

**SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CRIMINAL DIVISION  
UNITED STATES  
VS  
MCKNIGHT, CLARENCE  
CCN#: 23195977  
Arrest Number: 092323241**

The event occurred on 12/02/2023 at approximately 00:25 at 900 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20018.

On Friday, December 1, 2023, at approximately 1837 hours, members of the Metropolitan Police Department's Fifth District responded to 900 Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast, for the report of a shooting. Upon their arrival on the scene, officers located an adult male subject inside the location suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. DC Fire and EMS personnel were summoned to the scene and transported the victim to MedStar, where despite all life-saving efforts, he was pronounced dead at 1918 hours by Dr. Jack Sava. The Decedent's remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for an autopsy.

**SCENE:**

The scene is located inside 900 Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast. The Decedent was located in the café area of the building. Additionally, there were two projectiles, 3 RP .45 caliber spent cartridge casings, two Hornaby .45 caliber auto spent cartridge casings, a pair of clear glasses, a coat, a t-shirt, a tank top, and a jacket all recovered from inside the café. A pool of suspected blood was located on the ground inside the café where the Decedent was found.

**BODY:**

A detective responded to an area hospital and located the Decedent lying supine in a white body bag covered by a white sheet inside a trauma bay. The Decedent is a light complexioned African-American male with short dreadlocks. The Decedent has a tattoo with the word "Blessed" and a rose with the words "Silva" on his right forearm. The Decedent has a court-ordered monitoring device affixed to his left ankle. The Decedent is intubated and has an adhesive wound dressing affixed to his left flank.

The Decedent sustained the following injuries: One defect in the right lower quadrant, two defects on the right flank, one defect in the lower center back, and two defects on the left flank.

**CCTV REVIEW:**

Detectives reviewed surveillance video that captured the interior and exterior of 900 Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast. The video was in color and operated off of two digital video recorders. The time stamp of one was accurate and the other was approximately six minutes fast. The camera that captures the front entrance showed the Defendant entering the facility at 1835 hours. As the Defendant enters, he attempts to close the door as the Decedent and Witness 1 approach the door. The Defendant then walks out of camera view. Witness 1 (red hoodie under a light-colored Cal sweatshirt, tan pants, and black shoes) enters the facility followed by the Decedent (black coat, gray hoodie "D", dark pants, and white shoes), before going out of view. The next camera to pick all three individuals up was the camera that captures that café. The video showed the Defendant walking into view followed by Witness 1. The Defendant is looking over his right shoulder with his right hand tucked under his hoodie. As Witness 1 comes into view, the Defendant turns toward Witness 1 with a black handgun in his right hand, pointed to the ground. Witness 1 and the Defendant approach each other. As they both began to reach out towards each other, an unknown person gets in between the two and grabs

hold of Witness 1. The Defendant began walking away towards the rear of the café. The Decedent is observed entering the café from a hallway entry on the top of the video screen. The Decedent runs towards the Defendant, who was not looking, and punches the Defendant in the face with his right fist. The Defendant starts to back towards the table and the Decedent punches the Defendant again with his right fist. The Defendant grabs a hold of the Decedent's clothing with his left hand, brings the black handgun up, and points the handgun at the Decedent. A muzzle flash is observed protruding from the area of the handgun. Immediately after the muzzle flash, the Decedent is observed starting to run away from the Defendant. The Defendant points the handgun in the direction of the back of the Decedent, and several muzzle flashes are observed protruding from the area of the handgun. The Decedent falls face down to the café floor. The Defendant grabs a black jacket off a table and runs out of view of the camera.

#### **WITNESS 1:**

A detective spoke to Witness 1 in reference to the shooting. Witness 1 said that IT once lived at the location but has since aged out of the program. Witness 1 said IT was with the Decedent and stopped by 900 Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast, because IT needed to use the bathroom. Witness 1 said although IT is no longer in the program that the staff still allows IT to use the bathroom. Witness 1 said IT knocked on the bathroom door but someone was already in it. Witness 1 said IT knocked on the door again and the person inside said to wait. Witness 1 stated the third time IT banged on the door. Witness 1 said the individual finally came out of the bathroom asking who was knocking on the door and people were point at IT (Witness 1). Witness 1 said the Defendant had exited the bathroom began arguing with IT and looked like he wanted to fight. Witness 1 said IT didn't want to fight so IT and the Decedent went outside to smoke. Witness 1 said the Defendant followed them outside and continued wanting to fight. Witness 1 said IT ultimately agreed to fight but the Defendant changed his mind because the Defendant thought the Decedent was going to jump in. Witness 1 stated the Defendant walked up the street beside 900 Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast. Witness 1 said IT and the Decedent followed the Defendant up the street. Witness 1 stated that at one point the Defendant pushed IT away and appeared to be reaching towards his waistband area. Witness 1 said IT didn't know if the Defendant had a gun or not so IT and the Decedent stopped following him. Witness 1 said the Defendant then called IT a "bitch" so IT and the Decedent started following the Defendant again. Witness 1 said they walked all the way around the buildings and back onto Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast. Witness 1 said once they were back onto Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast, the Defendant ran into 900 Rhode Island Ave NE and appeared to be talking to the staff. Witness 1 said the Defendant was still saying something but IT couldn't hear what it was so IT began to get angry. Witness 1 said the Defendant went into the building. Witness 1 said IT attempted to enter the building but was not allowed in by the staff. Witness 1 said IT was able to make his way into the building and continued going towards the Defendant but IT did not know where the Decedent went because IT was focused on the Defendant. Witness 1 stated that moments later IT was approaching the Defendant who was in the café area at this point but stopped short of the café and turned around. Witness 1 said IT then heard gunshots. Witness 1 said IT turned around and saw a Defendant on the ground, but that IT did not realize it was the Decedent.

#### **WITNESS 2:**

A detective spoke to Witness 2 in reference to the shooting inside of 900 Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast. Witness 2 stated that IT was inside of the café area of the location when IT heard unknown individuals arguing as they approached the café. Witness 2 stated IT then observed two individuals who appeared to be fighting in the café but IT wasn't paying too much attention. Witness 2 stated IT then observed the Defendant being pushed onto a table. When asked to describe the Defendant with the gun, Witness 2 stated he was a black male with short hair, wearing glasses and a white hoodie or sweater. Witness 2 stated IT did see a gun in this individual's hand. Witness 2 stated after the Defendant with the gun was pushed into the table IT heard approximately 6-7 gunshots. After hearing the gunshots Witness 2 stated the shooter ran towards the back door. Witness 2 stated IT has seen both of the individuals in the building before but does not know their names.

#### **IDENTIFICATION:**

Detectives spoke with Witness 3 who stated that IT knew who the individuals were that were involved in the altercation. Witness 3 is very familiar with and knows all the individuals who frequent the center. Witness 3

identified the Defendant as Clarence Daron McKnight (DOB: 5/25/2001) by pointing him out on surveillance video as he entered the facility on video. Witness 3 also provided a photograph of the Defendant. The Defendant was wearing a light-colored hoodie, black pants, and blue shoes.

**CUSTODIAL INTERVIEW:**

On December 1, 2023, at approximately 2310 hours, members from the Third District contacted the Homicide Branch and advised that the Defendant was at the Third District and that he wished to speak to Detectives. Members of the Third District assisted with transporting the Defendant to the Homicide Branch where a custodial interview was conducted. The Defendant was advised that he was under arrest and was advised of his Miranda Rights. The Defendant waived his rights and agreed to speak with the detectives. The following is a brief synopsis of the interview. The entire interview was video/audio recorded and was stored on evidence.com. The Defendant advised that he was inside of 900 Rhode Island Ave, Northeast, using the bathroom. The Defendant advised that Witness 1 began banging on the bathroom door telling the Defendant to hurry up. The Defendant advised that he exited the bathroom and had words with Witness 1. The Defendant states that he asked Witness 1, do you want to see me? Witness 1 said yeah, and followed the Defendant out of the facility. The Defendant stated that he noticed that Witness 1 was not alone and was accompanied by the Decedent. The Defendant stated that he felt as if Witness 1 and the Decedent were going to try and jump him. The Defendant advised that they walked up northbound through the alley (known as Reed Street, Northeast). The Decedent stated that he attempted to give them a pass and stated that he no longer wanted to fight. The Defendant stated that Witness 1 kept attempting to provoke the Defendant to swing at him while they were in the alley. The Defendant stated that Witness 1 kept getting in his face and the Defendant "smushed" (pushed) Witness 1 in the head. The Defendant advised that the Decedent never got involved while they were outside but kept reaching around on his clothes as if he had a weapon. The Defendant stated that they kept having words, but now Witness 1 and the Decedent were in front of him, as they were walking back toward the center. The Defendant stated that he attempted to take a different route back to the center by walking down the west alley of the 2500 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, NE. The Defendant advised that he then came out onto 10<sup>th</sup> Street and turned right on Rhode Island Avenue, Northeast, to head back to the center. The Defendant stated that when he made it back to the center he attempted to close the entry door because they close slowly. The Defendant stated that Witness 1 followed him inside. The Defendant advised that he told Witness 1, "you don't want to do this". Witness 1 tells the Defendant that he is going to get him touched (harm done to him). Witness 1 continued to get close with the Defendant, and the Defendant stated that he hit Witness 1. The Defendant stated that he began backing up, and the Decedent came from his right and punched him when he was not looking. The Defendant advised that the Decedent punched him in the face. The Defendant stated that he grabbed the Decedent and shot him. The Decedent could not recall how many shots were fired, but stated that it was more than one. The Defendant stated that he observed the Decedent fall to the floor, and that he ran out the side rear exit of the center. The Defendant would not provide where he went after fleeing or what he did with the handgun. The Defendant stated that the whole situation was "fucked up" and could have been avoided on both sides.

The Defendant was placed under arrest and taken to the First District Cellblock for processing for the charge of Second-Degree Murder.

The Defendant was verbally identified as Clarence McKnight which was confirmed by his DC Driver's License.

The event and acts described above occurred primarily in the District of Columbia and were committed as described by defendant(s) listed in the case caption.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 12/02/2023

**MALLOY 6215, DARREN (12/02/2023) E-SIGNATURE**

Police Officer

Unit Witness / Deputy Clerk **BRATHWAITE 9885, ANTOINE / 9885 (12/02/2023) E-SIGNATURE**

**MALLOY 6215, DARREN / 3032 / 6215**

**BRATHWAITE 9885, ANTOINE / 2675 / 9885**

Printed Name of Member / Badge# / CAD#

Printed Name of Witness / Deputy Clerk

The foregoing statement was made under penalty of criminal prosecution and punishment for false statements pursuant to D.C. Code 22-2405

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