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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday, June 3, 2021

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Press Release

Two Manchester Township Residents Charged with Drug Distribution and Firearms Offenses

York, PA – For the past three weeks York County Drug Task investigators have purchased quantities of fentanyl from Gabriel Rosario-Ruiz, age 31, at different locations in the York area. On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, Drug Task Force investigators served a search warrant at Rosario-Ruiz's residence at 999 Redbud Court in Manchester Township. Rosario-Ruiz, and his girlfriend, Latima Backus, age 34, were both present at the home.

Upon entering the residence both Backus and Rosario-Ruiz were located in a locked second floor bathroom. Fentanyl packages and a handgun were located in the toilet. A search of the residence located quantities of fentanyl, a marijuana grow operation where 11 plants were being grown, several pounds of loose and packaged marijuana, marijuana edibles, drug distribution paraphernalia, \$12,000 cash, and an additional four handguns in a safe in a bedroom. Two of the handguns were "ghost guns", which are firearms which do not have serial numbers imprinted on them and therefore untraceable.

"Fentanyl dealers like Rosario-Ruiz and Backus have contributed to immeasurable pain and suffering within our community for far too long. Additionally, dealing illegal narcotics is not a non-violent venture. At a time in which we are seeing a spike in

shootings and a record number of opioid related deaths, I am encouraged by the outstanding work and collaboration of our local law enforcement,” said District Attorney Dave Sunday.

Rosario-Ruiz was charged with several drug distribution offenses, Criminal Conspiracy, Tampering with Evidence and Firearms Violations. Backus was charged with drug distribution offenses and Criminal Conspiracy.

“We must be diligent in our efforts to get guns out of the hands of criminals, while continuing to eliminate these poisons from our streets,” Sunday added.

The York County Quick Response Team and the Northern York County Regional Police Department assisted in the investigation.

Criminal charges, and any discussion thereof, are merely allegations and all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.