

(born June of 1993), standing over a black male, later identified as the victim, J.W. (born April of 1981), outside the residence. Officer Stroble saw J.W. was lying on his back with what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the right side of his neck. Officer Stroble observed a significant amount of blood pooling under J.W. J.W. did not appear to be alive.

Medical personnel arrived at the scene and transported J.W. to a Billings hospital. Officer Stroble, Officer Hilde, and Sergeant West entered the residence but did not locate anyone inside the residence. Officer Stroble observed what appeared to be blood on the floor near the doorway, as well as blood spatter on the wall in the entryway. Officers located a 9mm spent shell casing in the yard near where J.W.'s body was found.

M.L. spoke initially with Officer Weekes and later with Detectives Miller and Yarina. M.L. provided the following information: prior to the shooting, she and J.W. had been at Shooter's Bar in Billings where LORENZO JAMES HARRIS (born September of 1992), the Defendant herein, CARVELL SCOTT (born June of 1986), the brother of the Defendant, and CHEYENNE AMERICANHORSE (born January of 1991), the girlfriend of SCOTT, were also present. While at the bar, J.W. asked M.L. whether she knew the guy who was "mean mugging" him. M.L. said she only knew the Defendant as someone she saw at house parties. Later that evening, M.L. received a Snapchat from AMERICANHORSE inviting them to a house party at 2808 3rd Avenue South.

At the house party, J.W. went to M.L.'s car to retrieve some items for her. After some time had passed, M.L. realized J.W. had not returned and she went to look for him. M.L. saw the Defendant fighting J.W. in the doorway of the residence. The Defendant had knocked J.W. to the ground and was on top of J.W. "beating him up." A crowd gathered at the door and M.L. could no longer see what was happening outside the residence. M.L. went to get help. While she was trying to find someone to break up the fight, she heard a single gunshot.

M.L. went outside and found J.W. stumbling to the ground. All the party attendants began to scatter from the house. M.L. tried to get people to stay and help her, including AMERICANHORSE. AMERICANHORSE told M.L., "We have to get out of here. The cops are coming."

M.L. described the shooter, the Defendant, to detectives as a black male with tattoos on his face, approximately 5'8" tall with a skinny build, had dreadlocks, and was wearing a white, puffy coat. She recognized his voice by the way he talks as she had been around him before. She said she knew the Defendant to carry a handgun based on previous experiences with him. She said she saw him with a silver handgun in his back pocket that night. She said she did not know the Defendant's name at the time but knew him as "Zo." Officers were familiar with "Zo" from recent police encounters and were able to identify him as the Defendant. Officers were also aware that the 2808 3rd Avenue South residence belonged to the Defendant's mother and that the Defendant had been residing there as well.

On December 29, 2020, Detectives Yarina and Kramer conducted a photo lineup with M.L. M.L. positively identified the Defendant as the suspect she observed assaulting J.W. and as being armed with a handgun that night. She also provided the name of V.S. as an additional witness from the night of the incident.

Detectives Yarina and Kramer then went to speak with V.S. V.S. provided the following information: she had been invited to the party by AMERICANHORSE. She heard some “banging” going on outside and it appeared that J.W. was being “thrown out of the entrance” to the residence. V.S. heard additional fighting outside and a crowd of people were blocking the door. V.S. was sitting on the couch in the living room when she heard a single gunshot. She said everyone began to leave in a hurry. When she got outside the residence, she saw J.W. lying against the side of the house.

V.S. went to her vehicle where she heard AMERICANHORSE telling the Defendant to take off his outer garment because it had “a bunch of blood on it.” She then saw the Defendant leave in a red car parked outside the residence and AMERICANHORSE and SCOTT leave shortly thereafter in a white GMC Yukon.

V.S. said she only knows the Defendant as “Zos” and has seen him at parties. She had seen him both at the residence that night as well as at Shooter’s Bar earlier that evening. She described the Defendant as a skinny, black male with short dreadlocks. She described the Defendant’s face as being entirely covered with tattoos.

On December 30, 2020, Detective Kramer reviewed surveillance video recovered from a residence across the street from the 2808 3rd Avenue South address. In the video, Detective Kramer observed SCOTT and AMERICANHORSE arrive in the GMC Yukon at the 2808 3rd Avenue South residence at approximately 1:58 a.m. on December 27, 2020. A red car is seen arriving at approximately 2:40 a.m. At 2:47 a.m., a fight is seen going from inside the residence and spilling outside onto the ground. Right after, approximately three people are seen walking away from the shooting and over to the red car.

At 2:48 a.m., three people walk from the red car towards the white GMC Yukon. These three people appear to be the Defendant, SCOTT, and AMERICANHORSE, as stated by V.S. The individual who appears to be the Defendant then takes off a white, puffy jacket and hands it to AMERICANHORSE. AMERICANHORSE then walks away with the jacket out of camera view. The Defendant and SCOTT are seen embracing in a hug before walking back towards the residence. SCOTT is seen entering the residence and the Defendant walks to the red car to drive away. The Defendant circles the block, then returns while SCOTT and AMERICANHORSE get into the white GMC Yukon. Both vehicles then drive away.

On December 30, 2020, at approximately 6:00 p.m., Detective Yarina was informed that J.W. was pronounced deceased.

On December 31, 2020, the autopsy of J.W. revealed the bullet had entered J.W.’s body in his right shoulder, exited, then entered his body again closer to his neck. The bullet traveled through the chest cavity, puncturing a lung, and impacting a rib on J.W.’s left side. A 9mm bullet was recovered from J.W.’s body.

That same day, Detective Yarina contacted AMERICANHORSE, who agreed to come to City Hall for an interview. When speaking with AMERICANHORSE, Detectives Yarina and Kramer noticed she appeared very anxious and upset. She admitted she had hosted the party at the residence but stated she did not see what had happened. She would not confirm or deny the Defendant’s involvement in the murder of J.W. She said SCOTT had nothing to do with what happened and he would be willing to speak with Detectives Yarina and Kramer.

Detectives Yarina and Kramer then spoke with SCOTT, who admitted to having a party at the 2808 3rd Avenue South address on the night of the murder. He said the party was held after the bars had closed that night, specifically Shooter's Bar. He said several uninvited guests came to their house and fights began to break out, so he kicked everyone out of the residence and locked the doors. He then left in his vehicle. SCOTT abruptly ended the interview and said he just wanted to speak with detectives after hearing somebody had died. SCOTT would not implicate his brother as having been involved in a fight with J.W. prior to J.W. being shot. Instead, he would only say there were "a lot of fights that night."

SCOTT said he did not know the Defendant's current whereabouts, and that he had not seen him since the morning of the party. He said he would attempt to encourage the Defendant to come and speak with detectives should he hear from him.

Based on information revealed thus far by the investigation, arrest warrants were issued for the Defendant being in violation of his release conditions in two pending Yellowstone County District Court (DC 20-1161 and DC 20-1647) cases.

On January 27, 2021, Detective Kramer received requested records from Facebook pertaining to the Defendant's account. Detective Kramer observed a video posted by the Defendant on December 25, 2020 at 11:09 p.m., just two days prior to the murder. In the video, the Defendant is seen with SCOTT at the 2808 3rd Avenue South residence. The Defendant states it is 11:00 p.m. in Billings and wishes his family in Chicago a "Merry Christmas." Throughout the video, the Defendant displays a silver and black semi-automatic handgun. Photographs of the handgun were later submitted to the Montana State Crime Lab with a request to identify the potential make and model of the firearm. A professional opinion was later provided, identifying the firearm as a Beretta PX4 Storm.

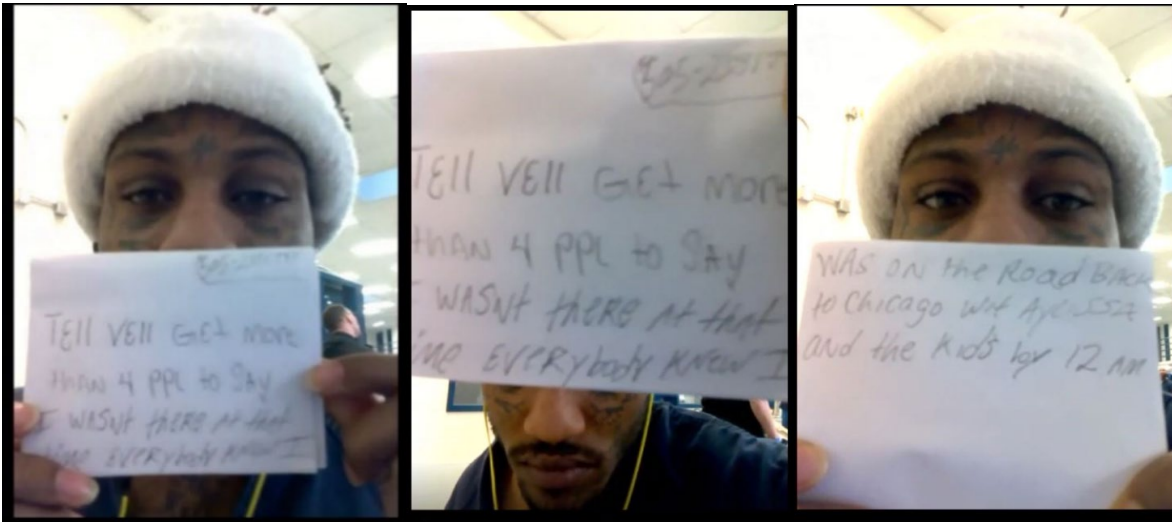


Photo from Defendant's Facebook on December 25, 2020

A second video posted on the Defendant's Facebook account shows the Defendant, SCOTT, and AMERICANHORSE at a bar on December 27, 2020 at 12:04 a.m. All three individuals appear to be wearing the same clothing as they are in the video surveillance captured from outside the residence later in the morning hours. Specifically, the Defendant appears to be wearing a white, puffy jacket.

On January 28, 2021, Detectives Yarina and Kramer were contacted by U.S. Marshals Task Force members, who confirmed that the Defendant had fled to Chicago and had been arrested there by the task force. On March 17, 2021, the Defendant was extradited back to Yellowstone County on his active felony warrants and was remanded into custody at the Yellowstone County Detention Facility (YCDF).

On March 21, 2021, at 5:15 p.m., the Defendant had a video call from YCDF with CRYSTAL GAVIN. During the video call, the Defendant holds up a sign with the following instructions: "Tell Vell get more than 4 ppl to say I wasn't there at that time. Everybody knew I was on the road back to Chicago wit Alyssa and the kids by 12am."



Photos from video call on March 21, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

That same day, the Defendant had a video call from YCDF with A.B. (born July of 2000). In that video call, he holds up the back of the same hand-written note as the one he had shown to GAVIN.

In addition to his two pending felony cases in Yellowstone County District Court, the Defendant has felony convictions out of Illinois for Robbery and Aggravated Vehicular Hijacking. In DC 20-1161, the Defendant was arrested in Billings on a warrant based on a Petition to Revoke Release. On September 28, 2020, the Defendant's bail was set at \$10,000 consecutive to his previously-posted bonds. The Defendant posted that bond on October 1, 2020.

On December 13, 2020, the Defendant was arrested for allegedly ramming a marked patrol car and nearly striking an officer before destroying another patrol car by kicking the interior after he was taken into custody. That incident gave rise to the filing of charges in DC 20-1647. The Defendant was arraigned on December 15, 2020, where his bail was set at \$20,000 consecutive to his previously-posted bonds. The Defendant posted that bond on December 16, 2020, less than two weeks before the allegations in this case.

The investigation continues.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: April 19, 2021

/s/ Arielle Dean
Senior Deputy County Attorney