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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2016

LANSDALE MAN CHARGED WITH VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER, RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT FOR CHURCH SHOOTING



NORRISTOWN, Pa. – Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Montgomery Township Police Chief J. Scott Bendig announce the filing of Voluntary Manslaughter and Reckless Endangerment charges against Mark T. Storms, age 46, of Lansdale Borough, Pa., in relation to the April 24, 2016 shooting death at the Keystone Fellowship Church at 427 Stump Road in Montgomeryville.

At 11:24 a.m., the Montgomery Township Police received a call of shots fired inside the Keystone Fellowship Church. Officers arrived at the church at 11:28 a.m. to find Robert E. Braxton III, age 27, inside the church suffering from an apparent gunshot. Braxton was transported to Abington-Lansdale Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 12:11 p.m. An autopsy was performed by the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, which determined that Braxton died of multiple gunshot wounds. The manner of death was ruled a homicide.

A joint investigation by the Montgomery County Detectives, Montgomery Township Police and other law enforcement revealed that based upon more than 50 witness interviews, Braxton arrived at the 11 a.m. service and was verbally disruptive and agitated. Church personnel attempted to quiet Braxton. Storms, who has no official function with the church, approached Braxton after hearing the commotion, displayed a Concealed Weapons Permit badge and told Braxton he had to leave the sanctuary. Braxton then struck Storms in the face at which time Storms fired two shots from his Ruger 9mm semi-automatic handgun, which struck and killed Braxton.

Storms has been arrested and will be arraigned at 3:30 p.m. before Magisterial Judge Andrea Duffy, 601 Bethlehem Pike, Building D, Suite 1 in Montgomeryville.

The case will be prosecuted by Captain of the Firearms Unit Laura Adshead and Assistant District Attorney Kristen Feden.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.