



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

SPENCER B. MERRIWEATHER III
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

700 EAST TRADE STREET
CHARLOTTE, NC 28202
TELEPHONE: 704-686-0700
FAX: 704-686-0716

June 4, 2025

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

Re: Lucas Lee Mackenzie Armstrong Death Investigation

Dear SAC Blackman:

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7A-61, my office has reviewed the investigation surrounding the shooting death of Lucas Lee Mackenzie Armstrong on December 28, 2024. The case was investigated under case number 2024-03676. The documentation considered for the purposes of this review was provided by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation in March 2025. The purpose of this review was to examine whether the actions of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Officer Joseph Calabro were unlawful in the incident leading to the death of Lucas Armstrong.

These events occurred on the evening of December 28, 2024, at a nightclub located at 4621 Wilkinson Boulevard in Charlotte, North Carolina. Officers Joseph Calabro, Michael Miles, and Thomas Drennan were working outside the nightclub in an off-duty capacity. All three officers were in full uniform. Although not working this night, the decedent was employed as a member of club security and was known to Officer Miles, who regularly worked this off-duty position, as well as the other club security employees. Shortly after 11:00 p.m., Officers Calabro, Miles, and Drennan were informed by a friend of the decedent that the decedent had threatened to kill himself and that he had a gun in his van. Shortly thereafter, club security notified the officers that the decedent had been located at his van in the parking lot holding a gun to his head.

Officers Calabro, Miles, and Drennan walked to the decedent's van where they encountered the decedent standing in the open doorway of his van holding a gun to his head.¹ A

¹ Reports relating to the District Attorney's decision in cases where an officer-involved shooting results in death typically contain images captured from body-worn cameras illustrating the events leading up to the shooting; nevertheless, the images here depict a manifestation of suicidal ideation. Whatever probative value there may be in publishing these images pales in comparison to the traumatic impact such publication

member of club security was already talking to the decedent trying to get the decedent to put the gun down. When the decedent did not comply, Officer Miles asked members of club security to step away from the potentially dangerous situation.

The decedent's work van was parked facing into a parking spot. A Toyota Camry was backed into a parking spot on the passenger side of the van. The passenger door of the van was open and the decedent was standing between his van and the Toyota Camry with his back to the van's open passenger side door. Officer Miles positioned himself directly in front of the decedent, standing in the parking lot behind the van and in front of the Camry, approximately fifteen feet from the decedent. From his uncovered position and without his firearm drawn, Officer Miles attempted to talk the decedent into putting the gun down for several minutes. The decedent was clearly impaired and extremely erratic and emotional. Several times during this interaction with Officer Miles, the decedent made reference to forcing the officers to shoot him. The defendant made statements including: "Either you're going to shoot me or I'm going to shoot myself. Do you understand that?" "I know if I point this at you, you'll put me out of my misery," and, "If I point this at you, I know for a fact you will kill me." The decedent also made several statements indicating that he did not intend to hurt Officer Miles.

During the first seven and a half minutes of the exchange between the decedent and Officer Miles, the decedent remained between the van and the Camry with his back to the open passenger door while Officer Miles remained in the parking lot, without cover, at the rear of the van. Officers Calabro and Drennan remained out of the decedent's line of sight while Officer Miles attempted to de-escalate the situation. During the interaction between the decedent and Officer Miles, Officer Calabro contacted the dispatcher and requested Medic and additional officers, making clear that both were to respond without lights and sirens to avoid agitating the decedent further.

After seven and a half minutes of Officer Miles attempting to de-escalate the situation, the decedent began yelling at Officer Miles while advancing toward him. Officer Miles remained stationary with his firearm holstered and his hands in the air. The decedent emerged from between the two vehicles approximately six to eight feet from Officer Miles. After emerging from between the two vehicles, the decedent could see Officers Calabro and Drennan, likely for the first time. At this point the decedent was approximately ten feet from Officer Drennan, who was standing on the rear driver's side of the van with his Taser drawn. Officer Calabro was standing in the open parking lot, without cover, approximately 30 feet from the decedent. Officer Calabro then drew his service weapon and pointed it at the decedent. Addressing Officer Calabro, the decedent stated multiple times, "I know you're ready." Officer Calabro then commanded the decedent six times in succession to drop the firearm. The decedent then stated to Officer Calabro, "I know you're ready, because the second that I point this at you, I know...." Officer Calabro then discharged his weapon three times, striking the decedent. The officers then moved in to secure the firearm and provide medical aid to the decedent.

A Canick 9x19 TP9 handgun with a three round magazine extension containing 21 rounds of live ammunition was recovered from the decedent and secured on scene.

would have on the family of the decedent and others. Accordingly, these photographs will not be published here.

An autopsy conducted on the decedent determined he suffered three gunshot wounds of the chest and neck with corresponding injuries of the internal jugular vein, heart, liver, stomach, and cervical spine. The cause of death was determined to be gunshot wounds of the chest and neck.

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

A senior Assistant District Attorney (ADA) responded to the scene of this incident, monitored the investigation, and briefed me periodically on the night of the shooting. 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 investigating agency. 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 defense of himself or others. N.C.G.S. §14-51.3 provides that a person is justified in the use of deadly force and does not have a duty to retreat in any place he or she has the lawful right to be if he or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another.

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. Moreover, the analysis “requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case,” including “whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others,” as well as “the severity of the crime at issue” and whether the suspect “is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.” Id. at 396.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has consistently held that “an officer does not have to wait until a gun is pointed at the officer before the officer is entitled to take action.” Anderson v. Russell, 247 F.3d 125, 131 (2001). 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 Lucas Lee Mackenzie Armstrong

Officer Joseph Calabro

Officer Joseph Calabro was interviewed by SBI Agents on Friday, January 17, 2025, at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center located at 601 E. Trade Street in Charlotte, North Carolina. Officer Calabro has been employed with CMPD since June 2016 and has been assigned to the Freedom Division for his entire career. He advised he has worked the off-duty assignment at this nightclub approximately 75 times, but this night was the first night he had worked the assignment in approximately a year. He described the responsibilities of the off-duty assignment as providing general security outside of the nightclub premises.

Officer Calabro recalled that a club security employee approached Officers Miles, Drennan, and himself outside the nightclub and informed them that the decedent was intoxicated, had a gun in his van, and stated he wanted to kill himself. The officers were then informed that club security had located the decedent at the rear of the building. Officer Calabro recalled that he began walking in that direction and heard “a scream from the gut like the devil was being released from someone.” Officer Calabro recounted that he saw a bouncer talking to the decedent telling the decedent to put the gun down. Officer Calabro stated that Officer Miles knew the decedent and that Officer Miles, with his gun holstered, tried to de-escalate the situation, repeatedly asking the decedent to put the gun down.

Officer Calabro explained, at that point, he could not see the decedent because the van was blocking the light and his line of sight. He advised that Officer Miles was standing where he could see the decedent but had no cover or concealment. Officer Calabro recalled hearing the decedent screaming, calling Officer Miles by name, and telling Officer Miles to shoot him and kill him. Officer Calabro stated that the decedent obviously needed assistance, and he wanted to get the decedent into handcuffs so he could get him help. He requested dispatch to send Medic and a small number of additional officers, specifying that they respond without lights and sirens to avoid agitating the decedent further.

Officer Calabro’s recollection was that after several minutes, he heard the decedent tell Officer Miles, “Do it or I’ll make you do it.” At that point, the decedent walked forward to the rear of the van and into Officer Calabro’s view. Officer Calabro recounted that the decedent was holding a gun to his temple and, when the decedent saw Officer Calabro, fixated on him and began saying, “He’s ready. He’s going to do it. Kill me. Shoot me.”

Officer Calabro explained that the decedent escalated the situation by not listening and walking toward the officers. Additionally, once the decedent walked to the rear of van and out from between the two vehicles, what little containment the officers had on the decedent was gone. Further, the decedent had failed to comply with commands to put the gun down. Officer Calabro advised that he raised his weapon because he believed that if the decedent turned the gun in his direction, the decedent could shoot him before Officer Calabro could shoot the decedent.

Additionally, Officer Calabro noted that Officer Miles had no weapon drawn and the decedent had moved to within five to seven feet of him. He believed at any moment the decedent could fire on himself, Officer Miles, Officer Drennan, or Officer Calabro. He also noted there were bouncers present and a thousand people in a nearby sheet metal building. He stated that the situation was past his comfort zone and he believed everyone's lives were in danger, especially that of Officer Miles. He recalled that he pointed his firearm at the decedent, let the slack out of the trigger, "gave God one more chance," then fired his service weapon three times.

Officer Calabro stated that he fired more than once because police are trained to stop the threat and the decedent was still standing after the first shot. Once the decedent fell, he assisted in handcuffing the decedent so officers could provide medical attention.

Officer Michael Miles

Officer Michael Miles was interviewed by SBI agents on December 29, 2024, at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center. Officer Miles stated that on Saturday, December 28, 2024, he was working an off-duty assignment at a nightclub located at 4621 Wilkinson Boulevard. He had worked that particular off-duty assignment regularly for approximately nine years.

Officer Miles recalled that individuals approached him outside the club to inform him that the decedent said he was going to kill himself. Officer Miles stated that he, Officer Calabro, and Officer Drennan were later informed that the decedent had been observed in possession of a gun at his van in the parking lot. Officer Miles recalled that a bouncer arrived at the van before the officers and Officer Miles heard the bouncer telling the decedent to, "put it down." Officer Miles stated that he slowly moved toward the side of the van where he saw the decedent, whom he knew by name, holding a gun to his head.

Officer Miles recalled that the decedent began telling him, "Miles, you're going to have to kill me," and, "I'm going to point my gun at you and you're going to have to shoot me." The decedent began walking towards the officers screaming and crying. As the decedent cleared the rear of the van, Officer Miles heard gunshots. The decedent then fell, and Officer Miles recalled that someone helped him place the decedent in handcuffs. Officer Miles recovered the decedent's weapon and placed it on the rear bumper of the decedent's van, and he subsequently recovered a large silver knife from the decedent's pocket. Officers then provided aid until Medic arrived.

Officer Thomas Drennan

Officer Thomas Drennan was interviewed by SBI agents on December 29, 2024, at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center. On the evening of December 28, 2024, Officer Drennan was working an off-duty assignment at a nightclub located at 4621 Wilkinson Boulevard with Officers Miles and Calabro. Officer Drennan advised that around 11:00 p.m., a female approached officers reporting that the decedent was having relationship issues, had a gun, and was highly emotional.

Officer Drennan recalled that he and the other officers went to look for the decedent and located him standing next to the passenger side of a van. Officer Drennan recounted that he looked through the driver's side window of the van and was able to see the decedent leaning against the passenger side of the van holding a gun to his head with his right hand. Officer

Drennan advised that he could hear the decedent screaming that he was going to kill himself or make the police do it for him.

Officer Drennan stated that he positioned himself behind the van for cover. From this position, he could not see the decedent but could see and hear Officer Miles attempting to calm the decedent down. Officer Miles asked the decedent to put the gun down numerous times. Officer Drennan noted that Officer Miles did not have his weapon drawn. He recalled that moments later he heard three rapid gunshots from the direction where Officer Calabro was standing, approximately 20 feet from the decedent. Officer Drennan reported that, after the three shots, the decedent fell, and he assisted with placing the decedent in handcuffs and providing medical aid.

M.Q.²

M.Q. was employed with club security and was interviewed by SBI agents on December 29, 2024, at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center. M.Q. stated that he approached CMPD officers after he was informed that the decedent had said he was going to kill himself. M.Q. knew the decedent likely had a handgun in his vehicle.

M.Q. heard over the radio that the decedent had been located by his van in the parking lot, and he walked over to that location. M.Q. advised that Officer Miles began to talk to the decedent. He stated that the CMPD officers were calm and repeatedly told the decedent to put the gun down. M.Q. recalled that the decedent walked to the rear of his van where he observed the decedent holding a gun in his right hand, pointed at his head, with his finger on the trigger. He advised that the decedent never obeyed any commands and had his firearm pointed at his head the entire time. He recounted that the decedent screamed at Officer Calabro, "You're ready to do it." He also reported hearing the decedent say something along the lines of, "I'm going to point this at you and you're going to get me." M.Q. stated that at that point he turned his body for cover, heard three gunshots, and saw the decedent fall. He reported that the officers then handcuffed the decedent and he assisted officers with providing medical assistance.

P.B.

P.B. was employed with club security and was interviewed by SBI agents on December 29, 2024, at the CMPD Law Enforcement Center. P.B. stated that he was informed that the decedent had said he was going to kill himself, so P.B. shared that information with the officers. P.B. recalled that he heard over the club radio that the decedent had been located at his van in the parking lot so he walked to that area, arriving before the police officers did. When he arrived, he saw the decedent standing by the van with a gun to his forehead. P.B. recounted that he began talking to the decedent and tried to get him to put the gun down. After police arrived, he stepped away and let Officer Miles talk to the decedent.

P.B. recalled that while Officer Miles was talking to the decedent, the decedent was screaming so loudly in response that he could not understand what the decedent was saying. P.B. stated that the decedent walked to the rear of the van, closer to the officers, with the gun still

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.

pressed to the side of his head. P.B. recalled that he looked back to check on M.Q. and heard three gunshots. When he turned back around, he saw the decedent fall to the ground. P.B. advised that Officer Miles recovered the decedent's weapon, handcuffed the decedent, and the officers began providing medical attention.

P.B. stated multiple times that he believed the officers on scene acted appropriately. He believed the decedent had pushed the issue and did not leave the officers with any option except to shoot.

E. Video evidence

All three officers were equipped with body-worn cameras which captured these events. The videos recorded the officers' initial approach to the decedent as well as Officer Miles's attempts to de-escalate the situation and convince the decedent to put the gun down. The video captured Officer Calabro's attempts to find other angles from which to approach the decedent in order to place him into custody. During the encounter, the decedent made multiple statements to Officer Miles including: "I'm going to pull this trigger;" "Either you're going to shoot me or I'm going to shoot myself;" "If I point this at you, you'll put me at out of my misery;" and "If I point this at you, you will kill me."

After the decedent walked to the rear of the van, the body-worn camera video recorded Officer Calabro telling the decedent to drop the gun six times in succession. The decedent responded, "I know you're ready, because the second that I point this at you...." At that point, Office Calabro fired three times, striking the decedent. Officers then moved in to recover the weapon, handcuff the decedent, and provide medical aid.

F. Physical evidence

The decedent's firearm, a Canick 9x19 TP9 with an 18-round magazine and 3-round magazine extension, containing 21 total rounds of live ammunition was recovered from the scene. The three discharged cartridge cases fired from Officer Calabro's service weapon were also recovered.

G. Autopsy report

The Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office performed an autopsy on December 30, 2024. The autopsy revealed three gunshot wounds. The cause of death was determined to be gunshot wounds of the chest and neck.

Toxicology analysis of the decedent's blood revealed the presence of ethanol and sertraline (Zoloft); however, according to the Medical Examiner the quantities of these substances listed in the toxicology report are unreliable due to the location of the decedent's injuries and likely contamination of the location of his body where the blood sample was drawn.

H. Conclusion

It is undisputed that Officer Calabro fired three times at the decedent. The central issue in this review is whether Officer Calabro was justified under North Carolina law in using deadly force in the protection of himself or others. A police officer – or any other person – is justified in

using deadly force if they, in fact, believed that themselves or another person was in imminent danger of great bodily harm or death from the actions of the person who was shot, and if their belief was reasonable.

Graham v. Connor directs consideration of the following factors: (1) "whether the suspect posed an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others," as well as (2) "the severity of the crime at issue" and (3) whether the suspect "is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989).

The evidence is clear that the officers encountered the decedent in a highly intoxicated, emotional, and erratic state. The decedent was in possession of a firearm with the gun pointed at his head and his finger on the trigger. Officer Miles attempted to de-escalate the situation for several minutes, but his numerous requests for the decedent to put the gun down were unheeded. During these several minutes, the decedent made multiple references to forcing officers to shoot him by pointing the gun at them. As the encounter progressed, the decedent became more agitated and moved toward the officers while refusing to put down the gun. After the decedent advanced out of the contained area between the two vehicles, Officer Calabro gave the decedent six successive commands to drop the firearm. At this point, the decedent made another reference to forcing officers to shoot by pointing his gun at them, and Officer Calabro fired his weapon three times.

Three officers and numerous civilians were present in the parking lot. Numerous other civilians were nearby separated from these events by only the sheet metal exterior of the nightclub. The law does not require an officer to wait for a firearm to be pointed at himself or others before he is entitled to take action. No available evidence in this case would enable the State to prove to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that Officer Calabro did not act in defense of himself or others. The body-worn camera videos, the statements of the officers and civilian witnesses on scene, and the physical evidence on scene corroborate that Officers Calabro was reasonable in his belief that the decedent posed an imminent threat of great bodily harm or death to others when he fired his weapon, killing the decedent. Accordingly, the State will not pursue criminal charges related to the death of Lucas Lee Mackenzie Armstrong.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Spencer B. Merriweather III".

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

CC: Chief Johnny Jennings, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department



Mecklenburg County Medical Examiners' Office

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

REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

DECEDENT

Document Identifier: B24-7469

Name: Lucas Armstrong

Age: 28

Race: White

Sex: Male

AUTHORIZATION

Authorized By Benjamin Ross Daggett, MD. Received from Mecklenburg County.

IDENTIFICATION

Body Identified by Tags/Papers

ENVIRONMENT

Date of Exam: 12/30/24 Time of Exam: 1200

Persons Present: Kelsey Clark

CERTIFICATION

Cause of Death: Gunshot wounds of the chest and neck.

Manner of Death: Homicide.

Forensic Pathologist: Benjamin R. Daggett, MD

Date of Final Report: 2/24/2025

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

The decedent is a 28-year-old male who was involved in an altercation that led to police involvement. Autopsy examination reveals three gunshot wounds of the chest and neck with injuries of the internal jugular vein, heart, liver, stomach, and cervical spine.

Ethanol(600mg/dL) and sertraline(0.11mg/L) with its metabolite were identified. The levels of ethanol can be affected by the digestive track being struck by a projectile.

It is my opinion, based on the circumstances surrounding death and the findings at autopsy, that Mr. Lucas Armstrong died as a result of gunshot wounds of the chest and neck.

DIAGNOSES

1. Perforating gunshot wound of the neck.
--Injury of the internal jugular vein and cervical spine at the level of the 3rd and 4th cervical vertebra.
2. Gunshot wound of the anterior right shoulder.
--Injury of the right subclavian vein and artery.
3. Gunshot wound of the anterior chest.
--Injury of the heart, liver, and stomach.

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Length: 74 inches

Weight: 276 pounds

Body Condition: Intact

Rigor: 3+

Lividity: Posterior

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Teeth: Natural upper and lower

Body Development: Normal

Body Nourishment: Normal

Clothing: A shirt (cut), pair of pants, a pair of underwear, a pair of socks, and a pair of boots

Accompanies the body: A watch with a blue band

Identifying Marks: All tattoos and scars are as recorded on the body diagrams

Medical Intervention: As documented on the body diagrams.

Other: N/A

INJURIES

The body bears injuries due to three gunshot wounds. For orientation purposes, the top of the head is designated as 12:00.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE NECK

Entrance: On the right side of the neck is a 0.4 x 0.3 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.2 inch, and is most pronounced from the 11:00-4:00 direction. The wound is centered 11.0 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 3.0 inches to the right of midline. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling surrounds the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the sternocleidomastoid muscle, perforating the internal jugular vein before perforating the spine and spinal cord at the level of the third and fourth cervical vertebrae.

Exit: None

Bullet: A bullet is recovered from the soft tissue of the neck posterior to the cervical spine.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is backward with deviation slightly leftward and downward.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE CHEST

Entrance: On the right side of the chest is a 0.4 x 0.3 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.2 inch, and is most pronounced from the 9:00-11:00 direction. The wound is centered 14.0 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 2.8 inches to the right of midline. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the sternum anteriorly, perforated the heart through the right ventricle, and then the diaphragm, left lobe of the liver, and stomach before lacerating a portion of the small bowel. There is hemopericardium and hemoperitoneum.

Exit: None

Bullet: The bullet is recovered in the retroperitoneal soft tissue superior to the left kidney.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is downward with deviation backward and leftward.

GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE ANTERIOR RIGHT SHOULDER

Entrance: On the anterior aspect of the right shoulder is a 0.4 x 0.3 inch entrance-type gunshot wound. An abrasion collar surrounds the wound, measuring up to 0.3 inch, and is most pronounced from the 5:00-7:00 directions. The wound is centered 12.0 inches below the vertex of the scalp and 6.5 inches to the right of midline. No muzzle imprint, soot, or stippling is present around the wound.

Path: The bullet passed through the soft tissue of the anterior shoulder and neck, perforating the subclavian vein and subclavian artery. The bullet passed along the posterior aspect of the chest without entering the chest cavity and fracturing the third rib posteriorly.

Exit: None

Bullet: A bullet is recovered from the soft tissue of the back.

Course: With the body in standard anatomic position, the course of the bullet is backward with deviation leftward and slightly downward.

ADDITIONAL INJURIES

There is a laceration of the right eyebrow which measures 1.5 x 0.6 inches, and there is an abrasion of the right cheek which measures 3.2 x 2.7 inches.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body Cavities

Any injuries/hemorrhage as described in the INJURIES section above

Organ positions: Normal and present unless stated below

Abnormal fluid collections: See "Evidence of Injury."

Adhesions: None

Cardiovascular System

Heart Weight: 550 grams

Pericardium: See "Evidence of Injury."

Coronary arteries: See "Evidence of Injury."

Chamber and valves: See "Evidence of Injury."

Myocardium: See "Evidence of Injury."

Aorta and major branches: Normal

Respiratory System

Right Lung Weight: 620 grams

Left Lung Weight: 500 grams

Neck Soft tissues: Normal

Hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages: Normal

Trachea and bronchi: Unremarkable without obstructions

Lung parenchyma: Normal

Pulmonary arteries: Unobstructed

Gastrointestinal System

See "Evidence of Injury."

Liver

Liver Weight: 2270 grams

Grossly unremarkable

Spleen

Spleen Weight: 330 grams

Grossly unremarkable

Pancreas

Grossly unremarkable

Urinary

Right Kidney Weight: 230 grams

Left Kidney Weight: 220 grams

Grossly unremarkable

Reproductive

Grossly unremarkable

Endocrine

Thyroid gland: Normal

Adrenal glands: Normal

Neurologic

Brain Weight: 1440 grams

Scalp: Normal

Skull: Normal

Vasculature: Normal

Leptomeninges: Normal

Brain: Normal

Immunologic System

Grossly unremarkable

Musculoskeletal System

See "Evidence of Injury."

OTHER PROCEDURES

Radiographs: Full-body anterior/posterior and lateral radiographs are performed

Evidence Collected: A blood card, three bullets, a shirt (cut), pair of pants, a pair of underwear, a pair of socks, a pair of boots, and a watch with a blue band.

Cultures: None

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Sections submitted: None

Findings: N/A

DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EVIDENCE

The following items are released with the body: None.

The following items are preserved as evidence: A blood card, three bullets, a shirt (cut), pair of pants, a pair of underwear, a pair of socks, a pair of boots, and a watch with a blue band.

END OF REPORT- Diagrams attached

BRD/km

DID #: 40208962

Seal #: 0030133

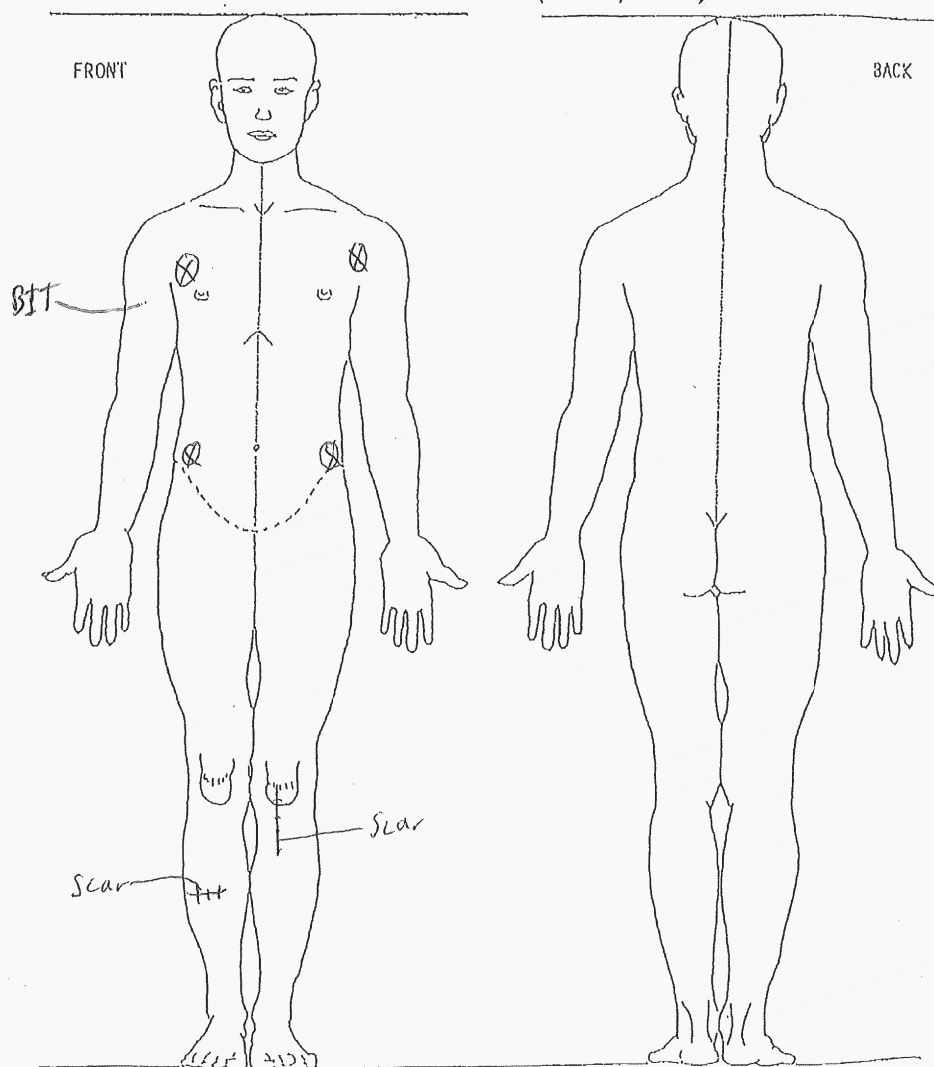
State of North Carolina

 Name of Decedent: Lucas Armstrong

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

 Autopsy # B24-7469

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

 Examined By: B2D KC Date: 12-30-24
BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (Front/Back)

 DEHEM 1917 (4/97)
 Medical Examiner

This form may be photocopied.

PAGE ____ OF ____

State of North Carolina

Name of Decedent: Lucas Armstrong

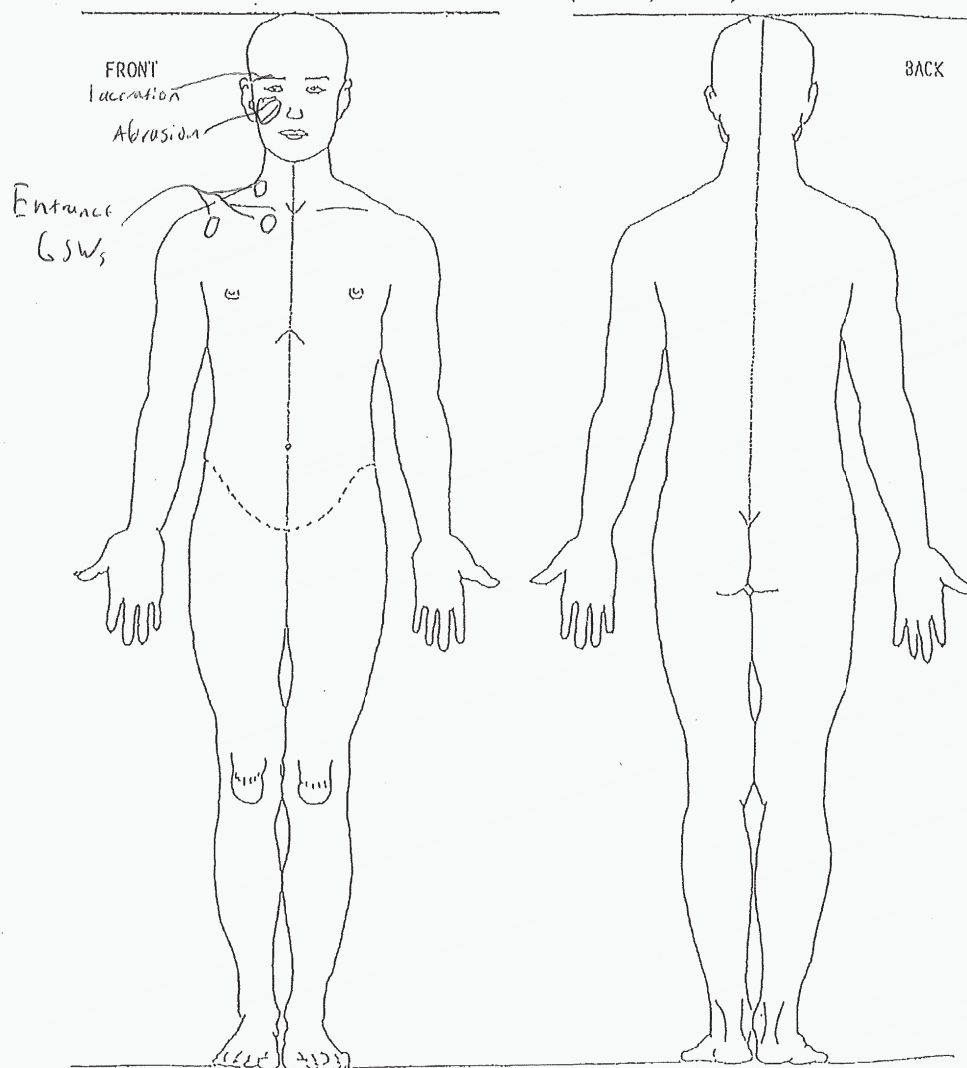
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Autopsy # B24-7464

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Examined By: BRP KC Date: 12-30-24

BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (Front/Back)


 DENR 1917 (4/97)
 Medical Examiner

This form may be photocopied.

PAGE ____ OF ____

From: noreply@dhhs.nc.gov
To: [Blackman, Brandon](#)
Subject: No Reply: OCME Toxicology F202411269
Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 9:28:20 AM

[You don't often get email from noreply@dhhs.nc.gov. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This is an external email, please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. Report suspicious emails with the Report button located on your Outlook menu bar on the Home tab.

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Toxicology Folder: T202500140
 Raleigh, NC 27699-3025 Case Folder: F202411269
 Date of Report: 13-feb-2025
 DOD: 28-dec-2024
 Page: 1

Brandon Blackman
 S.B.I.
 525 Caldwell Park Drive
 Harrisburg, NC 28075

DECEDENT: Lucas Lee McKenzie Armstrong
 Status of Report: Approved
 Report Electronically Approved By: Marc Feaster, BS,BA

* * *

SPECIMENS received from Benjamin Daggett on 03-jan-2025

S250000366: 1.0 ml Vitreous Humor CONDITION: Postmortem
 SOURCE: Eye OBTAINED: 30-dec-2024

Ethanol ----- 130 mg/dL 02/13/2025

S250000367: 19.0 ml Blood CONDITION: Postmortem
 SOURCE: Other OBTAINED: 30-dec-2024

** Comments Concerning This Specimen **

Unless otherwise noted, all testing on this specimen was performed by NMS Labs. The Test Panel includes abused and therapeutic drugs, some of which are not tested at OCME(THC, LSD) but the results must be reported. Other drugs may

appear due to add-on testing directed by OCME. Contact the lab for a full list.

** End of Comments Concerning This Specimen **

Norsertraline -----	0.23 mg/L	02/13/2025
Organic Acids/Neutrals -----	None Detected	02/13/2025
Other Organic Bases -----	None Detected	02/13/2025
Sertraline -----	0.11 mg/L	02/13/2025

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Toxicology Folder: T202500140
Raleigh, NC 27699-3025 Case Folder: F202411269

Date of Report: 13-feb-2025

DOD: 28-dec-2024

Page: 2

Decedent: Lucas Lee McKenzie Armstrong

* * *

SPECIMENS received from Benjamin Daggett on 03-jan-2025 (Continued)

S250000368: 9.0 ml Blood	CONDITION: Postmortem
SOURCE: Iliac vein	OBTAINED: 30-dec-2025

Ethanol -----	600 mg/dL	02/13/2025
---------------	-----------	------------

S250000369: 10.0 ml Urine	CONDITION: Postmortem
SOURCE:	OBTAINED: 30-dec-2025

Accredited by the College of American Pathologists,
Laboratory Accreditation Program.

031725 09:28 * * * E N D O F R E P O R T * * * B202407469