia. Chester County law enforcement is always vigilant, and the criminals should be aware that they only make a bad situation worse for themselves when they try these tactics in Chester County. The Pennsylvania State Police and Chester County Detectives did an outstanding job in this case."

The case was investigated by the Chester County Detectives and the Pennsylvania State Police Drug Law Enforcement Division. The assigned prosecutor is Assistant District Attorney Kevin Pierce. Anybody with information should contact Chester County Detective Keith Cowdright at (610) 344-6866 or the Pennsylvania State Police at (484) 250-7720.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan