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### **PHILADELPHIA WOMAN CHARGED WITH DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH IN APRIL FATAL OVERDOSE IN WILLOW GROVE**



**JOHNEIA GARRETT**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 22, 2019) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Upper Moreland Township Police Chief S. Michael Murphy announce the arrest of Johneia Garrett, 25, of Philadelphia, on the criminal homicide charge of Drug Delivery Resulting in Death in the April 10, 2019 death of Nicholas Golden, who died of overdose at his residence in Willow Grove.

At 5:07 a.m., April 10, 2019, Upper Moreland Police responded to a residence in the 300 block of Forest Avenue in the Willow Grove section of the township for a call of an unresponsive male. Police officers and emergency medical personnel found Golden deceased in a second-floor bedroom of the residence. Responding officers found at the scene: two white torn paper bags stamped "DUNKIN DONUTS" with a coffee cup design in black that contained tan residue, one torn blue wax paper bag containing tan residue, drug paraphernalia, prescription pills, a rolled up \$1 bill and a red iPhone. On scene, the deceased's mother told detectives that her son was addicted to heroin, which he snorted.

An investigation into Golden's overdose death was launched. Detectives identified Garrett and an associate as drug traffickers who had interacted with Golden. They

further established through multiple texts and Facebook Messenger messages that the victim and Garrett had met the evening before his death to arrange a sale of heroin/fentanyl. Cell phone records found that Golden's phone traveled from his residence to Garrett's residence on Widener Place in Philadelphia between 7 and 8 p.m., which aligned with the Facebook messages between them.

On April 10, detectives used Golden's phone to attempt to arrange a heroin buy and learned through those interactions that Garrett knew the victim had died of overdose. Investigators also discovered that the defendant had gained access to the victim's Facebook account and was actively deleting evidence about their interactions involving the heroin/fentanyl buys.

Dr. Ian Hood, a forensic pathologist with the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, conducted an autopsy of Golden's body on April 10, 2019. Dr. Hood found the cause of death to be fentanyl and heroin toxicity. The baggies found at the scene were tested by National Medical Services, which determined that they contained fentanyl and heroin. Additionally, the rolled-up dollar bill contained fentanyl and heroin.

Garrett was arrested on Oct. 18, 2019, and charged with Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, Involuntary Manslaughter, Possession With Intent to Deliver, Tampering With Evidence, Criminal Use of a Communications Facility and related charges. She was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Jay S. Friedenberg, who set bail at \$100,000 (10 percent). The defendant was unable to post bail and was remanded to MCCF. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Oct. 25, 2019, before Judge Friedenberg.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney James Price.

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.*