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PRESS RELEASE

Chester County District Attorney Announces Arrests in Phoenixville Shooting

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of Garrett Sterner and Shawn Duell for a shooting in Phoenixville, Chester County, PA. The defendants shot James Mack Brown in the parking lot of the Pennsylvania House Hotel at 225 W. High Street, Phoenixville at approximately 6:09 p.m. on May 8, 2012.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "This is an example of the kind of violence that goes hand-in-hand with drug activity. A stupid confrontation triggered by knuckleheads looking for marijuana almost resulted in a murder. We will not tolerate such conduct."

The allegations from the criminal complaint¹ are as follows:

On Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at approximately 6:09 p.m., Phoenixville police responded to a shooting in the parking lot of the Pennsylvania House Hotel. The shooting victim, James Mack Brown, suffered a single gunshot wound to the groin and was lying in the parking lot. The victim was taken by ambulance for emergency surgery and is recovering.

The Phoenixville Police received a description of two people in a vehicle that fled the scene of the shooting. The victim stated that the two men in the vehicle asked him if he could help them buy marijuana. The three drove around Phoenixville for twenty to twenty-five minutes looking for marijuana without success. Frustrated with their efforts, the two men then attempted to rob the victim. The victim was shot when he resisted and fought back.

On May 11, Pottstown Police arrested Garrett Sterner and Shawn Duell inside a residence in Pottstown on unrelated charges. Sterner and Duell matched the description of the suspects involved in the Phoenixville shooting and the vehicle at the residence matched the description

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

of the vehicle in the Phoenixville shooting. Duell has a small tattoo on his face with the initials "SD." The victim positively identified both defendants.

Phoenixville Police Chief Bill Mossman stated, "This case was solved by the combined efforts of Phoenixville Police and Pottstown Police. This is a great example of Chester County and Montgomery County working together to take violent criminals off the streets."

District Attorney Hogan added, "This was an excellent investigation by the Phoenixville Police Department. In addition, give credit to the patrol officers for being diligent enough that the bad guys were unable to find anybody to sell them marijuana on the streets of Phoenixville."

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan