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PRESS RELEASE

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced "Operation Silent Night" in Coatesville.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "Too often, the silence of the night in Coatesville was shattered by the sounds of gunshots. We unleashed Operation Silent Night to take the criminals off the streets and to give the good people in Coatesville some much-needed peace and quiet."

Operation Silent Night was a comprehensive operation spear-headed by the Chester County District Attorney's Office Drug Unit and Chester County Detectives, working with the Coatesville Police Department, Pennsylvania State Police, and officers from the Chester County Municipal Drug Task Force (the "MDTF"). MDTF officers from the following police departments participated: West Goshen, Downingtown, West Chester, West Whiteland, Kennett Square, Tredyffrin, North Coventry, and Westtown-East Goshen Regional. The Western Chester County Emergency Response Team also assisted in tactical operations.

After Coatesville reduced its police staffing levels and lost its police chief, there was a spike in violent crime in the city. This spike peaked with three homicides in the Coatesville area within five days in early July. In response, the District Attorney initiated Operation Silent Night.

Operation Silent Night took a proactive approach to controlling violent crime in Coatesville. Law enforcement used a rolling series of search warrants to

cases from newly acquired information, and kept constant pressure on the criminal element in Coatesville.

Operation Silent Night resulted in a significant number of arrests for major crimes, including armed robbery, aggravated assault, witness intimidation, and drug dealing. Those arrested include Coatesville residents and defendants from outside Coatesville who brought their criminal activities into the city. A list of some of the defendants arrested in Operation Silent Night is attached.

District Attorney Hogan said, "With the police department understaffed and lacking a permanent police chief, Coatesville was in a crisis. Chester County law enforcement stepped into the gap to give Coatesville PD time to get new leadership and start hiring new police officers. Now is the time for Coatesville to complete the hiring of a new chief and begin the process of returning Coatesville PD to full strength."

Operation Silent Night has not ceased operations and further arrests are pending. District Attorney Hogan noted, "This operation was designed to produce both arrests and hard intelligence about criminal activities in Coatesville. The criminals in Coatesville better pay attention. We are coming for you and we will never quit."

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan