



Rod Underhill, District Attorney
1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 600
Portland, OR 97204-1193
Phone: 503-988-3162 Fax: 503-988-3643
www.mcda.us

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Grand Jury concludes investigation into January 15, 2019 homicide in SE Portland

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that upon the conclusion of grand jury proceedings, which were held over several months, a grand jury returned a not true bill regarding the use of force by Mr. Francisco Swafford that resulted in the death of 42-year-old Eugene Pharr, Jr.

The grand jury's not true bill decision means that they have determined no criminal prosecution is warranted for Mr. Swafford, and that the use of force was a lawful act of self-defense, pursuant to Oregon law.

This investigation started on January 15, 2019, at approximately 2:30 a.m., when officers assigned to the Portland Police Bureau received information about a disturbance and shooting at the Dream On Saloon, located at 15920 Southeast Stark Street in Portland, Oregon.

As officers responded to the Dream On Saloon, a 9-1-1 caller reported that an adult male, later identified as Pharr, had been shot by a private security guard, later identified as Mr. Swafford.

Mr. Swafford remained on scene and cooperated with law enforcement.

During the investigation, law enforcement learned that Pharr and 49-year-old Henry McCollum were long time associates and that McCollum was a known drug dealer, according to court documents. It is alleged that McCollum and Pharr, while armed and working together, approached Mr. Swafford as he sat in his vehicle in the Dream On Saloon parking lot.

On February 15, 2019, the grand jury previously returned a six-count indictment against McCollum, which charges him with one count of unlawful use of a weapon with a firearm, one count of coercion with a firearm, one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm, one count of criminal conspiracy to commit unlawful delivery of methamphetamine, one count of unlawful delivery of methamphetamine and one count of unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

It is alleged in the indictment that on January 15, 2019, McCollum possessed, with intent, a firearm to engage in conduct that made Mr. Swafford fear that he would be physically injured as a result of McCollum's conduct. Furthermore, it is alleged in the indictment that McCollum was in possession of 10 or more grams of methamphetamine.

McCollum was arraigned on the indictment on February 21, 2019.

His next court date is scheduled for May 17, 2019.

This remains an ongoing investigation and as such, no additional information can be released by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, including any police reports.

#MCDA#

Contact: Brent Weisberg, Communications Director
Phone: 503.988.6567