

State of North Carolina General Court of Justice

Twenty-Sixth Prosecutorial District MECKLENBURG COUNTY

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March 13, 2020

Special Agent in Charge Audria Bridges North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation 5994 Caldwell Park Dr. Harrisburg, North Carolina 28075

Re: Treon McCoy Death Investigation

Dear SAC Bridges:

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-61, my office has reviewed the investigation surrounding the shooting death of Treon McCoy on November 15, 2019. The case was investigated under case number 2019-03290. The documentation considered for the purposes of this review was provided by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation between December 19, 2019 and March 4, 2020.¹ The purpose of this review was to examine whether the actions of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Officers Kevin Lovell and Shane Matthews were unlawful in the incident leading to the death of Treon McCoy.

A review of the evidence in this matter reveals that multiple CMPD officers were working off-duty assignments providing additional security at the Epicentre complex located at 210 E. Trade St., Charlotte, North Carolina. At approximately 2:17 a.m., Officers Kevin Lovell and Shane Matthews heard gunshots and responded to an altercation at the corner of <u>East Trade</u> <u>Street and South College Street</u>. Upon their arrival, Officers Lovell and Matthews saw the decedent, Treon McCoy, fighting with T.E., another civilian.² The decedent was in possession of a <u>9mm Jimenez Arms handgun</u> and was attempting to fire the weapon at T.E. Spent 9mm shell casings located on the scene showed that the weapon had been fired at least four times in the altercation. [1] [2] [3] [4]. T.E. suffered wounds to his lower right leg. After commanding the decedent to drop the weapon, Officers Lovell and Matthews fired at the decedent with their service weapons. The decedent was struck three times during these events. A count of the

¹ The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation does not routinely provide transcripts of interviews as part of the investigative file; therefore transcripts are not included as attachments to this review. For purposes of these reviews, however, this office reviews the actual underlying recorded video or audio interviews provided by the SBI.

 $^{^{2}}$ It is the practice of this office not to name civilian witnesses who do not identify themselves publicly in media interviews or otherwise as it could have a chilling effect on witness cooperation in other cases.

ammunition remaining in Officer Lovell's gun, a .45 caliber weapon, indicated he fired twice. Two spent .45 caliber casings were located on the scene. [1] [2]. A count of the ammunition remaining in Officer Matthews' gun, a .40 caliber weapon, indicated he fired once. One spent .40 caliber casing was located on the scene. [1]. Much of the incident was captured on surveillance video. Screenshots from the surveillance video are included as exhibits to this report.

As you know, this letter specifically does not address issues relating to tactics, or whether officers followed correct police procedures or CMPD Directives.

I personally responded to the scene of this incident and monitored the investigation along with another senior Assistant District Attorney (ADA). I reviewed the investigative file as provided by the SBI. Finally, consistent with the District Attorney's Office Officer-Involved Shooting Protocol, this case was presented to the District Attorney's Officer-Involved Shooting Review Team, which is comprised of the office's most experienced prosecutors.

A. <u>The role of the District Attorney under North Carolina law</u>

The District Attorney (DA) for the 26th Prosecutorial District is a state official and, as such, does not answer to city or county governments within the prosecutorial district. The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement official of the 26th Judicial District, the boundaries of which are the same as the County of Mecklenburg. The District Attorney has no administrative authority or control over the personnel of CMPD or other police agencies within the jurisdiction. That authority and control resides with each city or county government.

Pursuant to North Carolina statute, one of the District Attorney's obligations is to advise law enforcement agencies within the prosecutorial district. The DA does not arrest people or charge people with crimes. When the police charge a person with a crime, the DA decides whether or not to prosecute the charged crime. Generally, the DA does not review police decisions not to charge an individual with a crime. However, in officer-involved shooting cases, the DA reviews the complete investigative file of the investigating agency. The DA then decides whether he agrees or disagrees with the charging decision made by the police. If the DA concludes that uncharged conduct should be prosecuted, the case will be submitted to a Grand Jury.

If no criminal charges are filed, that does not mean the District Attorney's Office believes the matter was in all respects handled appropriately from an administrative or tactical viewpoint. It is simply a determination that there is not a reasonable likelihood of proving criminal charges beyond a reasonable doubt unanimously to a jury. This is the limit of the DA's statutory authority in these matters. The fact that a shooting may be controversial does not mean that criminal prosecution is warranted. Even if the District Attorney believes a shooting was avoidable or an officer did not follow expected procedures or norms, this does not necessarily amount to a violation of criminal law. In these circumstances, remedies (if any are appropriate) may be pursued by administrative or civil means. The District Attorney has no administrative or civil authority in these matters. Those remedies are primarily in the purview of city and county governments, police departments and private civil attorneys.

B. Legal standards

The law recognizes an inherent right to use deadly force to protect oneself or others from death or great bodily harm. This core legal principle is referred to as the right to "self-defense." A police officer does not lose the right to self-defense by virtue of becoming a police officer. Officers are entitled to the same protections of the law as every other individual. An imminent threat to the life of a police officer or others entitles the officer to respond in such a way as to stop that threat.

Under North Carolina law, the burden of proof is on the State to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a defendant did not act in self-defense of himself or others. The Supreme Court of North Carolina defined the law of self-defense in <u>State v. Norris</u>, 303 N.C. 526 (1981). A killing is justified under North Carolina law if it appeared to a person that it was necessary to kill in order to save himself or another from death or great bodily harm. The law requires that the belief in the necessity to kill must be reasonable under the circumstances. <u>Id.</u> at 530.

C. <u>Use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer</u>

The same legal standards apply to law enforcement officers and private citizens alike. However, officers fulfilling their sworn duty to enforce the laws of this State are often placed in situations in which they are required to confront rather than avoid potentially dangerous people and situations.

The United States Supreme Court stated, "[t]he 'reasonableness' of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight." <u>Graham v. Connor</u>, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989). The Court further explained that "[t]he calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments – in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving – about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation." <u>Id.</u> at 396–97. A situation in which an officer is confronting an armed person with uncertain motives is by definition dangerous, and such a circumstance will almost always be tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving. In these circumstances, we are not deciding whether the officer's belief in the need to use deadly force was correct but only whether his belief in the necessity of such force was reasonable.

In conducting a legal analysis, this office must take its guidance from the law, and a decision must not be based upon public sentiment or outcry. The obligation of a District Attorney is clear; he must simply apply the law to the known facts.

What the law demands is an evaluation of the reasonableness of the officer's decision at the moment he fired the shot. The Supreme Court of the United States has provided guidance on what is objectively reasonable and how such an analysis should be conducted. That guidance indicates that it is inappropriate to employ "the 20/20 vision of hindsight," and an analysis must make "allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments." *See Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. at 396. The Court suggests that when reviewing use of force cases, caution should be used to avoid analysis "more reflective of the 'peace of a

judge's chambers' than of a dangerous and threatening situation on the street." <u>Elliot v. Leavitt</u>, 99 F.3d. 640, 643 (4th Cir. 1996).

D. <u>The officer-involved shooting of Treon McCoy</u>

Officer Kevin Lovell

Officer Kevin Lovell was interviewed by SBI Agents on November 22, 2019, at the SBI District Office in Harrisburg, North Carolina. In that interview, Officer Lovell stated that in the early morning hours of November 15, 2019, he was assigned to general security within the Epicentre and was wearing his department-issued uniform. Officer Lovell stated that at approximately 2:15 a.m., he heard a gunshot from the area of East Trade Street and South College Street, and he responded to the scene within seconds. He estimated hearing between four and five gunshots as he responded.

When he arrived at the scene of the gunshots, he saw the decedent and a civilian, later identified as T.E., engaged in an altercation. The decedent was holding a silver firearm in his right hand. Officer Lovell described T.E. as trying not to be shot. Officer Lovell believed the decedent was trying to kill T.E. Officer Lovell did not hear the decedent or T.E. say anything during the altercation. Officer Lovell recounted that he was screaming, "Police, drop the gun," and the decedent made no acknowledgment of the presence of Officers Lovell or Matthews. Officer Lovell recalled that the decedent's gunshots continued as they gave commands.

Officer Lovell advised that there was a moment when he had moved within 10 to 12 yards of the altercation when the decedent disengaged from the physical fight and pointed his gun at T.E. At this point, the decedent was approximately 1 foot from T.E. Officer Lovell stated that he shot at the decedent. Officer Lovell believed he hit the decedent because the decedent flinched. Officer Lovell recalled that at this point, the decedent put a little more distance between himself and T.E., but the decedent was still holding his firearm and was still standing. Officer Lovell fired a second time.

Officer Lovell recalled that Officer Matthews fired one shot between Officer Lovell's two shots. After Officer Matthews' shot, the decedent still had the gun in his possession. Officer Lovell advised that after his second shot, the decedent fell to the ground. As the decedent fell, the gun the decedent had been holding also fell to the ground between the decedent and T.E. Officer Lovell described all three of their shots as being within seconds of each other. Officer Lovell recounted that after the decedent fell, he went to T.E. and Officer Matthews went to the decedent.

Officer Lovell estimated that approximately 30 seconds elapsed from the time he heard the first gunshot to the time Officer Lovell fired his second shot. He stated that he felt compelled to shoot because he believed the decedent was going to kill T.E.

Officer Lovell stated that he turned off his body-worn camera (BWC) as his shift ended before he heard the gunshots. After the shooting occurred, he turned the BWC back on. A review of Officer Lovell's BWC revealed that it did not capture the shooting, instead beginning as Officer Lovell provided aid to T.E.

Officer Shane Matthews

Officer Shane Matthews was interviewed by SBI Agents on November 22, 2019, at the SBI District Office in Harrisburg, North Carolina. In that interview, Officer Matthews stated that in the early morning hours of November 15, 2019, he was dressed in his uniform and working an off-duty assignment providing general security at the Epicentre. The assignment began at 10:45 p.m. and ran until the bars and clubs were closed for business. At approximately 2:15 a.m., he and Officer Lovell were walking to their patrol vehicles, which were parked on College Street, when they heard a gunshot. Officer Matthews stated that he and Officer Lovell ran toward the sound of the gunshot and saw the decedent and T.E. engaged in a fight. Officer Matthews recalled that the decedent, who was in possession of a silver handgun, fired a shot in the direction of T.E. and waved the gun around. Officer Matthews advised he commanded the decedent to "drop the gun." Officer Matthews recalled that during the altercation, the decedent and T.E. fell to the ground, and the decedent pointed his gun in a downward angle toward T.E., firing the gun again at T.E. Officer Matthews stated this was the third gunshot. The decedent fired the fourth gunshot as the decedent and T.E. were rolling around on the ground. Officer Matthews could not recall in which hand the decedent held the gun.

Officer Matthews stated that he continued to command the decedent to drop the gun. Officer Matthews interpreted the fight and shooting as the decedent trying to kill T.E. Officer Matthews advised that the decedent began to stand and had the gun pointed in the direction of Officer Matthews. Officer Matthews estimated he was approximately 10 yards from the decedent at the time. Officer Matthews stated he fired one shot with his service weapon at the decedent. Officer Matthews recalled Officer Lovell firing at the same time he did. Officer Matthews stated that Officer Lovell then fired a second shot, and the decedent fell. Officer Matthews estimated that approximately 15 seconds elapsed between the time he heard the first gunshot to when he and Officer Lovell discharged their weapons.

Officer Matthews stated that after the decedent fell, he and Sgt. Greenlees, who had rushed to the scene behind Officers Lovell and Matthews, detained the decedent. Officer Matthews advised that he was attempting to control the decedent's left arm, which was underneath the decedent. He stated that he felt resistance and struck the decedent four to five times, after which he was able to gain control of the decedent's left arm. The decedent was handcuffed with his hands behind his back, and officers attempted to locate the injuries to the decedent.

Officer Matthews advised that he turned his BWC off at approximately 2:15 a.m. as he was finishing his shift and he and Officer Lovell were walking to their patrol cars. Officer Matthews stated that he turned his BWC back on after hearing and running toward the gunshots as he unholstered his firearm. Officer Matthews' BWC recording begins as he is detaining the decedent.

Officer David Banks

Officer David Banks was interviewed by SBI agents at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center shortly after the shooting. Officer Banks stated that on the morning of November 15, 2019, he was working an off-duty assignment at the Epicentre. After he finished his shift, he walked down to College Street, where his patrol vehicle was located. He started his vehicle and waited to be dismissed from his assignment. While sitting in his vehicle, he observed Officer Matthews and Officer Lovell walk out of the Epicentre by the escalators. At this time, Officer Banks heard a loud "pop" sound but did not immediately recognize the sound. Officer Banks recalled that he stepped out of his vehicle and heard another "pop" sound.

Officer Banks advised that he could tell the sound was coming from in front of his location, and he began running toward the intersection of College and Trade Streets. Officer Banks stated he activated his BWC while running toward the intersection. A BWC camera that is powered on records continually on a loop until it is manually or remotely switched to active recording. When a BWC is triggered to record, the last 30 seconds of video are saved, and the camera begins recording audio from the moment of the triggering event. A review of Officer Banks' BWC shows that his BWC captured him running toward the scene of the shooting and began capturing audio at the very moment of Officers Lovell's and Matthews' shots, however, the unsteadiness of the video and distance from the scene limit its usefulness as to what was transpiring between the decedent and T.E. prior to the shots fired by Officers Lovell and Matthews. Although the BWC would not have been recording audio at the time of the first two "pops" recalled by Officer Banks, the BWC corroborates his running to the area where the casings were eventually located.

Officer Banks stated that, as he ran to the intersection, Officers Lovell and Matthews were in front of him and were running to the same intersection. Officer Banks recalled that when he got near the intersection, he observed two men standing on the corner of North College Street and East Trade Street. Officer Banks saw one of the men holding a silver handgun and pointing it at the other man.

Officer Banks advised that Officers Lovell and Matthews reached the intersection before him, drew their firearms and positioned themselves in a shooting stance. Officer Banks believed the male with the gun was going to kill the other male. Officer Banks recalled that he was approximately 7 feet from the males while Officers Lovell and Matthews were "right on top" of the males. He did not hear the two males make any statements.

Officer Banks then heard two to three more pops and saw the male holding the gun fall to the ground. Officer Banks did not see who fired their weapons. He also observed the other male fall to the ground. Officer Banks reported that he ran up to the two males and stood over the silver handgun that had fallen to the ground. He used his firearm to cover the male on the left, later identified as T.E., as Officer Lovell placed him in handcuffs. Officer Banks assisted in searching T.E. but did not locate any weapons on him. Officer Banks did not recall hearing any commands other than when he told T.E. to stay on the ground and when Officer Matthews told the decedent to get his hand out from underneath him.

Officer Banks stated that he checked T.E. for injuries and observed multiple gunshot wounds between T.E.'s knee and ankle.

Officer Stefan Ignaczak

Officer Stefan Ignaczak was interviewed by SBI Agents at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center shortly after the shooting. Officer Ignaczak stated that on the morning of November 15, 2019, he was in uniform working an off-duty assignment at the Epicentre. At approximately 2:10 a.m., Officer Ignaczak and CMPD Officer Banks cleared the clubs and bars. Officer Ignaczak recalled that he heard a gunshot and saw people running. He then heard another gunshot and yelling. Officer Ignaczak stated that he traveled toward the gunshots and yelling, which was toward Trade Street and College Street. At the area of Trade Street and College Street, Officer Ignaczak saw two police officers. At the time, he was behind the officers and did not know who they were. Officer Ignaczak advised that he heard the officers yelling, "get down" and "drop the gun." Officer Ignaczak was approximately 35 to 40 yards away when he heard several gunshots. He then went toward the two officers and noted two males on the ground.

While traveling toward the officers, his body-worn camera fell off. He recovered the body-worn camera after the males were secured. Officer Ignaczak stated that there was a silver semi-automatic handgun laying on the ground between the males, and there were multiple spent casings near the silver handgun.

Officer Ignaczak estimated that approximately 20 seconds elapsed between the first gunshot and the time the two males were handcuffed.

Sgt. Andrew Greenlees

Sgt. Andrew Greenlees was interviewed by SBI Agents at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center shortly after the shooting. Sgt. Greenlees stated that he was the supervisor for six off-duty officers working at the Epicentre. Officers Lovell and Matthews had been assigned to patrol the interior of the Epicentre.

Sgt. Greenlees recalled that he was returning to the first floor of the Epicentre when he saw Officers Lovell and Matthews at the escalator down the street. Behind the two officers, Sgt. Greenlees saw two males fighting. Sgt. Greenlees recalled that he yelled out to Officers Lovell and Matthews to inform them what was going on behind them and told them "they were fighting down there."

Sgt. Greenlees described the two men as being in their mid- to late- 20s, and both males were thin in build. He believed one wore black and red pants, and the other wore a light blue shirt. Sgt. Greenlees recalled that, as the three officers began walking toward the fight, he heard one gunshot. Sgt. Greenlees stated that he drew his weapon and started to sprint toward the two fighting males. He was unsure whether Officer Matthews and Lovell drew their weapons at this time. As the officers were running toward the fight, Sgt. Greenlees recalled that he heard at least two more gunshots. He stated that Officers Lovell and Matthews stopped approximately 10 feet from the individuals who were fighting and pointed their guns at them. Sgt. Greenlees advised that he could see the two males fighting over a bright chrome semi-automatic pistol.

Sgt. Greenlees recalled hearing Officers Lovell and Matthews say, "drop the gun" and "get on the ground." Sgt. Greenlees was unsure whether he also stated this or if anyone announced they were police, but all officers were dressed in their uniforms. Sgt. Greenlees advised that some separation between the two males occurred, and he heard shots fired from the officers on his left. Sgt. Greenlees was on the far right of the formation of officers. Sgt. Greenlees was unsure of the location of the gun when the separation occurred between the two males. He was also unsure how many shots were fired once the two males separated. He recalled hearing at least two shots but did not initially realize it was the officers who fired. He stated it

took him a second or two before realizing that it was the officers to the left of him who fired. Sgt. Greenlees stated he did not fire his weapon because he could not determine who was the victim and who was the aggressor in the fight, and the firearm that was being fought over was never directly pointed at him.

Sgt. Greenlees recalled that after the shots were fired, more separation occurred between the two males. Sgt. Greenlees reported that he moved toward the individual on the right, later identified as the decedent. He believed this was the individual who had the gun because the gun was closer to him. He reported that he grabbed the male's arm to detain him. Sgt. Greenlees stated that Officer Matthews approached with him toward the male. Officers Matthews attempted to grab the male's other arm, but the male would not release his arm and Matthews struck him to gain compliance. Sgt. Greenlees stated that the male's arm then came free, and Officer Matthews handcuffed him.

Sgt. Greenlees stated that he checked the decedent for injuries and monitored his pulse until MEDIC arrived. He recalled seeing Officer Banks standing over the silver firearm, which had fallen between the two males.

Sgt. Greenlees stated that his BWC was not activated until he began providing medical aid to the decedent due to this being a high-stress situation.

Det. Antonio Echols

Det. Echols was interviewed by SBI agents at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center shortly after the shooting. Det. Echols advised he was working an off-duty assignment at the Epicentre in the early morning hours of November 15, 2019. Det. Echols reported that he stepped off the elevator and heard multiple gunshots. He began running toward the sound of the shots and activated his BWC at some point. He arrived after both male subjects had been placed in handcuffs.

Det. Echols reported that while on scene, two males walked up to him from the RedEye Diner and informed them that they had been with the male later identified as T.E. at the restaurant. The males informed Det. Echols that a male had been antagonizing T.E.'s group while they were in the restaurant. The males told Det. Echols that T.E and another male from their group left the diner before them.

<u>T.E.</u>

T.E. was interviewed by SBI Agents at Carolinas Medical Center, where he was being treated for his injuries shortly after the shooting. T.E. stated he was at RedEye Diner celebrating with three other people when the decedent physically bumped into him. T.E. stated that he did not know the decedent and had never seen him before. T.E. reported that the decedent also made physical contact with two other people in T.E.'s group. T.E. stated that he and members of his party told the decedent to "leave us alone" at which point the decedent told T.E. and his party, "I'll be right back."

T.E. advised that as he and his party were leaving, they encountered the decedent again in the street. T.E. recalled that the decedent came toward him with his right arm in his pocket and then started shooting. T.E. recalled that he tackled the decedent and slammed the decedent

against the wall. T.E. and the decedent were fighting for the pistol that was in the decedent's possession. The decedent had control of the pistol, and T.E. heard the pistol firing more than one time. T.E. reported that once they were on the ground, two more shots went off from a distance at which point T.E. recounted that he slammed the decedent on the ground and got the gun away from the decedent. The police arrived, and T.E. showed them his hands.

The video surveillance illustrates that T.E. and the decedent were clearly fighting when police were arriving, however, it appears the decedent had just slammed T.E. to the ground and was on top of T.E. as police arrived. Although it appears the decedent dropped the gun after he was shot, the video evidence is not conclusive as to whether T.E. got the gun away from the decedent or whether the decedent dropped the gun after he was shot.

D.G. (Eyewitness)

D.G. was interviewed by SBI Agents on November 22, 2019. D.G. stated that he had been working the night shift on Thursday, November 14, 2019, starting at 6 p.m. and ending at 4 a.m. Friday, November 15, 2019. The jobsite D.G. was working at was the Bank of America building, located at 100 North Tryon Street. D.G. stated that he went on a break at approximately 2 a.m. and was standing on North College Street, outside of the loading dock of Bank of America, approximately 100 yards away from the scene of the shooting.

D.G. stated that he observed a male wearing a red and black track suit, later identified as the decedent, running down East Trade Street, on the side of the Epicentre. The decedent stood out to D.G. because the decedent was the only person running. Approximately three minutes later, D.G. observed the same individual return to the area near the intersection of East Trade Street and North College Street.

At the intersection, the decedent encountered another male, later identified as T.E. The decedent approached T.E. and pointed a handgun at T.E. D.G. was unsure of the type of firearm the decedent had but knew it was a handgun and that the decedent had been carrying it in his right hand. As the decedent pointed the gun at T.E., T.E. grabbed the gun and the two men began struggling for control of the weapon. During the struggle, D.G. heard one gunshot, and then the decedent and T.E. both fell to the ground as they continued to fight over the gun. While T.E. attempted to grab the gun, the decedent retained control over the firearm. Once the decedent and T.E. were on the ground, the decedent began shooting at T.E. D.G. believed that the decedent shot at T.E. twice, with a one or two second pause between the two gunshots. D.G. observed the decedent holding the firearm in his right hand as he fired at T.E. D.G. stated that he was able to see the muzzle flash from the gunshots. At no point did D.G. observe T.E. in possession of a firearm.

D.G. observed two uniformed CMPD officers come around the corner of North College Street toward the decedent and T.E. The officers approached as the decedent and T.E. were still on the ground and as the decedent was shooting at T.E. D.G. was unsure of the exact words officers used but stated that the officers gave commands for the decedent to freeze or to stop.

D.G. initially stated that the officers came around the corner toward the decedent and T.E. after the decedent had already gotten up off the ground and ran maybe 10 feet from T.E., however, D.G. later described the officers coming around the corner while the decedent was still

on the ground shooting at T.E. D.G. stated he was unsure exactly what happened because the events took place so quickly.

D.G. heard approximately three or four gunshots from the officers but could not be sure exactly how many shots were fired. D.G. described an officer wearing clothing similar to the clothing worn by Officer Matthews and was sure that officer had fired his weapon, but he was not sure whether the other officer also fired. D.G. estimated that the officers were approximately 10 feet away from the decedent when one or both fired their weapons. D.G. heard approximately three or four shots, each immediately after the other. D.G. reported that the decedent fell on the sidewalk next to a gray utility box on North College Street. The officers moved the handgun that the decedent was carrying. D.G. was unable to see the decedent after he had been shot.

J.R. (Eyewitness)

J.R. was interviewed by SBI Agents on November 27, 2019. J.R. informed agents he had been working the night shift on Thursday, November 14, 2019, starting at 6 p.m. and ending at 4 a.m. Friday, November 15, 2019. J.R. was working with D.G. on a jobsite at the Bank of America building, located at 100 North Tryon Street. J.R. stated that he went on a break at approximately 2 a.m. and was standing on North College Street, outside of the loading dock of Bank of America, approximately 100 yards away from the scene of the shooting.

J.R. reported to agents the he observed two males arguing near the Epicentre, and one of them pulled a chrome semi-automatic handgun from his back-waistband area and fired toward the other male three times from approximately 3 to 5 feet away but missed. The other male then attempted to take control of the gun, and they both fell to the ground as they struggled for control of the weapon. J.R. reported that additional shots were fired during the struggle, but he was unsure of how many. J.R. gave inconsistent statements as to whether the decedent or T.E. was the person who initially had the gun, but he stated at least once in his interview that he was not sure which one of them had the gun first.

J.R. reported that he then saw two uniformed police officers running from the area of 4th Street and College Street with guns in their hands. He heard the police say, "drop your weapon" twice, and the male did not drop the gun. J.R. thought the male who had the gun "was trying to aim it at the cop" and took a shot that ricocheted off the ground. It was J.R.'s recollection that this is when the officers returned fire.

J.R. believed that both responding officers fired their weapons. He estimated the officers were approximately 20 feet from the decedent when they shot. He heard a total of six to seven shots and then saw the officers place both males into handcuffs. J.R. stated multiple times during his interview that he believed the officers did the right thing.

J.A. (Associate of T.E.)

J.A. was interviewed by SBI Agents on the afternoon of November 15, 2019. He refused to give a formal statement or provide any identifying information about himself.

J.A. stated that T.E. was his mechanic and that they had gone out to have a drink. J.A. recalled that the decedent approached T.E. while they were in the RedEye Diner and began to

argue with him. J.A. described the decedent as being drunk and arguing with everyone in the restaurant for no reason. J.A. stated that the decedent left the restaurant after the argument.

J.A. said he and T.E. left the restaurant with their group. J.A. would not reveal who was in the group. While J.A. and T.E. were on the street, the decedent approached T.E. The decedent went straight to T.E. when he approached them in the street. J.A. recalled that he tried to break it up, but T.E. and the decedent began to fight on the street.

J.A. stated that the decedent pulled a chrome gun on T.E. J.A. stated that the firearm was sticking out of the decedent's jacket pocket. According to J.A., T.E. saw the firearm on the decedent when the decedent approached them. J.A. stated that T.E. began to fight the decedent in self-defense. J.A. stated that he hit the ground when he heard shots fired. He did not want to answer any more questions or provide any more information regarding this incident.

E. Additional physical evidence

In addition to the Jimenez Arms 9mm firearm located on the sidewalk, investigators located four spent 9mm shell casings, two spent .45 caliber shell casings, and one spent .40 caliber casing. Investigators also located various bullet fragments on the sidewalk at the corner of Tryon Street and Trade Street, as well as a projectile in the far right lane of Trade Street.

F. <u>Video evidence</u>

Surveillance footage, which does not contain audio, obtained from the RedEye Diner shows T.E.'s group eating at the bar when they are approached by the decedent. T.E.'s group appears to be trying to ignore the decedent, but the decedent continues to remain near them while talking to them. The video corroborates the account that the decedent put his hands on T.E. while T.E. was seated at the bar.

Video-only surveillance footage obtained from the alleyway outside RedEye Diner shows the decedent leave the diner and walk toward the courtyard in the center of the Epicentre and toward the parking garage where the decedent is known to have parked. Shortly after, the video shows the decedent return to RedEye Diner. The video from inside the restaurant shows the decedent go back to T.E.'s group at the bar and leave the diner again alone. The alleyway video then shows the decedent jog out of the restaurant, making a left toward College Street. Shortly after, T.E. can be seen exiting the restaurant and walking in the same direction as the decedent.

Video-only surveillance footage obtained from the parking garage under the Epicentre shows the decedent parking at the Epicentre at approximately 12:47 a.m. At approximately 2:15 a.m., the footage shows the decedent return to his vehicle, lean into the vehicle and exit the parking garage on foot at a slight jog with both hands in his jacket pockets.

F. <u>Autopsy report</u>

The Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office performed an autopsy on Treon McCoy on November 15, 2019. According to the autopsy report, the decedent suffered three gunshot wounds: one to the lower right lateral thigh exiting at the right medial thigh, traveling right to left and downward; one to the right upper buttock, traveling right to left, slightly back to front, and slightly upward; and one to the right lower torso, traveling upward, slightly right to left, and slightly back to front.

These gunshot wounds and their associated trajectories appear consistent with the decedent's body position at the time Officers Lovell and Matthews arrived as depicted in the surveillance video.

A copy of the Medical Examiner's report is attached as an exhibit to this report.

G. <u>Conclusion</u>

It is undisputed that Officers Lovell and Matthews fired their service weapons. Spent casings found on the scene and the results of a count of the ammunition remaining in each officer's weapon suggests Officer Lovell fired his weapon twice and Officer Matthews fired his weapon once. Spent casings found on the scene demonstrate that the Jimenez Arms 9mm gun fought over by the decent and T.E. was fired at least four times before or during the altercation between the decedent and T.E. During these events, the decedent was shot three times.

The central issue in this review is whether Officers Lovell and Matthews were justified under North Carolina law in using deadly force in the protection of themselves or another. A police officer – or any other person – is justified in using deadly force if he in fact believed that he or another person was in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death from the actions of the person who was shot and if his belief was reasonable. The statements of the civilian witnesses, physical evidence and surveillance videos corroborate the account of the events given by Officers Lovell and Matthews.

The credible evidence suggests the decedent, after having words with T.E. in the restaurant, ran to the parking garage, retrieved a gun from his car and returned, encountering T.E. on the sidewalk where he fought with T.E. The 9mm gun was fired at least four times in the struggle, injuring T.E. and calling the attention of nearby officers. Officers ran toward the gunshots and saw the decedent engaging in a struggle with T.E. and firing the gun at T.E. Both officers stated that they believed the decedent was attempting to kill T.E. Both officers gave the decedent commands to drop the gun after which Officer Lovell fired twice and Officer Matthews fired once.

Given the corroborated evidence that Officers Lovell and Matthews were reasonable in their belief that T.E. was facing an imminent threat of great bodily harm or death, the evidence in this case would be insufficient to prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that Officers Lovell and Matthews did not act in defense of another. Consequently, I will not be seeking charges related to the death of Treon McCoy. If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Spence B. Menweather III

Spencer B. Merriweather III District Attorney

CC: Chief Kerr Putney, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Exhibits:

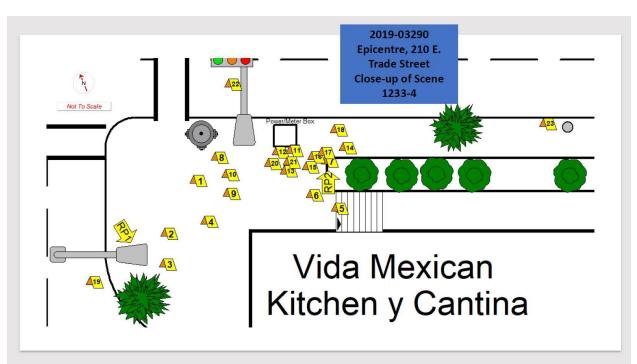


Diagram of the scene and location of evidence collected.



The Jimenez Arms 9mm handgun officers saw in possession of the decedent. <u>Return</u>









A spent .45 caliber casing.



A spent .45 caliber casing.

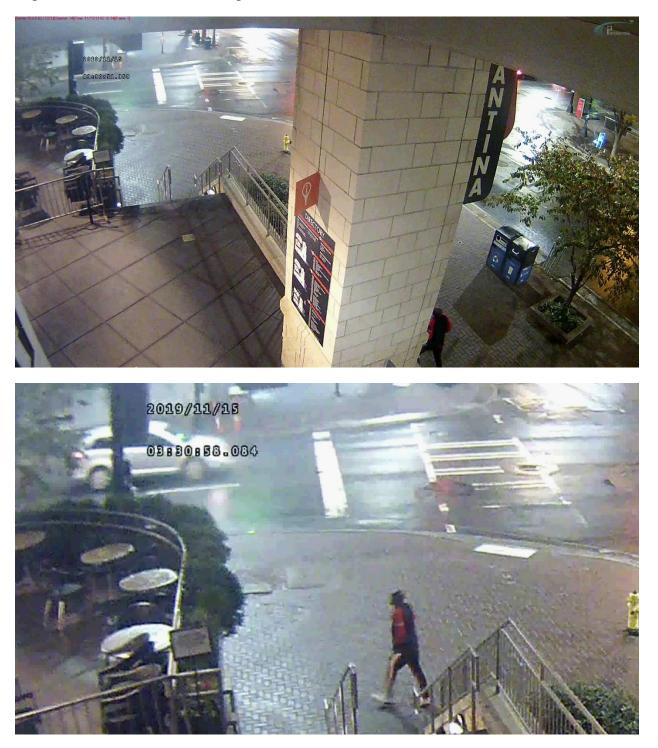


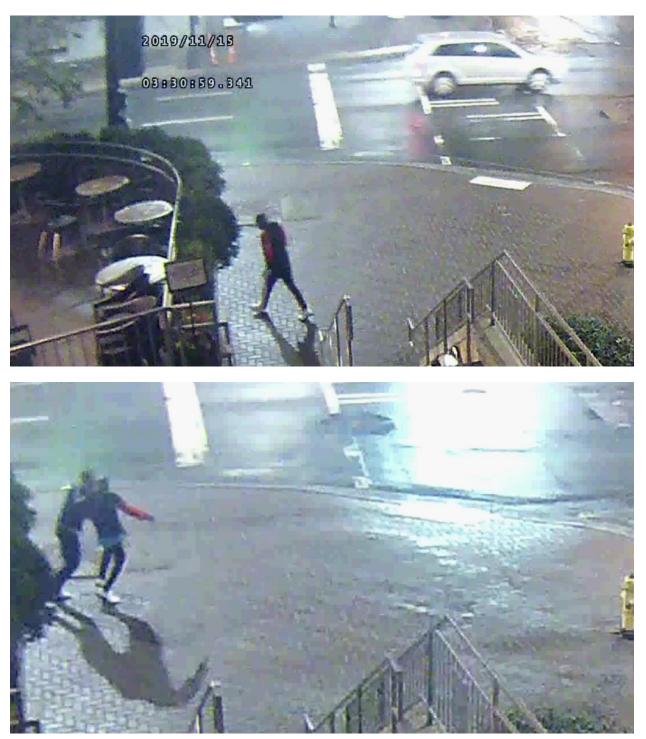


A spent .40 caliber casing.



Representative screenshots from Epicentre surveillance video.











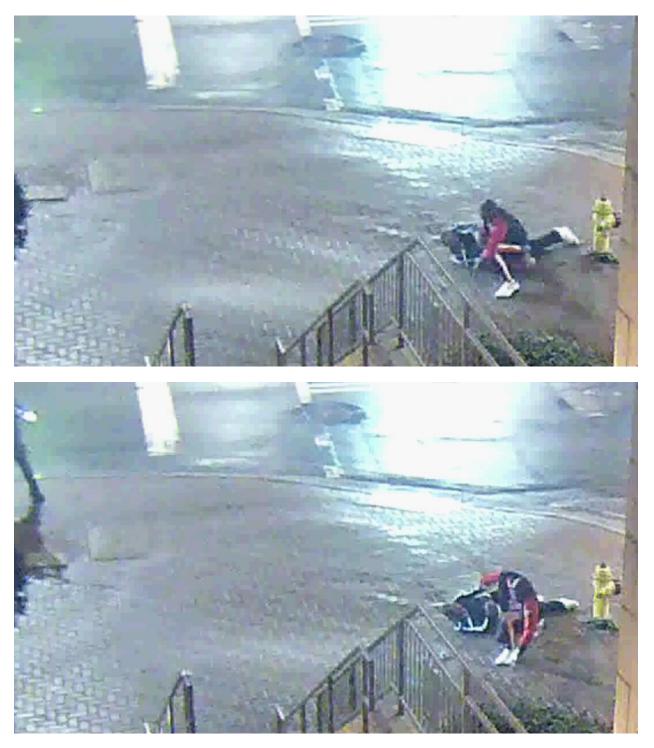






Exhibit 1

NCSBI CASE# 2019-03 Mecklenburg County M E Office

3440 Reno Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216 Telephone 7043362005 Fax 7043368353



REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

Received From

Mecklenburg

DECEDENT

Document Identifier B201904918

Autopsy TypeME AutopsyNameTreon Rashaw McCoyAge33 yrsRaceBlackSexM

AUTHORIZATION

Authorized By Jonathan Privette MD ENVIRONMENT

Date of Exam 11/15/2019 Time of Exam 09:15

Autopsy Facility Mecklenburg County M E Office Persons Present Mr. Jacob May

CERTIFICATION

Cause of Death Gunshot Wound of the Abdomen and Chest

The facts stated herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Digitally signed by Jonathan Privette MD 17 January 2020 09:31

DIAGNOSES

Multiple gunshot wounds Abrasions Remote rib fracture

IDENTIFICATION

Body Identified By Papers/ID Tag

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Length 71 inches Weight 176 pounds **Body Condition** Intact Rigor 3+Livor Posterior, Dependent Hair Black with a normal pattern of distribution Eyes Brown Teeth Natural, in fair repair

Received is the body of a well-developed, well-nourished adult male appearing compatible with the reported age. The body is clad in underwear. Accompanying the body is a yellow metal necklace with a yellow metal charm. Identifying marks consist of tattoos as diagrammed. Evidence of medical intervention includes bilateral chest tube incisions, pulse oximeter and gauze at the right leg.

INJURIES

The body is received with the hands covered by bags secured at the wrist with tape.

There are abrasions at the face predominantly at the right and at the right finger #4.

GUNSHOT WOUND#"2019-03290

ATTACHMENT# 1120-53

Located at the lower right lateral thigh at a point 24" above the heel and 1¹/₂" right of midline is an entrance sunshot wound with a hole that measures 3/8" and exhibits ³/₄" circumferential marginal abrasion. Soot and/or stippling are not grossly identified in association with this injury.

The wound track lacerates the skin and soft tissue of the right thigh.

Located at the right medial thigh at a point 21" above the heel and $2^{1/2}$ " left of midline is an exit gunshot wound with a hole that measures 1/4".

In the anatomical position, the projectile travels right to left, downward with minimal deviation in the remaining axis.

GUNSHOT WOUND "B":

Located at the right upper buttock at a point 40" above the heel and 2³/₄" right of posterior midline is an entrance gunshot wound with a hole that measures ³/₄" and exhibits ragged margins. Soot and/or stippling are not grossly identified in association with this injury.

The wound track lacerates the skin and soft tissue of the lower torso and back from where a partially deformed projectile is recovered.

In the anatomical position, the projectile travels right-to-left, slight back-to-front and slightly upward.

GUNSHOT WOUND "C":

Located at the right lower torso at a point $42^{3}/4$ " above the heel and $4^{3}/4$ " right of posterior midline is an entrance gunshot wound with a hole that measures 5/8" and exhibits ragged margins. Soot and/or stippling are not grossly identified in association with this injury.

The wound track lacerates the skin and soft tissue of the right lower torso, lacerates the liver, right lung and the soft tissue at the base of the right neck from where a partially deformed projectile is recovered. Associated injuries include massive right hemothorax.

In the anatomical position, the projectile travels upward, slightly right-to-left and slightly back-to-front.

OTHER INJURIES:

There is remote, healed fracture of right rib #1.

DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EVIDENCE

The following items are released with the body None

The following items are preserved as evidence

The following items are released to Charles Broyhill of the North Carolina SBI on 11/21/2019.

CLOTHING JEWELRY PROJECTILES BLOOD CARD FINGERNAIL SWABS

PROCEDURES

Radiographs Radiographs reveal two radiopaque foreign objects at the torso.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body Cavities

2 of 6

The organs are in their normal anatomic positions. NCSBI CASE# 2019-03290 ATTACHMENT# 1120-53

Cardiovascular System

Heart Weight 340 grams

The pericardial sac is free of significant fluid and adhesions. The coronary arteries arise normally, follow the usual distribution and are widely patent without evidence of significant atherosclerosis or thrombosis. The chambers and valves bear the usual size-position relationships and are unremarkable. The myocardium shows no evidence of acute infarction, scarring or focal lesions. The aorta and its major branches are intact without significant atherosclerosis.

Respiratory System

Right Lung Weight300 gramsLeft Lung Weight310 grams

Examination of the soft tissues of the neck including the strap muscles and large vessels reveals no abnormalities. The hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages are intact. The larynx is clear. The upper and lower airways are free of debris and foreign material. The lungs are normally formed. The parenchyma of the left lung shows moderate congestion without obvious consolidation or focal lesions. The pulmonary arteries are free of thrombi or emboli.

Gastrointestinal System

The gastrointestinal tract is intact throughout its length and is unremarkable.

Liver

Liver Weight 1540 grams Except as previously noted, grossly unremarkable.

Spleen

Spleen Weight 90 grams The spleen is normally formed; no focal lesions are present.

Pancreas

The pancreas is of normal size, shape and consistency without focal lesions.

Urinary

Right Kidney Weight 110 grams

Left Kidney Weight 110 grams

The kidneys are of normal size and shape. The capsules strip with ease from the underlying smooth cortical surfaces. The renal architecture is intact without focal lesions.

Reproductive

Grossly unremarkable.

Endocrine

The thyroid gland and bilateral adrenal glands are grossly unremarkable.

Neurologic

Brain Weight 1380 grams

Reflection of the scalp reveals no evidence of injury. There are no skull fractures identified. The leptomeninges are thin, delicate and congested. The cerebral hemispheres are unremarkable. The vasculature at the base of the brain is intact without significant atherosclerosis. Coronal sections reveal normal architecture without focal lesions.

Skin

Except as previously noted, grossly unremarkable.

Immunologic System

Grossly unremarkable.

Musculoskeletal System

Except as previously noted, grossly unremarkable.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Microscopic Comment

Histologic examination is not performed.

3 of 6

APPROVED BY

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION ATTACHMENT# 1120-53

The decedent is a 33-year-old male who was shot.



Autopsy examination reveals multiple gunshot wounds, abrasions, and a remote rib fracture.

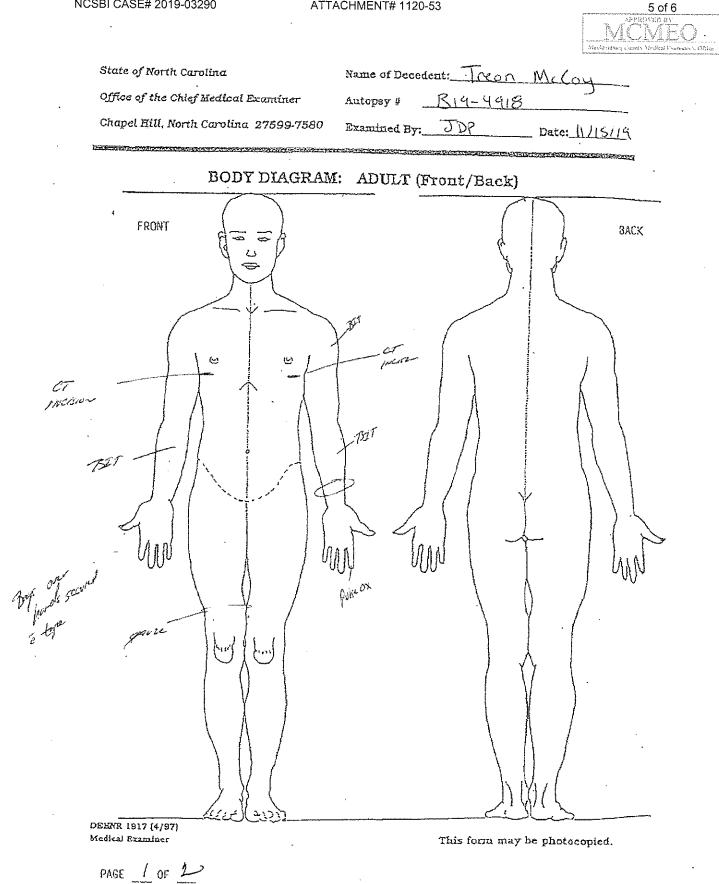
Please see separate report for toxicology details.

Based on the history and autopsy findings, it is my opinion that the cause of death in this case is a gunshot wound of the abdomen and chest.

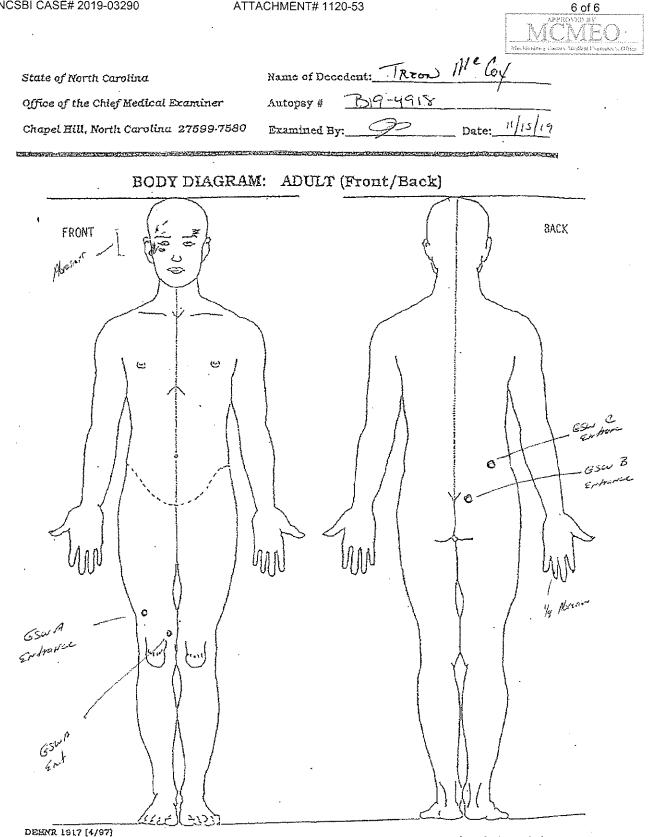
DIAGRAMS

BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (FRONT/BACK)
BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (FRONT/BACK)

ATTACHMENT# 1120-53



ATTACHMENT# 1120-53



Medical Examiner

PAGE 2 OF 2

This form may be photocopied.

NCSBI CASE# 2019-03 Mecklenburg County M E Office

3440 Reno Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216 Telephone 7043362005 Fax 7043368353



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ATTACHMENT# 1120-53

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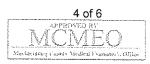
Microscopic Comment

Histologic examination is not performed.

3 of 6

SUMMARY SAND LATER BERETATION ATTACHMENT# 1120-53

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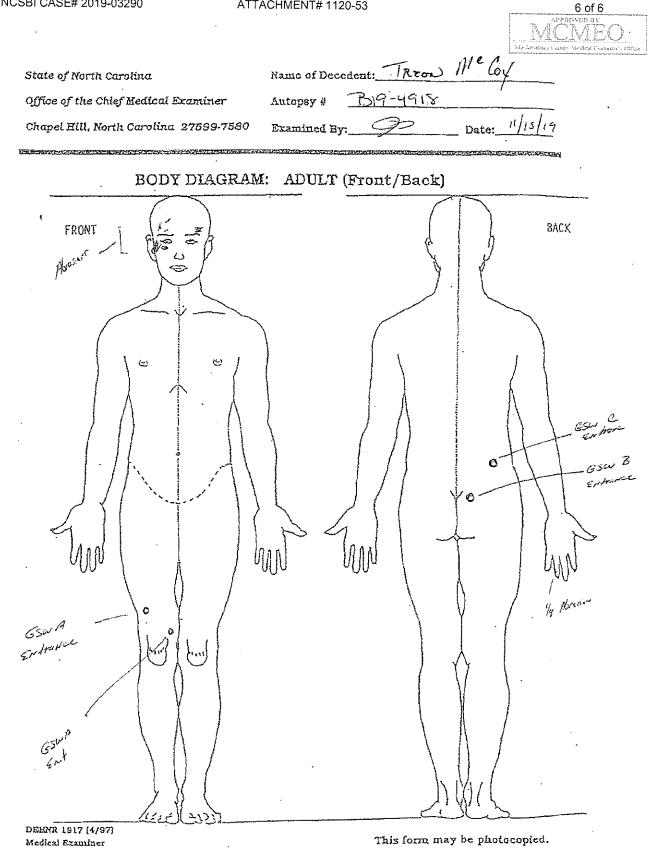
ATTACHMENT# 1120-53

NCSBI CASE# 2019-03290 ATTA	ACHMENT# 1120-53 5 of 6
State of North Carolina	Name of Decedent: Trean McCoy
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	Autopsy # R14-4418
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580	Examined By: JDP Date: 11/15/19
BODY DIAGRAM	: ADULT (Front/Back)
FRONT	BACK
DEHINR 1917 (4/97)	pure ox
Medical Examiner	This form may be photocopied.

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ATTACHMENT# 1120-53



F201910068

Loflin, Adam

From:	noreply@dhhs.nc.gov
Sent:	Friday, January 17, 2020 10:12 AM
То:	Loflin, Adam
Subject:	No Reply: OCME Toxicology F201910068

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Toxicology Folder: T201910625 Raleigh,NC 27699-3025 Case Folder: F201910068 Date of Report: 20-dec-2019 Page: 1

> Adam Loflin NCSBI 5994 Caldwell Park Drive Harrisburg, NC 28075

DECEDENT: Treon Rashaw McCoy

Status of Report: Approved Report Electronically Approved By: Justin Brower, PhD

* * *

SPECIMENS received from Jonathan Privette on 19-nov-2019

S190032631: 20.0 ml Blood SOURCE: Vena Cava	CONDITION: OBTAINED: 15-I		
Benzodiazepines N	one Detected LCMS	12/20/2019	
Caffeine (Present	12/20/2019	
Cocaine metabolite N	one Detected LCMS	12/20/2019	
Ethanol	250 mg/dL	12/20/2019	
Gabapentin/Pregabalin	None Detected LCMS	5 12/20/2019	
Methamphetamine	Less than 0.25	mg/L 12/20/2019	
Nicotine	Present	12/20/2019	
Opiates/Opioids No	one Detected LCMS	12/20/2019	
Organic Acids/Neutrals None Detected		12/20/2019	
Other Organic Bases None Detected		12/20/2019	

S190032633: 18.0 ml Urine	CONDITION: Postmortem				
SOURCE:	OBTAINED: 15-nov-2019				
Ethanol	270 m	ng/dL	12/20/2019		

Accredited by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, Inc.

011720 10:11 *** END OF REPORT *** B201904918