



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

JAHME BARNES FOUND AND ARRESTED IN PHILADELPHIA; CHARGES NOW INCLUDE SECOND-DEGREE MURDER, ROBBERY



JAHME BARNES

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Oct. 8, 2022) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Pottstown Police Chief Mick Markovich announce the arrest of Jahme Barnes, 17, of Philadelphia, who was being sought for the murder of Dakari Rome and Attempted Murder of a 17-year-old male. U.S. Marshals arrested Barnes at a residence on the 2300 block of North Lambert Street in North Philadelphia. Since the warrant was issued for Barnes on Aug. 29, 2022, the joint investigation by Pottstown Police and Montgomery County Detectives discovered cellphone evidence that revealed that the murder and attempted murder occurred during the commission of a robbery necessitating the filing of Second-Degree Murder, Robbery and other charges against Barnes.

The shooting that killed Rome and injured 17-year-old J.H. occurred on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022, at 10:06 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, two gunshot victims arrived by

separate private vehicles at Pottstown Hospital, where Rome was pronounced dead. J.H. was treated for a gunshot wound to his hand and was released.

The ensuing investigation by Pottstown Police and Montgomery County Detectives found that the two victims, Barnes and co-defendant Kahseem Williams (who was arrested Sept. 1, 2022 on Third-Degree Murder and related charges), as well as an unknown female, were “hanging out” in Rome’s Audi SUV. The Audi was being driven by Barnes with Rome in the front passenger seat and J.H. in the rear middle seat. Detectives executed a search warrant on defendant William’s cellphone, which showed that the deceased victim Rome and Williams were instant messaging each other just before the shooting while they were all seated in the car. At 9:42 p.m., Rome messaged Williams, “Yo ask him to hold his gat (slang for gun) once he give it to you tell em he burnt (slang for cheated or deceived) we gon to go in a ride.” At 9:47 p.m., Williams message Rome, “Tell em let you hold it while I drop him off up there once he do don’t give it back we go slide to citt.”

Detectives re-interviewed J.H. on Sept. 12, 2022, who admitted he possessed a 9 mm Glock on the night of the murder. JH further stated that Rome asked to “see” J.H.’s gun, and he gave it to him. Rome then handed the gun to Williams and Williams gave it to Barnes, who started to play with it while videotaping herself before she then pointed it at J.H. and said “what else you got?” J.H. said he then put his left hand up over the front seat and Barnes shot him, with the bullet traveling through his hand and into Rome’s chest, killing him. The 17-year-old fled the vehicle and was shot at by Williams as he ran down Union Alley.

Barnes is charged with First-Degree Murder, Second-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Conspiracy, Possessing an Instrument of Crime, and multiple firearms charges, She was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Scott T. Palladino. There is no bail available for First-Degree Murder, and Barnes was remanded to the Montgomery County Youth Center. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m., Oct. 18, 2022, before Magisterial District Judge Edward C. Kropp Sr.

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.