



“Sheriff’s Office makes arrest in Finksburg homicide”

Finksburg, Carroll County, Maryland; December 24th, 2024 ---- On the evening of Monday, December 23, 2024, Detectives with the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office Major Crimes Unit, with the assistance of West Manheim Police and the York County Quick Response Team, arrested Austin Paul Potocki, a 30 year old male with a Hanover, Pennsylvania address, in connection with the murder of Benjamin Billings and the attempted murder of David Anderson that occurred in Finksburg on December 13th, 2024.

Potocki was taken into custody in Hanover, Pennsylvania, and he is currently in custody in York County as a fugitive from justice. The Carroll County Sheriff’s Office currently holds a warrant for murder and related charges.

On Friday, December 13, 2024 at approximately 7:44 AM, Deputies from the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office, along with Carroll County Fire & EMS, responded to the intersection of Wesley Road and Patapsco Road in Finksburg for a shooting with multiple shots fired into a pickup truck. Deputies located a white Chevrolet Silverado in the intersection with two gunshot victims, Benjamin Billings the driver and David Anderson the passenger. Mr. Billings was pronounced dead at the scene and Mr. Anderson was taken to Sinai Hospital for a gunshot wound to his left arm.

Detectives and Forensic Services Technicians worked nonstop on this case collecting physical and digital evidence. Early in the investigation, David Anderson provided detectives with names of individuals that he believed may have targeted he and Mr. Billings.

Austin Potocki became the primary suspect after an initial interview that occurred a few days after the shooting. Detectives executed search warrants at Potocki’s Hanover residence and recovered physical evidence, along with cell phones and computers that narrowed down a timeline placing him near the scene during the shooting.

Additionally, detectives organized searches of the immediate crime scene area for shell casings from a rifle, believed to be a .223 caliber. After extensive searches using nearly 30 members of

the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, along with brass detectors and K9's that detect shell casings, not one casing was located even though multiple rounds were fired.

Detectives concluded that a device was used to catch the rounds from the weapon. They believe Potocki knew the movements of Billings and Anderson and laid in wait, firing multiple rounds from an AR .223 from a location to the east of the intersection. They believe he then fled on foot to his vehicle that was staged a distance away.

Potocki has a business relationship with Billings and Anderson through his pool company, Austin's Pool Service, and a text message between Anderson and Potocki indicated a potential civil lawsuit that may be initiated by Anderson.

Detectives executed multiple warrants on Potocki's residence, storage facilities he rented in the Pennsylvania area, and digital evidence through cell carriers. Detectives seized AR15 .223's and were able to collect discarded shell casings that it appears Potoki tried to destroy at his residence.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office will continue to collect and analyze evidence and turn this case over to the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office for prosecution.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Office thanks the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office, the West Manheim Police Department, and the York County Quick Response Team for their assistance in bringing justice to the victims and their families.