



CLARK COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Criminal Division

STEVEN B. WOLFSON

District Attorney

200 Lewis Avenue • Las Vegas, NV 89101 • 702-671-2500 • Fax: 702-455-2294 • TTY and/or other relay services: 711

BRIGID J. DUFFY

Assistant District Attorney

KAREN S. CLIFFE

Assistant District Attorney

LISA LOGSDON

County Counsel

ALEXANDER CHEN

Assistant District Attorney

PAMELA WECKERLY

Assistant District Attorney

RE: Norman Smith

Dear Board of Pardons Commissioners,

I was one of the prosecuting attorneys on this case. On December 13, 2015, Defendant shot and killed a pregnant Tineshea Adams (“Tineshea”) in a parking lot in North Las Vegas.

During the fall/winter of 2015, Tineshea and Chris Cooper (“Chris”) were involved in a romantic relationship that lasted over a year. Members of Tineshea’s family categorized their relationship as happy but sometimes “rocky”. During the relationship, Tineshea, already a mother of a young child, became pregnant. According to Tineshea’s cousin, Darnika Adams (“Darnika”), around the time of Tineshea’s death, Tineshea had a noticeable “baby bump”. Amina Dupree (“Amina”), another cousin of Tineshea’s, also told the jury that Tineshea was starting to get big and had more than a “baby bump” at the time of her death. Amina further told the jury that she would see Tineshea every day and that Tineshea felt the fetus move at the bottom of her stomach area.

Per family members, Tineshea and Chris had a volatile relationship and frequently broke up, only to get back together again. According to Chris, he and Tineshea were no longer in a relationship as of December 13, 2015. Instead, Chris was involved in a dating relationship with Alexzandrea Williams (“Alexzandrea”). Defendant Norman Smith was friends with Chris and was in a dating relationship with Alexzandrea’s younger sister, Bobbi Williams (“Bobbi”). Numerous witnesses told police that Defendant and Tineshea did not like each other.

On the evening of December 13, 2015, Defendant, Chris, Alexzandrea, and Bobbi went to dinner at an Applebee’s located near Camino El Norte and Craig Road in North Las Vegas, Nevada. While at dinner, Tineshea entered the restaurant and approached the group at their table. Tineshea was angry with Chris for being out with another woman, so Chris left the table and went outside to talk with Tineshea inside her Jeep. After speaking with Tineshea, Chris left Tineshea in her Jeep and returned inside the restaurant. Chris contacted his mother Winetta Cooper (“Winetta”) to pick him, Defendant, Alexzandrea, and Bobbi up from the restaurant and get away from Tineshea.

Soon thereafter, Winetta arrived at the Applebee's in her SUV. Chris entered the front passenger seat while Defendant, Alexzandrea, and Bobbi got into the back seat. Winetta pulled out of the Applebee's parking lot and Tineshea followed the group in her Jeep. While following the SUV, Tineshea called her cousins, Darnika and Amina. Winetta pulled into the O'Reilly's parking lot at the intersection of Craig and Camino El Norte. Tineshea continued to follow Winetta into the parking lot and parked her Jeep behind Winetta's SUV. Moments later, two other vehicles, occupied by Tineshea's family members, pulled into the lot. Darnika and Tineshea's friend, Tajia, arrived in one car, while Amina and Tineshea's aunt, Ebony Love, arrived in another. No vehicles were blocked from moving away from this location.

Winetta exited her car and began to speak with Tineshea. Chris also exited the car and approached his mom and Tineshea. Upon seeing Chris exit the SUV, Darnika, Tajia, Amina, Ebony, and Defendant all exited their cars as well. Bobbi and Alexzandrea remained in the backseat of Winetta's car. Amina previously testified that Defendant shouted "*I'm about to shoot*" during this time and saw a handle of a gun in his pants. At trial, Amina testified that Defendant said, "*I'm about to blow*", which was slang for shoot.

Tineshea wanted to fight Alexzandrea. Chris tried to convince her not to fight and urged her to go home, leading to a loud argument. Winetta attempted to separate them, which resulted in all three wrestling with each other and falling to the ground.

After watching the group fall to the ground, Darnika helped Winetta get up. Tineshea got up and ran towards Winetta's SUV, where Alexzandrea and Bobbi were sitting in the back seat. Not wanting Tineshea to fight, Darnika chased after her. Before Darnika could catch her, Tineshea managed to get partially inside the SUV. Defendant then ran over to the SUV, grabbed Tineshea by her shirt and pulled her out of the car. He then threw Tineshea to the ground.

Chris saw the Defendant throw Tineshea to the ground and ran over to help her. Tineshea and Chris then started to push each other and Chris grabbed ahold of her in an attempt to calm her down. Tineshea pepper-sprayed Chris, broke free of his grasp, and again ran toward Winetta's SUV. She sprayed the pepper-spray inside the vehicle where the Williams sisters were located. Defendant pulled Tineshea out of the SUV and threw her to the ground. The two started to "go at each other" near the passenger side of Winetta's SUV.

Darnika told the grand jury that she stepped in between them – extending her arms out to the side - attempting to keep the Defendant and Tineshea away from each other. She yelled to the Defendant, "She's (Tineshea) fucking pregnant!" As Darnika stood between Defendant and Tineshea, she heard Defendant yell, "I'm going to shoot." When

Darnika looked back at Defendant, she did not see him with a gun. However, she heard a loud “pow”, which she knew to be a gunshot. Darnika thought she was the one shot until she saw Tineshea step backwards, spit up blood, and fall to the ground. Darnika looked over at Defendant and saw his arm extended with a gun in his right hand. Prior to that point, Darnika had not seen a gun in the Defendant’s hand.

During the same time, Sondra Lucero (“Sondra”) and her then-fiancée Wesley Withers (“Wesley”) were driving to the pharmacy in the same parking lot as this incident. As they were driving, they noticed a large group of people fighting in the parking lot. Sondra saw a black male (later identified as Defendant) with a gray outfit pull a woman out of a vehicle. Sondra told the jury she saw the same black male fully extend his arm and shot the girl he had pulled out of the vehicle. The black male was standing ten feet away from the girl when he shot her and had an “angry look”. After witnessing Defendant shoot the girl, Sondra saw him drop the gun.

Wesley jumped out of his truck and tackled Defendant who had just fired the gun. Wesley wrestled and fought with the Defendant until police arrived. Soon thereafter, the police arrived on scene and took the Defendant into custody.

While Wesley was wrestling with Defendant, Darnika went to Tineshea’s aid. With the assistance of Chris and Ebony, Tineshea’s aunt, the three managed to get Tineshea inside her Jeep. Chris got in the backseat with Tineshea and tried to talk to her to keep her awake. Ebony then drove to UMC where Tineshea eventually passed away.

At approximately 9:45PM, Officer Kanowell Lee of the North Las Vegas Police Department responded to a shots fired call at the O’Reilly’s shopping center at Camino El Norte, north of Craig Road. Upon arriving in the parking lot, Officer Lee observed a group of people and a vehicle parked off to the side of them. As he approached the group, Officer Lee observed a white male adult and a black male adult on the ground fighting each other. The group of people pointed towards Defendant and said: “he just shot her!” As a result, Officer Lee took Defendant into custody. The Defendant was bleeding from his mouth, so Officer Lee asked him if he needed medical attention. The Defendant told Officer Lee he had been pepper-sprayed. The Defendant then started to pull away from the officer. Due to the nature of the call, Officer Lee placed Defendant into handcuffs.

Officer Lee walked Defendant over to a curb wherein he advised Defendant of his Miranda rights. Defendant told Officer Lee he understood his rights and agreed to speak with him. Defendant then admitted he was the person who shot Tineshea Adams.

The Defendant told Officer Lee that there was a group fight and a gun dropped on the ground. He was afraid that someone would shoot him with the gun, so Defendant picked it up and attempted to put it in the front pocket of his pants. Defendant said he was unable to get the gun into that pocket, and he then attempted to put the gun in the

front pouch of his sweatshirt, but the gun was too big. While he was holding the gun, he had his finger on the trigger, someone pushed him and the gun went off. According to Defendant at that time, the shooting was an “accident”. Defendant acknowledged he shot Tineshea in the chest. The gun was not located at the scene. Witnesses testified that a person not associated with the fight ran off with the gun while Wesley and the Defendant were wrestling.

On December 14, 2015, Clark County Medical Examiner, Dr. Alane Olson, conducted the autopsy of Tineshea Adams. Dr. Olson completed an external exam on the body and found a gunshot wound that entered Tineshea’s right upper chest near the center of her body and exited from her left upper back. Dr. Olson did not find any soot or unburned gunpowder on the skin around the entrance wound, indicating Tineshea was not shot from close range (8-12 inches). Dr. Olson also performed an internal examination of the body of Tineshea Adams. During the exam, Dr. Olson determined Tineshea had an intrauterine pregnancy. Dr. Olson determined it was a normally formed fetus. She further estimated its gestational age to be around sixteen (16) to seventeen (17) weeks. Based on her examination, Dr. Olson further noted that she believed the baby would have survived had Tineshea Adams not died. A toxicology screening of Tineshea’s blood and bodily fluid was conducted as a part of autopsy, and no drugs or alcohol were detected. Upon concluding her examination on the body of Tineshea Adams, Dr. Olson determined the cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the chest and the manner of death was homicide.

Defendant was on house arrest for an armed robbery series during the time of this homicide. Defendant eventually pled in that case and was convicted of three counts of Robbery with Use of a Deadly Weapon and sentenced to ten (10) to thirty-nine (39) years in the Nevada Department of Corrections on June 1, 2017. It should be noted that Mr. Smith claimed that he accidentally discharged a firearm in that case as well, which was noted by the sentencing judge for this instant case- Judge Adair- who stated at sentencing that, “Mr. Smith is pretty quick to discharge a firearm.... that’s what we saw in the prior (robbery) case.” Defendant was also a member of the YNIC street gang (a group that originated out of the Delmonico Crips) at the time of these events.

On October 22, 2018, the jury trial for this case commenced. During the course of the trial, Defendant, through his attorney, claimed self-defense, not accidental discharge. In closing, Defendant’s counsel stated:

“Now, this is a case of self-defense. I don’t care what the government says. Somebody beats up a lot of people in front of me and then comes running towards me and puts pepper spray in my face as I’m standing there trying to cause great harm to me and to a couple of friends of mine that’s self-defense.... I suggest to you after seeing what you’ve seen and

hearing what you've heard, my client acted appropriately. Nobody wanted to get anybody hurt. Nobody was out to hurt anybody. He was the third wheel. He was trying to protect himself, protect his girlfriend that was in the car behind him."

Trial Transcript, Day 6, 50-60.

After a lengthy deliberation, the jury found Defendant guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter with Use of a Deadly Weapon.

Family and friends of Tineshea filled the gallery each and every day of the trial. This led to a couple of emotional outbursts by the family but also demonstrates the amount of support the deceased victim had in her life and the numerous people tragically affected by her sudden death including her young son. In total four speakers and multiple people from Tineshea's young life appeared at sentencing.

All the speakers expressed heartache for such a young life ending in such tragic fashion and that she was good mother to her young son. Tineshea's Aunt told the Court at sentencing that Tineshea's son "will never meet his little brother" and that her entire family felt a great loss with Tineshea's death. Tineshea's mother told the sentencing judge that Tineshea was, "the love of my life" and that she will never get over her death. That she suffered from severe anxiety as result of the losing her daughter and only wished she could have been there that day to prevent her death.

The sentencing judge noted that Defendant should not "get a free ride or that this killing should be without consequences because of the other crimes that he committed." The judge ordered that the sentence run consecutive, noting Defendant has prior experience of firing his weapon at individuals.

Ultimately, the State believe this Board should consider these facts and the impact on the victim's family while making its decision for this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Schwartzer".

Michael J Schwartzer
Chief Deputy District Attorney