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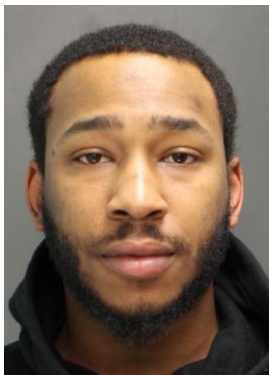
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELKINS PARK MAN ARRESTED FOR DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH IN FEB. 23rd OVERDOSE DEATH IN CHELTENHAM



SAEED McCRAE

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (July 28, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Cheltenham Township Police Chief John Frye announce the arrest of Saeed McCrae, 23, of Elkins Park, for Drug Delivery Resulting in Death related to the Feb. 23, 2021 death of 27-year-old Nathan Lauch in Cheltenham Township.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021, at approximately 6:30 p.m., Cheltenham Township Police were dispatched to a residence in the 300 block of Cottman Avenue for a report of an unresponsive man. Officers arrived to find Nathan Lauch deceased in his bedroom. Near the body, police located a black cellphone. They also found in the victim's wallet that contained two round yellow pills inscribed with a "T" over "189," wrapped in a piece of a torn receipt.

Cheltenham Township Police and Montgomery County Detectives launched a joint investigation into the overdose death. In the victim's cellphone, detectives found numerous phone calls and text messages between the deceased and McCrae arranging the purchases of drugs. The last was from the day before Lauch was found dead. Cellphone data confirmed the McCrae's and Lauch's phones were communicating with each other and in the same geographic area as McCrae's apartment the night before Lauch was found dead of an overdose.

The day after Lauch died, detectives acting as Lauch used his cellphone to arrange a purchase of five pills from McCrae. When McCrae went to the meet location at a Sunoco near his apartment, he was arrested. On his person were five yellow round pills inscribed with a "T" over "189," wrapped in a piece of a torn receipt. Ten additional pills of the same type were found inside McCrae's apartment, along with cash, court paperwork in his name and mail addressed to him. A search of McCrae's phone found Lauch's cellphone number with more than 1,400 text messages between the two.

While oxycodone pills are round yellow pills inscribed with a "T" over "189," laboratory testing on the yellow pills located in the deceased's wallet, on the defendant's person and in his apartment found that they contained fentanyl and chlorofentanyl.

"This defendant was selling counterfeit oxycodone pills that actually contained the even deadlier fentanyl. It is truly 'buyer beware' for drug users as there is no guarantee that what a drug dealer says he is selling is actually what is being sold," said Steele. "These tragic overdose deaths are happening to far too many families, ripping them apart. Montgomery County law enforcement will continue to hold drug dealers accountable for selling the deadly drugs that kill people."

McCrae is charged with Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, Possession With Intent to Deliver, Criminal Use of a Communications Facility and related charges. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Karen Zucker, who set bail at \$150,000 cash. McCrae was unable to make bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is set for 2:30 p.m., on Aug. 6, 2021, before Judge Zucker.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Evan Correia.

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.