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October 24, 2012

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Operation Silent Night Strikes Again in Coatesville**

Operation Silent Night, the Chester County District Attorney's initiative to combat violent crime in Coatesville, rolled out another round of arrests.

District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "Operation Silent Night is keeping sustained pressure on criminals in Coatesville. We are locking up more criminals, gathering information, and we are not finished."

This phase of the operation included arrests mainly for drug dealing. The joint operation also led to the development of information about a defendant in the Coatesville area wanted for an attempted homicide for a shooting in Downingtown. That defendant, Marty Harrell, was arrested as part of the operation.

Anthony Grove was a defendant listed as wanted and at-large when Operation Silent Night was first announced. Chester County Detectives and the Chester County Fugitive Task Force continued to search for Grove. Information was developed that Grove was armed and dangerous, and would not be taken into custody without a fight. The Chester County Fugitive Task Force, a joint operation between the United States Marshal Service and Chester County police, surprised Grove at a residence and took him into custody without incident.

An updated list of defendants arrested in Operation Silent Night is attached.

Operation Silent Night is 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 Chester County Fugitive Task Force and the Western Chester County Emergency Response Team also assisted in specialized operations.

District Attorney Hogan added, "The short-term goal of Operation Silent Night was to stem the surge of violent crime in Coatesville. Through carefully targeted operations and teamwork among law enforcement, we succeeded. But we need to maintain the pressure on the criminals, keeping the law-abiding citizens of Coatesville safe."

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan