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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Trenton Man Indicted for Attempted Murder**

A 22-year-old Trenton man was indicted last week for the March 29, 2016, attempted murder of a 91-year-old Ewing resident, Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

Joseph Blanche (DOB 6-21-1994), of Brunswick Avenue, was indicted on one count of first degree attempted murder, one count of first degree robbery, one count of first degree kidnapping, one count of second degree burglary, one count of second degree aggravated assault, one count of third degree criminal restraint, one count of third degree theft and one count of third degree endangering an injured victim. He remains in the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$400,000 bail.

On March 29, 2016, Ewing police responded to a residence on Manor Drive after neighbors found the garage door open and were concerned for the welfare of the female resident. Police located the resident, Doris Geisel, tied up on the basement floor. She had been beaten and bound by two male assailants who entered her home in the early morning hours. After assaulting the elderly woman, they went throughout the house stealing money and valuables, eventually leaving in the victim's car. The vehicle was recovered the following day in Ewing Township.

Geisel suffered serious injuries and was taken to Capital Health Regional Medical Center.

During the course of the investigation, detectives were able to identify Joseph Blanche as one of the two male assailants. Detective Nicholas Muscente of the Ewing Police Department filed complaints against Blanche on March 30, 2016.

Doris Geisel died on April 20, 2016. An autopsy conducted by the Mercer County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Geisel's death was not a result of the injuries she sustained in the March assault.

The second suspect remains unidentified and at large. The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Nicholas Muscente at the Ewing Township Police Department, (609) 882-7522, or the Ewing Police Tip Line at (609) 882-7530.

Assistant Prosecutor Stacey Geurds presented the case to the grand jury.

Despite having been indicted, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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