



## DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF CHESTER COUNTY

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### Chester County District Attorney Announces Arrest of Serial Burglar

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of Larry Samuel, a/k/a "Elijah Samuel." The defendant has been charged with 13 burglaries of homes in East Fallowfield Township, Valley Township, and Sadsbury Township. The burglaries took place between October 27, 2011 and February 1, 2012.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "The defendant has been terrorizing Chester County townships for months. He targeted homes around where he lived. He was bold enough to conduct some of these crimes during the day, with people present in the homes. The defendant's arrest allows the law-abiding citizens of Chester County to rest assured that they are safe in their homes."

The allegations from the criminal complaint<sup>1</sup> are as follows:

The defendant is 32 years old. He is a resident of 213 Danielle Lane, Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

Between October 27, 2011 and February 1, 2012, there were 13 residential burglaries committed in East Fallowfield Township, Valley Township, and Sadsbury Township. The items stolen included electronics, jewelry, and ten firearms. The firearms taken were revolvers, semi-automatics, shotguns, and a rifle.

The East Fallowfield, Valley, and Sadsbury Township Police Departments formed a task force to investigate these burglaries. The first major break in the case came when one of the victims informed the police that the victim had a wildlife camera in the yard. The police examined the photographs from the camera and identified the defendant as present during one of the burglaries.

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

The police also checked with a local pawn shop, American Cash Traders. The police discovered that the defendant regularly had been selling items taken during the burglaries to the pawn shop. The defendant mainly was selling off the electronic items and jewelry.

The police then obtained a search warrant for the defendant's residence. At the defendant's residence, the police recovered many more items stolen in the burglaries, including electronics and ammunition.

To date, none of the ten stolen firearms have been recovered.

The defendant was arrested for burglary in another jurisdiction on February 29, 2012. Police in Chester County and other jurisdictions have been working together to coordinate this investigation and prosecution.

The defendant is charged with burglary, firearms offenses, and related crimes.

District Attorney Hogan added, "This was a very thorough investigation by the East Fallowfield, Valley, and Sadsbury Township Police Departments. One of the most disturbing things about this case is that none of the firearms have been recovered yet. The odds are strong that those firearms will end up with other criminals and will be used in other crimes. The full impact of the defendant's criminal activity still has not been determined, and will not be until we see where and when those guns are recovered."

Assistant District Attorney Michael DiCindio has been assigned to prosecute this case. Officer Samantha Harper of the East Fallowfield Township Police Department led the investigation.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan