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NEWS RELEASE –

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MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER IN COMMERCE CITY-DENVER CRIME SPREE

Denver District Attorney Beth McCann has formally charged a man in connection with a series of criminal acts that began in Commerce City and ended in Denver.

Eric Ukuni (dob: 09-21-90) is charged with 24 criminal counts, in order of occurrence: one count of *first degree burglary* (F3), one count of *second degree burglary* (F4), two counts of *criminal attempt to commit aggravated robbery* (F4), two counts of *aggravated robbery* (F3), one count of *aggravated intimidation of a witness or victim* (F3), two counts of *criminal attempt to commit murder* (F2), two counts of *criminal attempt to commit assault in the first degree* (F4), one count of *vehicular eluding* (F5), one count of *criminal mischief* (F4), three counts of *murder in the first degree-after deliberation, -felony, -knowingly/grave risk of death* (F1), one count of *aggravated robbery* (F3), one count of *attempted aggravated motor vehicle theft in the second degree* (F6), four counts of *crime of violence* (sentence enhancer), and two counts of *habitual criminal* (sentence enhancer).

The charges include alleged criminal acts committed in the Commerce City area, which the Denver District Attorney's Office is prosecuting in combination with the alleged criminal acts committed in Denver. Charges were direct filed in Denver District Court today.

On the morning of August 8, 2017, allegedly following a night of drinking and drugs at a bar in Commerce City, Ukuni is accused of breaking into the Mi Pueblo Market in the 6000 block of E. 64th Avenue and attempting to rob store employees, then stealing a pickup truck from a father and daughter from the store parking lot and attempting to run the two over. The charges further allege that when Commerce City police arrived, Ukuni fled in the stolen truck. Commerce City police gave pursuit but lost sight of the truck and terminated the pursuit. In the course of his flight Ukuni allegedly struck and pushed one vehicle out of his path then, moments later, traveling east on E. 40th Avenue, intentionally hit another car, then crossed Havana Street and, in approximately the 10400 block of E. 40th Avenue, hit and killed 66-year-old Ernest Gurrini beside a delivery van Mr. Gurrini owned. Ukuni then allegedly attempted to carjack more vehicles in or around 40th Avenue and Havana and the nearby 7-Eleven parking lot where Mr. Gurrini had just purchased a cup of coffee, before Ukuni was apprehended by witnesses.

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Ukuni is being held without bond in Denver city jail. His first appearance in District Court has not been scheduled.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6