



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

MARK A. BERNSTIEL

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

BRIANNA L. RINGWOOD

CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX

COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090

(610) 278-3095

(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAHSEEM WILLIAMS ARRESTED FOR AUG. 28th MURDER OF DAKARI ROME IN POTTSTOWN; ARREST WARRANT ISSUED FOR 17-YEAR-OLD JAHME BARNES



KAHSEEM WILLIAMS



JAHME BARNES

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Sept. 1, 2022) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Pottstown Police Chief Mick Markovich announce the arrest of Kahseem Williams, 18, of Philadelphia, on Third-Degree Murder, Attempted Murder, Aggravated Assault, Conspiracy and related charges stemming from the murder of 25-year-old Dakari Rome and the shooting of a 17-year-old male, both from Pottstown. Williams was arrested today inside a residence in the Hunting Park section of Philadelphia by the U.S. Marshal's, who took him into custody without incident.

An arrest warrant has also been issued for Jahme Barnes, 17, of Philadelphia, for Third-Degree Murder, Attempted Murder and Conspiracy related to the Aug. 28 murder and shooting. Barnes is Black, with black hair, stands 4-foot, 7-inches tall and weighs 115 pounds. If she is spotted call 911. Anyone with information about her whereabouts is asked to call the Pottstown Police Department at 610-970-6570 or Montgomery County Detectives at 610-226-5553. Anonymous text tips can be submitted using MontcoCrimeTips on the STOPit! app. The STOPit! app can be

downloaded for free from the App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Androids, then use code MONTCOPA to get the Montgomery County version of the app.

The murder of Rome occurred on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022, at approximately 10 p.m. Pottstown Police were dispatched for a call of shots fired in the area of Grant Street and Union Alley. They arrived to find blood stains and several fired cartridge casings. Minutes later, Pottstown Police were notified that two gunshot victims arrived by separate private vehicles at Pottstown Hospital. Rome was suffering from a single gunshot wound to the chest and was pronounced dead by an emergency room physician. The second victim, 17-year-old male J.H., was driven to the hospital by his mother. He was treated for a gunshot wound to his hand and was released.

The ensuing investigation by Pottstown Police and Montgomery County Detective Bureau found through interviews and video surveillance that the two victims were “hanging out” with defendants Barnes and Williams, as well as an unknown female in Rome’s Audi SUV. The Audi, driven by defendant Barnes, was seen in surveillance video arriving at the Gulf Gas Station on High Street at 9:08 p.m., where Barnes, Rome and Williams exit the vehicle and go into the Gulf Gas Station, while J.H. and the unknown female remained in the backseat of the vehicle. The car then traveled to a parking lot in the 600 block of Grant Street, where the group played the “Orbeez Challenge,” a TikTok challenge involving shooting water beads from an air soft gun.

The Audi was then driven by Barnes to Grant Street at Union Alley, where the shooting occurs. The investigation found that Williams, who was seated in the passenger side rear seat of the vehicle, produced a firearm and handed it to Barnes in the driver’s seat before he is seen exiting the vehicle at 9:59 p.m. Barnes pointed the gun at J.H., who reaches toward the gun and is shot by Barnes in his left hand. The bullet goes through J.H.’s hand and strikes Rome in the chest. On video, J.H. can be seen exiting the car and running down Union Alley. Barnes then exits the car and hands the firearm to Williams, who fires several shots at J.H. Both defendants get back into the vehicle, along with the other female still in the car, and drive the injured Rome to the emergency room.

Williams was charged with Third-Degree Murder, Attempted Murder, Aggravated Assault, Conspiracy, Firearms without a License, Possessing an Instrument of Crime and Possession of a Firearm by a Minor. He is awaiting arraignment. A preliminary hearing will be set at that time.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Gabrielle Hughes and Robert Waeltz, of the Pottstown Community Justice Unit.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.