



State of North Carolina
General Court of Justice
Twenty-Sixth Prosecutorial District
MECKLENBURG COUNTY

SPENCER B. MERRIWEATHER III
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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April 8, 2022

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

Re: Derrell Lamar Raney Death Investigation

Dear SAC Canty:

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-61, my office has reviewed the investigation surrounding the shooting death of Derrell Lamar Raney on November 5, 2021. The case was investigated under case number 2021-03204. The documentation considered for the purposes of this review was provided by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation on January 31, 2022.¹ The purpose of this review was to examine whether the actions of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Officers Micah Edmunds and James Longworth were unlawful in the incident leading to the death of Derrell Lamar Raney.

These events occurred in the parking lot of a shopping center located at 9190 Albemarle Road in Charlotte, North Carolina. A review of the evidence in this matter reveals that Officers Edmunds, Longworth, Ryans, and Safrit were in the area responding to unrelated calls when Officer Ryans was informed by a Walmart employee that the security guard told Walmart employees that an individual had pointed a gun at him in the parking lot. That incident was captured on the security truck's dashboard camera. [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#). Officer Ryans relayed this information to dispatch. Officers Edmunds and Longworth responded to the location while Officers Ryans and Safrit remained on their original calls.

Body-worn camera footage shows that, upon the officers' arrival, the security guard informed both officers that the decedent had pointed a gun at him. When Officers Edmunds and Longworth encountered the decedent at the far end of the parking lot, the decedent drew the firearm from his bookbag, first raising it and then lowering it back toward the bookbag. Officers

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.

Edmunds and Longworth initially gave the decedent commands to put his hands up and transitioned into commands to “drop the gun” or “set it down.” These commands were ignored by the decedent, and the decedent can be heard responding to the officers by saying, “it’s over.” When the decedent again raised the gun, Officers Edmunds and Longworth fired multiple times, striking the decedent. [3][4]. Officers Edmunds and Longworth then approached the decedent, and Officer Edmunds kicked the gun away from the decedent’s reach. [5][6][7]. The decedent’s gun was later determined to be loaded with 12 live rounds.

Eight .40 caliber Winchester S&W discharge cartridge casings were located on scene. A count of the ammunition remaining in Officer Edmunds’ service weapon, a .40 caliber S&W M&P, showed his weapon to have fired six rounds. A count of the ammunition remaining in Officer Longworth’s service weapon, also a .40 caliber S&W M&P, showed his weapon to have fired two rounds.

An autopsy performed on Mr. Raney determined he suffered six gunshot wounds to the head, chest, and left hand.

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. The role of the District Attorney under North Carolina law

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 State v. Norris, 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. Id. at 530.

C. Use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer

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." Graham v. Connor, 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." Id. 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." Elliot v. Leavitt, 99 F.3d. 640, 643 (4th Cir. 1996).

D. The officer-involved shooting of Derrell Lamar Raney

Officer Micah Edmunds

Officer Micah Edmunds was interviewed by SBI agents on November 17, 2021, at the SBI District Office in Harrisburg, North Carolina. In that interview, Officer Edmunds stated that he responded to investigate an assault with a deadly weapon report that occurred in the Walmart parking lot on November 5. Officer Edmunds recalled that he parked beside the security truck, and he and Officer Longworth exited the patrol car at which point the security guard pointed in the direction of the decedent.

Officer Edmunds recalled that the decedent was seated on the ground. He described the decedent as a male wearing a blue jean jacket, blue jean pants, and a white hoodie with the hood over his head. There was a backpack propped up in front of the decedent's hands.

Officer Edmunds stated that he pulled his handgun out of his holster and gave loud verbal commands to "show your hands." Officer Edmunds recounted that the decedent raised the gun in his right hand. The pistol was a full-size handgun with a silver slide. Officer Edmunds stated that the decedent had a full grip on the handgun during the whole encounter. The decedent leaned back and pulled the gun up toward Officer Edmunds, who said he believed the decedent was going to shoot the gun.

Officer Edmunds said he gave additional loud verbal commands to the decedent to "drop the firearm," "it is okay," and "it is not a big deal." The decedent did not respond to the commands. Officer Edmunds recounted there was no dialogue between he and the decedent. Instead, the decedent just stared at Officer Edmunds.

Officer Edmunds stated he accounted for the backdrop of the area and fired three shots at the decedent, who then leaned to his right side. Officer Edmunds recounted that he then discharged an additional two shots because the decedent still had a grip on the handgun, and he believed he was still a threat. He reported that after the additional two shots, the decedent dropped the handgun. Officer Edmunds stated that he then approached the decedent and, using his left leg, pushed the handgun away from the decedent's reach. He then placed the decedent on

his stomach, handcuffed his hands behind his back, and searched the decedent to ensure there were no other weapons. After the search, Officer Edmunds began providing first aid.

Officer Edmunds stated that he discharged his handgun because of the imminent threat of death and serious bodily harm the decedent posed to Officer Edmunds, Officer Longworth, the security guard, and the other citizens in the area.

Officer James Longworth

Officer James Longworth was interviewed by SBI agents on November 12, 2021, at the SBI District Office in Harrisburg, North Carolina. Officer Longworth recounted that on November 5, Officer Ryans reported that a person had pointed a gun at a security guard. Officer Longworth responded to the scene with Officer Edmunds. Officer Longworth stated that he and Officer Edmunds arrived and approached the decedent. Officer Longworth estimated he was approximately 20 feet from the decedent, who was sitting in the grass and had a backpack or sweatshirt on his lap. Officer Longworth recalled that the decedent's right hand was concealed. Officer Longworth stated that both he and Officer Edmunds gave the decedent commands and received no response. Officer Longworth could not recall exactly what his commands were, but he said they were along the lines of "show us your hands" or "drop the gun." Officer Longworth recounted that the decedent did not respond to the commands and had a "glazed over" look on his face.

Officer Longworth stated that he approached to the right of the decedent to put some space between himself and Officer Edmunds. Officer Longworth recalled that the decedent's right hand came out of concealment quickly, and he was holding what appeared to be a semi-automatic handgun. Officer Longworth stated he believed the decedent was going to attempt to fire. Officer Longworth did not recall whether the gun was pointed at him but said that the gun came up high enough so he could see it.

Officer Longworth stated that he believed Officer Edmunds fired first. Officer Longworth reported that he fired his weapon twice. He did not know how many times Officer Edmunds fired. Officer Longworth recounted that he stopped firing when the decedent stopped moving, and he then approached the decedent. Officer Longworth recalled that Officer Edmunds kicked the gun away from the decedent so the decedent could not re-engage. When he approached the decedent, Officer Longworth noticed the slide on the gun was back as if it had jammed. While he did not recall the decedent firing the weapon during the encounter, he was not sure whether the decedent had fired or had possibly fired the gun previously. He and Officer Edmunds then handcuffed the decedent.

Officer Longworth stated that he fired at the decedent because of the imminent threat of bodily injury to himself, Officer Edmunds, and the countless members of the public that were in the area during this incident.

S.S.²

S.S. was interviewed by SBI agents on November 5, 2021, at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center. S.S. informed agents that he is employed as a private security guard and was working in that capacity that day.

S.S. recalled hearing a loud noise, which was possibly a gunshot, earlier in the day on November 5 when he was making his rounds. While patrolling the area that afternoon, S.S. observed the decedent loitering and asked him to leave. S.S. described the decedent's clothing as a silver hoodie, blue jacket, blue jeans, and a black backpack. The decedent left the area but later returned, and S.S. reapproached the decedent. S.S. recalled that as he approached, S.S. heard the decedent talking to himself. As S.S. spoke to the decedent, the decedent pulled a gun out of his bookbag and pointed it at S.S., saying something like, "If you don't leave, I will shoot you." S.S. described the gun as a 9mm or a .45 caliber handgun, silver on top and black on the bottom. S.S. backed away and saw the decedent place the gun back into his bookbag.

S.S. reported that he called Walmart management and advised them to keep everyone inside the store. Walmart management dialed 911. S.S. stated that two officers were close to the area and arrived quickly. S.S. recalled that when the officers approached the decedent, the decedent pulled the handgun out from the backpack. S.S. said the two officers told the decedent to drop the gun, but he refused. S.S. recounted that the decedent then pointed the gun at the two officers, and they shot him. S.S. stated that the events unfolded quickly, and both officers fired their weapons.

S.S. stated that he believed the decedent was going to shoot him and the officers.

T.K.

T.K. was interviewed by SBI agents on November 5, 2021, at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center. T.K. reported that he had been shopping at Walmart that afternoon. T.K. recalled that, as he exited the store, he saw a security officer and two police cars in the rear of the parking lot. T.K. recounted he saw a person lying flat on the ground. T.K. said he was approximately 60-70 yards away but believed he heard someone yell, "Put down the gun."

T.K. stated that the decedent raised up and motioned like he had something in his right hand. T.K. saw an object in his hand but was unable to identify what the object was. T.K. noticed the officers had their firearms drawn and recounted that, within seconds, he heard multiple gunshots. T.K. did not know who fired first.

T.K. noted that the officers were dressed in police uniforms and reported that he believed the officers behaved professionally.

C.G.

C.G. was interviewed by an SBI agent on November 6, 2021. C.G. had been working at a gas station near the scene of the shooting. C.G. stated that a customer told her police had their

² Witnesses who did not identify themselves publicly in media interviews or otherwise are not identified by name in this document. To name those who did not publicly identify themselves could have a chilling effect on witness cooperation in other cases.

guns drawn outside. C.G. exited the gas station and walked toward the scene. C.G. reported that she saw a single police officer and heard him say, “drop your weapon” three times to a male in a kneeling position. The male was holding a gun in his right hand next to his chest, but she did not see him point the gun in the direction of the officer or the security guard. She recalled that the officer fired three times, and she saw the decedent fall to the ground. She stated that the officer then fired nine to 12 more times at the decedent. C.G. stated that the officer “did everything he was supposed to do. He did the right thing. It’s like [the decedent] wanted it to happen.”

C.G. stated she saw the decedent in the same area as the shooting earlier in the afternoon. He was alone and kneeling in the same fashion as he was at the time of the shooting. C.G. also noted that approximately one hour before the shooting, she heard a gunshot in the area close to her gas station and then saw the decedent run through the gas station parking lot toward the Walmart parking lot.

Joe

While the SBI agent was interviewing C.G, Joe, a gas station customer, informed the agent that the decedent shot at him earlier in the afternoon of November 5, 2021. Joe refused to fully identify himself to the SBI agent.

E. Video evidence

The security truck driven by S.S. was equipped with a dash camera that recorded the decedent pointing a gun at him. The dash camera did not record the officer-involved shooting. Still image captures from this video have been included as exhibits to this report.

Both Officers Edmunds and Longworth were wearing body-worn cameras at the time of the shooting. The footage shows that upon their arrival, the security guard informed both officers that the decedent had pointed a gun at him. When Officers Edmunds and Longworth encountered the decedent at the far end of the parking lot, the decedent drew the firearm from his bookbag, first raising it and then lowering it back toward the bookbag. The video shows that Officers Edmunds and Longworth initially gave the decedent commands to put his hands up and transitioned into commands to “drop the gun” or “set it down.” While these commands were ignored by the decedent, the decedent can be heard responding to the officers by saying, “it’s over.” When the decedent again raised the gun, Officers Edmunds and Longworth fired multiple times, striking the decedent. Officers Edmunds and Longworth then approached the decedent, and Officer Edmunds kicked the gun away from the decedent’s reach. Still image captures from these videos have been included as exhibits to this report.

F. Autopsy report

The Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner’s Office performed an autopsy on Derrell Raney on November 6, 2021. The autopsy determined that the decedent suffered six gunshot wounds to the left hand, chest, and head. The cause of death was determined to be multiple gunshot wounds. A blood toxicology screening revealed nicotine and a very small amount of

methamphetamine in the decedent's system. A copy of the autopsy report is included as an exhibit to this report.

G. Previous interaction with law enforcement

Although not relevant to the state of mind of Officers Edmunds and Longworth at the time of the incident, it is important to note that the decedent appeared to be experiencing a mental health episode at the time of the shooting.

According to CMPD reports, on the morning of November 5, 2021, a CMPD officer responded to a report placed by the decedent. The report was investigated under CMPD complaint number 2021-1105-0558-00. When the officer arrived, the decedent reported that, after having an argument with a family member, a tall white male led him into the woods, where he discovered two dead bodies with large satanic symbols hanging above them. CMPD, the Charlotte Fire Department, and Medic all searched the woods but were unable to locate any bodies or signs of a struggle. Meanwhile, CMPD officers responded to speak with the decedent's family member, who reported that he had been experiencing mental health issues.³

CMPD had the decedent speak with Medic to be evaluated, and then officers offered him a ride back to his family member's residence. A search of the decedent prior to transport – in accordance with CMPD policy – revealed a Smith & Wesson magazine loaded with six rounds but no firearm.

Upon arriving at the decedent's family member's residence, the decedent's relative indicated they felt unsafe allowing the decedent in their home, stating that the decedent was having mental health issues. The officer instructed the relative on how to apply to have the decedent involuntarily committed and then provided the decedent a ride to the gas station at 6721 Albemarle Road. The officer reported that while transporting the decedent to the gas station, the officer asked the decedent multiple times whether he could take him to a hospital or a mental health facility, but the decedent declined. The officer reported that he turned the Smith & Wesson magazine into CMPD's property control department for safekeeping.

G. Conclusion

It is undisputed that Officers Edmunds and Longworth 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 Edmunds fired his weapon six times and Officer Longworth fired his weapon twice.

The central issue in this review is whether Officers Edmunds and Longworth 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

³ Writings found in the decedent's possession after the shooting tend to corroborate that he was having mental health issues.

the actions of the person who was shot and if his belief was reasonable. The statements of the civilian witnesses, physical evidence, body-worn camera videos, and surveillance videos corroborate the account of the events given by the witnesses, as well as Officers Edmunds and Longworth.

The credible evidence suggests the decedent pointed a gun at a security guard, resulting in the response of Officers Edmunds and Longworth. Upon their arrival, the security guard directed the officers to the decedent and informed the officers that the decedent had pointed a gun at him. Officers Edmunds and Longworth approached the decedent with their guns drawn while giving the decedent commands to show his hands. At this time, the decedent's hand was concealed in a backpack. As the officers continued to approach, the decedent drew a firearm from the backpack with his right hand and stated, "it's over." The officers gave the decedent several commands to drop the weapon, and those commands were ignored. The decedent then slightly raised the gun in the direction of the officers. At this point, Officer Edmunds fired six times, and Officer Edmunds fired twice, killing the decedent.

The evidence in this case would be insufficient to prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that Officers Edmunds and Longworth did not act in defense of themselves or another. The corroborated evidence tends to show that Officers Edmunds and Longworth were indeed reasonable in their belief that the decedent posed an imminent threat of great bodily harm or death to themselves and the public. Accordingly, I will not be seeking charges related to the death of Derrell Raney.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer B. Merriweather III". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

CC: Chief Johnny Jennings, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

Exhibits:

The decedent pointed a gun at a security guard, resulting in CMPD's response.

[Return](#)



The decedent continued to point the gun after the security officer retreated.

[Return](#)



View from Officer Edmunds' BWC just prior to the shooting.

[Return](#)



View from Officer Longworth's BWC just prior to the shooting.

[Return](#)



The location of the decedent's gun immediately after the shooting.

[Return](#)



Officer Edmunds kicking the gun away from the decedent.

[Return](#)



The decedent's Smith & Wesson handgun.

[Return](#)



Exhibit 1

Mecklenburg County

Medical Examiners' Office



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

REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

DECEDENT

Document Identifier: B21-6308

Name: Derrell Lamar Raney

Age: 33

Race: Black

Sex: Male

AUTHORIZATION

Authorized By: Dr. Sullivan County: Mecklenburg

IDENTIFICATION

Body Identified By: Papers/ID Tag

ENVIRONMENT

Date of Exam: 11/06/2021 Time of Exam: 1000 hours
Persons Present: Ms. Fisher

CERTIFICATION

Cause of Death: Multiple gunshot wounds

Forensic Pathologist: J. Michael Sullivan, MD

Date of Final Report: 3/1/2022

DIAGNOSES

- I. Gunshot wound of the left index finger
 - a. Gunshot injury to soft tissue, distal and middle phalanx

2. Gunshot wound of the left wrist
 - a. Gunshot injury to soft tissue, carpal bone
3. Gunshot wound of the chest and abdomen
 - a. Gunshot injury to liver, right lung, with hemorrhage into right pleural cavity and peritoneal cavity
4. Gunshot wound of the chest
 - a. Gunshot injury to soft tissue and musculature
5. Gunshot wound of the head
 - a. Gunshot injury to right maxilla and right zygoma
6. Gunshot wound of the head
 - a. Gunshot injury to skull and brain

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Length: 68 inches

Weight: 129 pounds

Body Condition: Intact

Rigor: 3+

Livor: Purple, posterior

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Teeth: Present

Narrative: The body is that of an adult black male, slim, clothed in the following: black sneakers, black socks, black undershorts.

Evidence of medical intervention includes a supraglottic airway in place, EKG electrode pads over the chest and abdomen, EKG-defibrillation pads on the chest and abdomen, a gel bandage over the right chest, gel bandage over the left lateral chest, gel bandage over the left upper back. There is an intraosseous catheter in place over the anterior right lower leg. There are tattoos as per diagram. There is a beard and moustache present. There is dried and liquid blood in the scalp hair, dried blood over the chest, abdomen, face, right arm, and left arm. There is a hospital identification bracelet on the left wrist, which lists the name: Georgia Trauma, Medical Record #8706772.

INJURIES

There are multiple gunshot wounds.

Gunshot Wound #1. This is a gunshot wound of the left index finger with entrance wound located approximately 37 inches below the top of the head. Entrance wound is a shallow grazing wound, a long ovoid wound, with injury to skin and soft tissue of the finger, and fracture of the distal phalanx and middle phalanx of the left index finger. The wound measures 1 inch in length and 5/8 inch in width. There is abrasion at both distal and proximal aspects of the wound, direction of fire cannot be ascertained. There is no soot or powder stippling associated with this wound.

In summary this is a distant range gunshot wound of the left index finger which caused injury to skin, soft tissue and bone of the finger

Gunshot Wound #2. This is a gunshot wound of the left wrist with entrance wound located over the ulnar aspect of the left wrist, 31 inches below the top of the head. Entrance wound is round, shows abrasion margin at its lateral (ulnar) aspect, irregular margin over its radial (medial) aspect. The wound measures 3/4 inch in diameter.

Wound continues in a direction (with the arm and hand in anatomic position) to the left, slightly downward without significant deviation forward or backward. The wound causes superficial injury with perforation of subcutaneous tissue and palpable superficial injury to carpal bone, continues with injury to subcutaneous tissue, exiting from the radial aspect of the posterior left wrist, 31-1/2 inches below the top of the head. Exit wound is rectangular, measures 1 inch by 3/4 inch and shows irregular margins, some focal marginal abrasion.

No soot or stippling is associated with the wound.

In summary, this is a superficial gunshot wound of the posterior left wrist, which caused injury to subcutaneous tissue and carpal bone.

Gunshot Wound #3. This is a gunshot wound of the chest and abdomen with entrance wound located over the right lower chest, 20 inches below the top of the head, 1-3/4 inches to the right of anterior midline. Entrance wound is round, 7/16 inch in diameter, shows abrasion margin, no soot or powder stippling.

The wound continues in a direction backward, slightly to the right, and very minimally upward, perforating the anterior chest wall at intercostal space six, continuing with perforation of the anterior right hemidiaphragmatic leaflet, cause a disruptive guttering wound through the right lobe of liver, perforate the posterior aspect of the right hemidiaphragmatic leaflet, and penetrate into the posterolateral chest wall at intercostal space nine. There is dense hemorrhage, contusional lung injury, within the base of the right lower lobe of lung and within the base of the right middle lobe of lung. There is approximately 300 mL of blood within the right pleural cavity, and a small amount, approximately 10 mL of blood within the right upper quadrant of the peritoneal cavity.

The bullet is recovered from within the posterolateral chest wall. Bullet recovered is a deformed, medium-caliber, yellow metal-jacketed, gray metal bullet.

In summary, this is a medium-caliber gunshot wound to the chest and abdomen, which caused injury to the diaphragm, liver, and right lung with hemorrhage into the right pleural cavity and peritoneal cavity.

Gunshot Wound #4. This is a gunshot wound of the chest with entrance wound located over the left lateral chest, 19 inches below the top of the head, 7-3/4 inches to the left of anterior midline. Entrance wound is oval, measures 3/4 inch by 7/16 inch, shows abrasion margin, no powder soot or stippling.

The gunshot wound continues in a direction backward, slightly upward and very minimally to the right to perforate with disruption soft tissue and musculature over the left lateral chest, exiting from the left lateral upper back, 16 inches below the top of the head, 4 inches to the left of posterior midline. The exit wound is ovoid to slit shaped, measures 1 inch in length and 1/4 inch in width.

In summary, this is a gunshot wound of the chest, which caused injury to soft tissue and musculature.

Gunshot Wound #5. This is a gunshot wound of the head with entrance wound located over the right cheek, 6-1/2 inches below the top of the head, 2-1/2 inches to the right of anterior midline. Entrance wound is oval with irregular margin, which shows large and irregular abrasion. No soot or stippling is present.

There is a cluster of punctate-to-small linear and oval cutaneous abrasions superior to and lateral to and inferior to the lateral canthus of the right eye.

The gunshot wound continues in a direction backward, slightly to the right, to perforate with fracture the right maxilla, perforate with fracture the right zygoma, with bullet coming to the end of the wound track immediately lateral to the superior condyle of the right mandible. Bullet recovered is a deformed, yellow metal-jacketed, gray metal bullet. On recovery, bullet separates into three fragments: a jacketing fragment, a core gray metal bullet fragment, and a small gray metal core metal fragment.

There is hemorrhage within soft tissue along with wound track through the face.

In summary, this is a distant range, medium-caliber gunshot wound of the head, which caused injury to the right maxilla and right zygoma.

Gunshot Wound #6. This is a gunshot wound of the head with entrance wound located over the left posterior parietal scalp near the left occipital scalp. Entrance wound is a long wound reflecting the tangential nature of the wound with a 3/8 inch in diameter, rounded entrance aspect superiorly and anteriorly. The overall length of the wound is 1-3/4 inch on the scalp with posterior inferior V-shaped tears of the scalp. No soot or powder stippling is noted.

The wound continues in tangential fashion with fracture of the skull. Skull shows inward beveling at its anterior margin. Posteriorly, there is comminuted fracturing extending through the posterior left parietal skull and extending into the left occipital skull.

A small, yellow metal-jacketing fragment is found within scalp hair adjacent to the wound. A small, yellow-metal-jacketing fragment is found within the deep scalp tissue. Remainder of bullet fragments are found within brain parenchyma and skull fracture within the occiput.

There is marked disruptive injury to left posterior parietal parenchyma and left occipital parenchyma. There are multiple cerebral cortical contusions over the left occipital pole, inferior occipital lobe, and extending to the inferior left temporal lobe. There are cortical contusions of the medial and inferior right occipital lobe. There is dense subarachnoid hemorrhage over posterior hemispheres bilaterally.

The major portion of the gray metal core is found embedded in an incomplete gunshot exit wound within the midline occipital skull.

Fracture extends in radiating fracture into the left posterior hemisphere. There is extremely superficial disruptive injury over the left cerebellar superior hemisphere. There is subarachnoid hemorrhage over the superior left and right and midline cerebellar hemispheres. There is downward herniation of the left cerebellar tonsil.

Extensive fragmentation of the bullet. The bullet appears to be of medium caliber, and is a yellow metal-jacketed, gray metal bullet.

In summary, this is a distant range, medium-caliber gunshot wound of the head, which caused injury to the skull and brain.

DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EVIDENCE

Released with the body: Clothing

Preserved as evidence: None

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body Cavities: No adhesions. Hemorrhage as noted.

Cardiovascular System:

Heart Weight: 290 grams

The coronary arteries show a normal distribution and no significant atherosclerosis. Valves and chambers show a normal configuration. The myocardium on serial section is unremarkable. Aorta unremarkable.

Respiratory System

Right Lung Weight: 250 grams

Left Lung Weight: 200 grams

Neck soft tissues are unremarkable. Hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages intact. Pulmonary arteries contain no thrombo-emboli. Hilar lymph nodes are unremarkable. Trachea and bronchi are clear. Lungs on serial section show contusional injury as noted.

Gastrointestinal System

The esophagus is unremarkable. Stomach contains a few mL of brown fluid. Duodenum unremarkable. Remainder of small bowel and large bowel unremarkable on external examination and periodic palpation. Appendix present.

Liver

Liver Weight: 1830 grams

Gunshot injury as described. Parenchyma, otherwise, firm and brown. Gallbladder present with liquid bile.

Spleen

Spleen Weight: 80 grams

Small. Capsule smooth and intact. Parenchyma firm and red.

Pancreas

On serial section tan and unremarkable.

Urinary

Right Kidney Weight: 100 grams

Left Kidney Weight: 110 grams

Subcapsular surfaces smooth. Cortices not narrowed. Pelves and ureters not dilated. Bladder contains 200-300 mL of clear yellow urine.

Reproductive

Grossly unremarkable. Prostate unremarkable.

Endocrine

Thyroid gland: Unremarkable.

Adrenal glands: Unremarkable.

Neurologic

Brain Weight: 1380 grams

Gunshot injury as described.

Immunologic System

Grossly unremarkable.

Musculoskeletal System

Grossly unremarkable.

OTHER PROCEDURES

Radiographs: X-ray shows bullet fragments projecting over the cranial vault, and bullet projecting over the right lateral chest.

Evidence Collected: Bullets, blood stain card.

Cultures: None

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

No tissue sections are submitted for histology.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

The decedent is a 33 year-old black male who was pronounced dead shortly after arrival at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center Main Hospital Emergency Department with multiple gunshot wounds.

Autopsy examination showed the body of an adult black male with six gunshot wounds. A gunshot wound of the left index finger caused injury to distal and middle phalanx. A gunshot wound of the left wrist caused injury to subcutaneous tissue and left carpal bone. A gunshot wound of the chest and abdomen with entrance wound located over the right chest caused injury to the liver, diaphragm, and lung with hemorrhage into right pleural cavity and peritoneal cavity. A gunshot wound of the left chest caused injury to soft tissue and musculature. A gunshot wound of the head with entrance wound on the right cheek caused injury to the right maxilla and right zygoma. A gunshot wound of the head with entrance wound over the left parietal scalp was a tangential wound, which caused injury to the skull and brain. There was no evidence of significant preexisting disease.

Toxicologic analysis of central blood sample taken at the time of autopsy showed an acetone content of 5 mg/dL, likely indicating a state of ketosis at the time of death. Analysis was positive for the presence of nicotine. Analysis showed a methamphetamine content of less than .25 mg/L. Analysis was negative for benzodiazepines, cocaine metabolites, ethanol, gabapentin/pregabalin, opiates/opioids, organic acids/neutrals and other organic bases.

In my opinion the cause of death is multiple gunshot wounds.

END OF REPORT- Diagrams attached

JMS/dem

DID #:
37075945

State of North Carolina

Name of Decedent: DERRELL RANEY

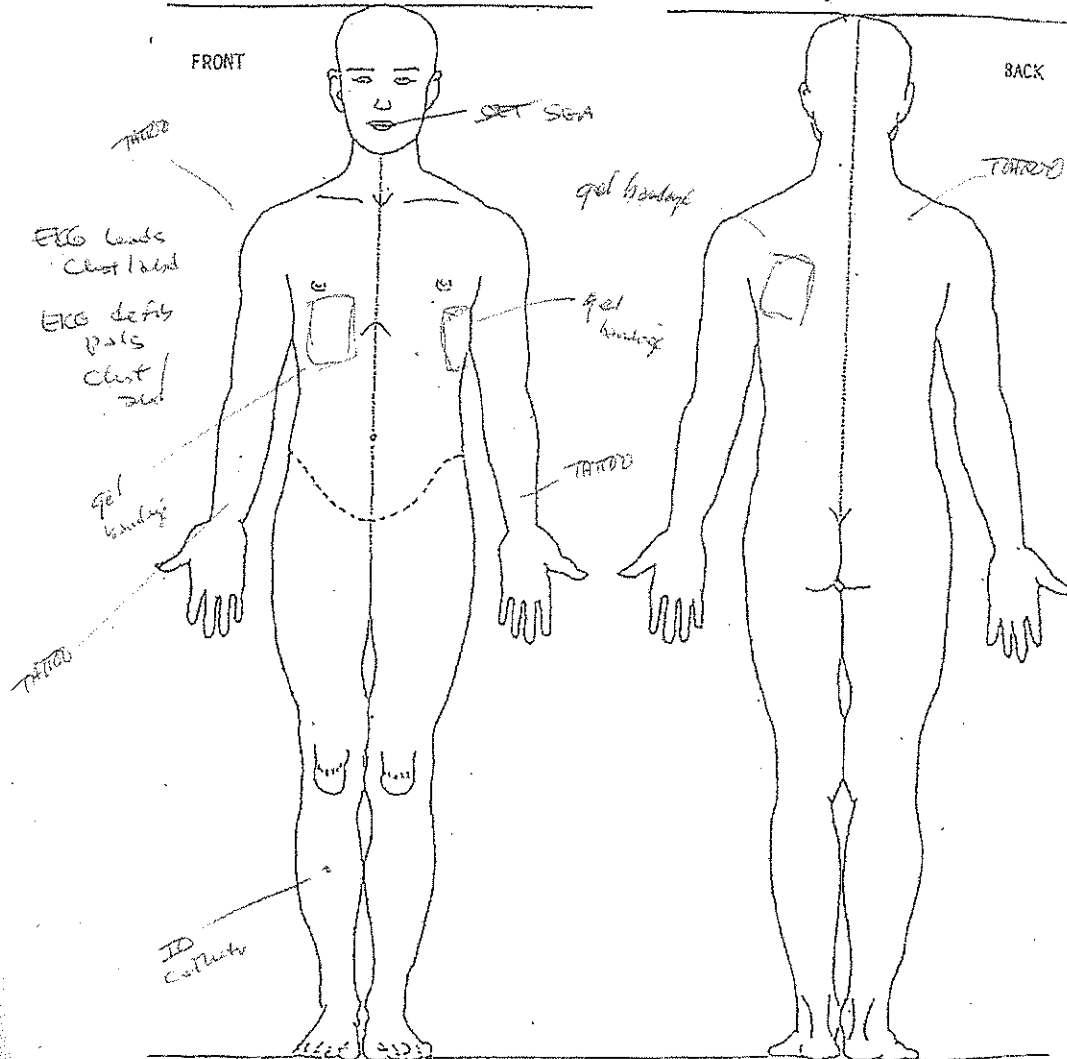
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Autopsy # 21-6308

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7530

Examined By: JS Date: _____

BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (Front/Back)

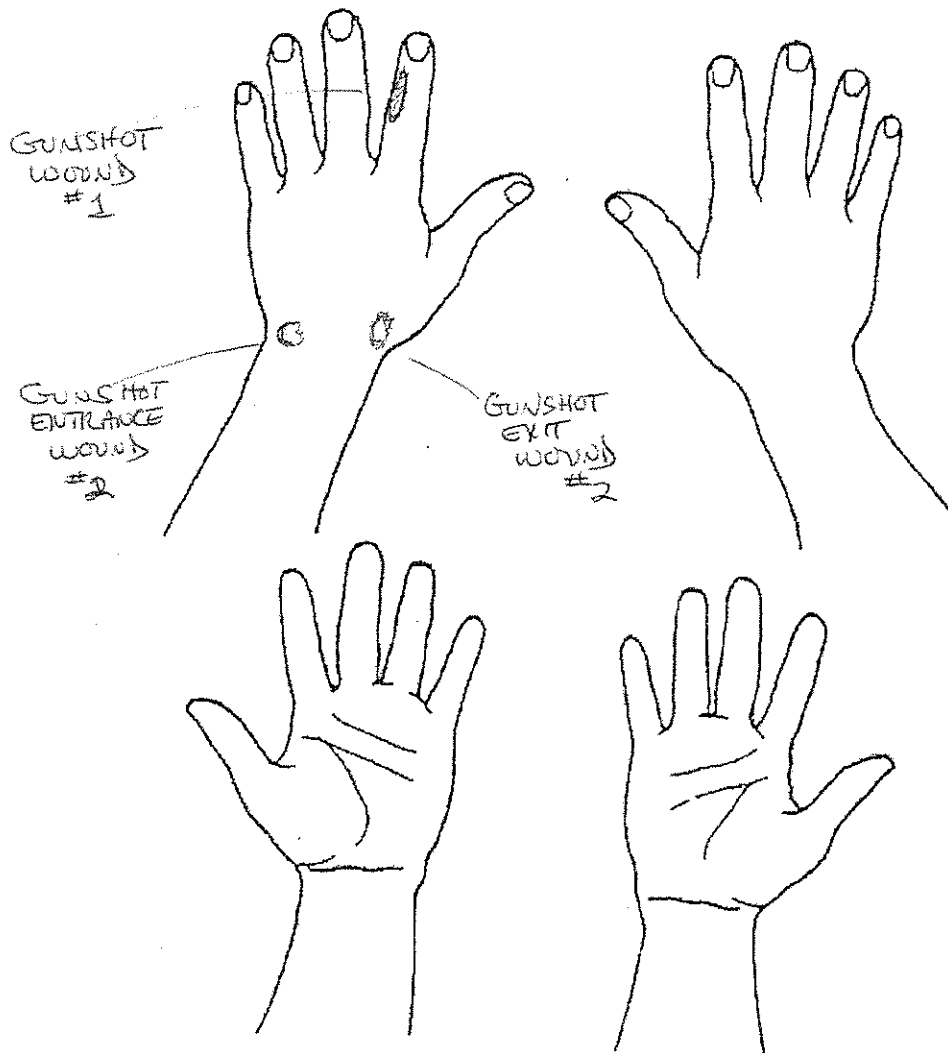


DEMR 1917 (4/97)
Medical Examiner

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State of North Carolina
Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Name of Decedent: DERRELL RAYEY
B#: 21-6308
Examined by: JS Date: _____



State of North Carolina

Name of Decedent: DERRELL RANEY

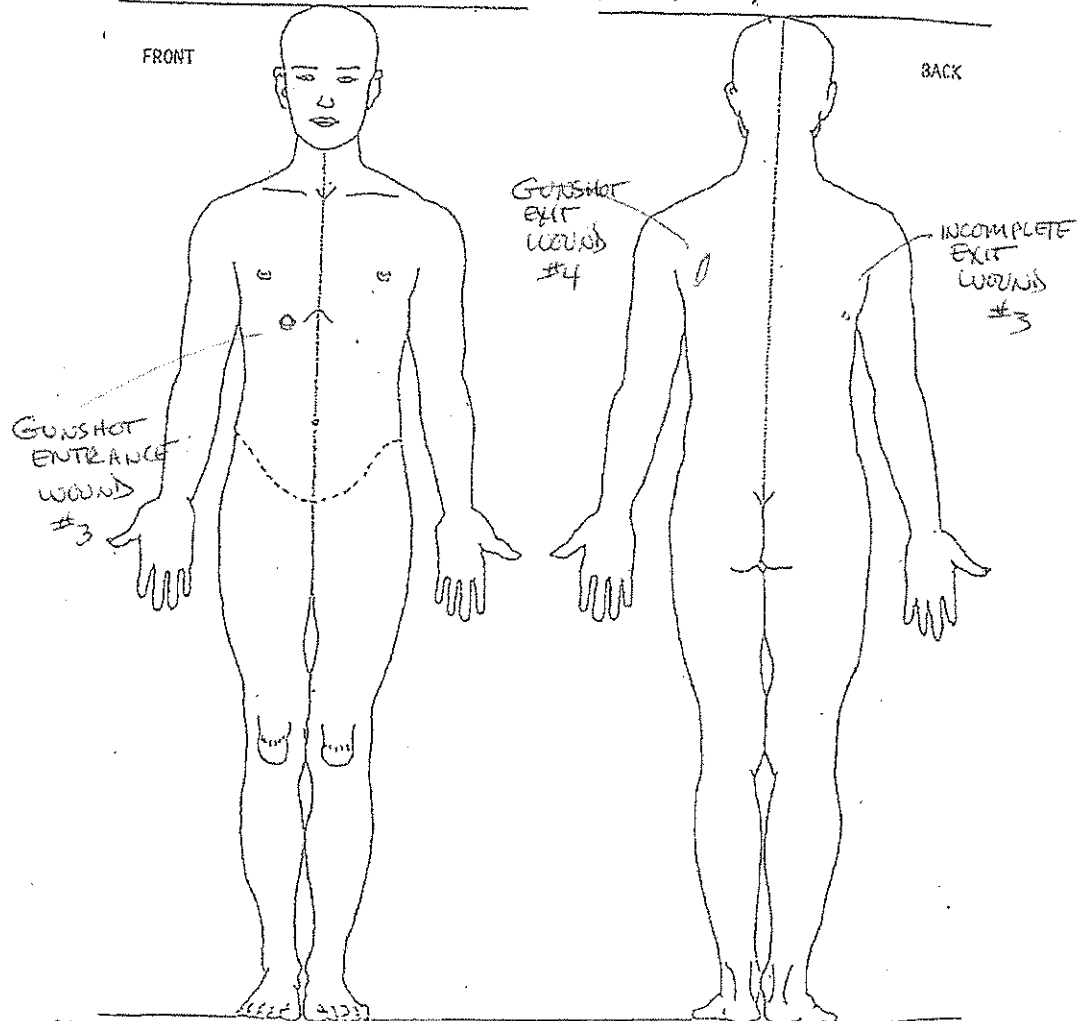
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Autopsy # 21-6308

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7530

Examined By: JS Date: _____

BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (Front/Back)



DEMR 1917 (4/87)
Medical Examiner

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PAGE 3 OF 4

State of North Carolina
Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

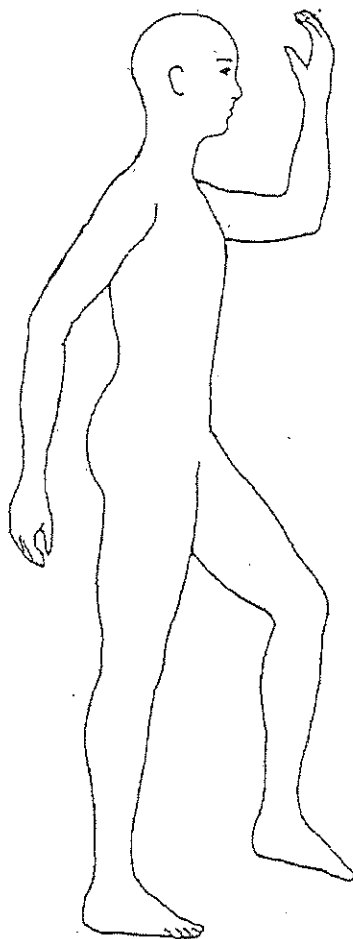
Name of Decedent: DERRELL RANNEY

Autopsy # B 21-6308

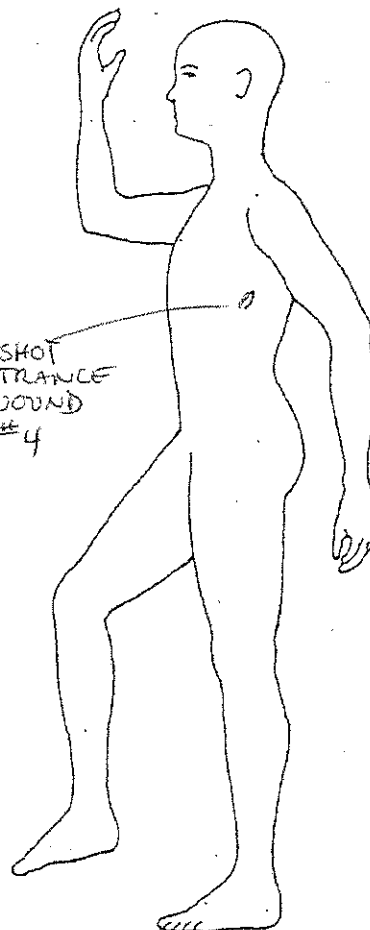
Examined By: JS Date: _____

BODY DIAGRAM:

PROFILE (Left/Right)



GUNSHOT
ENTRANCE
WOUND
#4



DEFORM 3461 (4/97)
Medical Examiner

PAGE 4 OF 6

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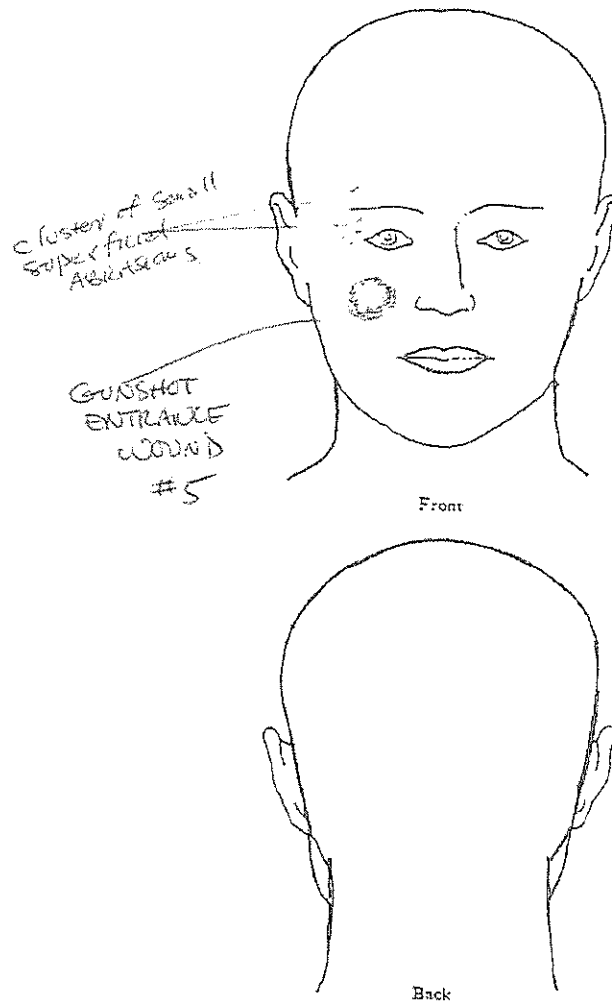
State of North Carolina
Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner
Charlotte, NC 28216

DERRELL RANEY

B21.6308

Examined By: JS Date: _____

BODY DIAGRAM: HEAD (front/back)



5 of 6

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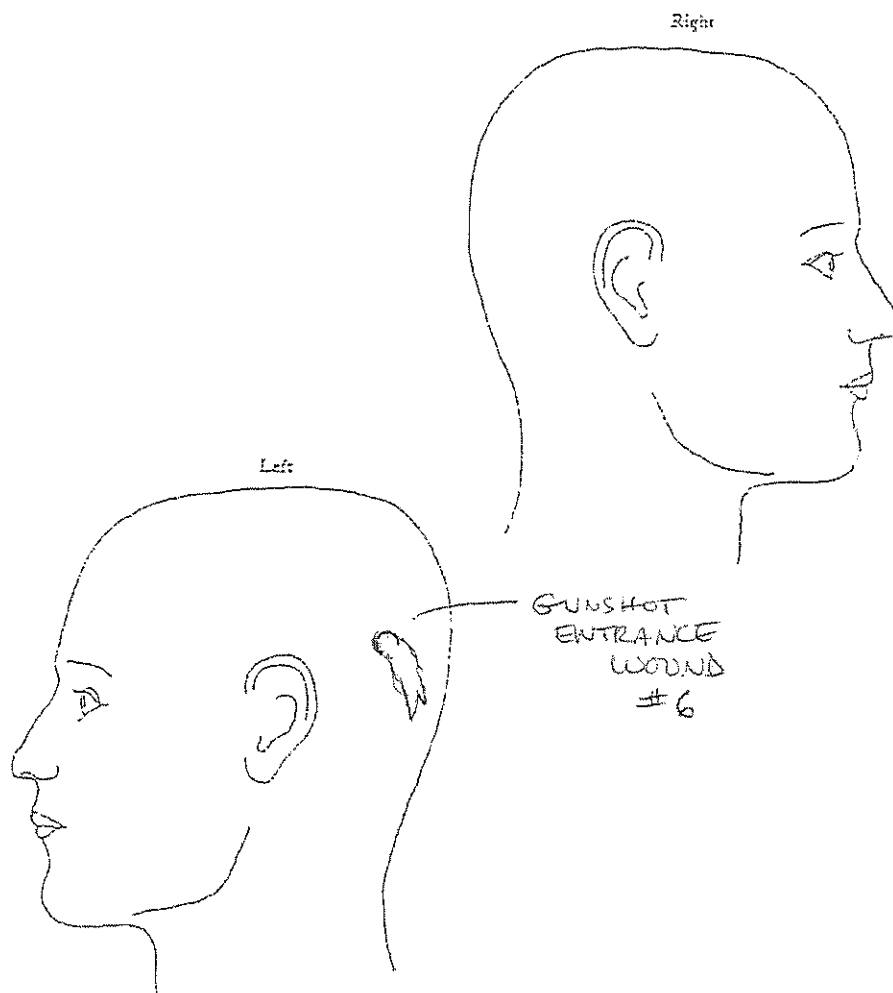
State of North Carolina
Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner
Charlotte, NC 28216

DERRELL RANEY

B21-6308

Examined By: JS Date: _____

BODY DIAGRAM: HEAD (left/right)



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