For Immediate Release
Oct 04, 2012

Updated Information - Double Homicide on Sunday
September 30, 2012

Arrested:

Michael Scott Norris, DOB: 08/14/76 (The PCSO jail record from Tuesday’s arrest incorrectly shows a DOB of 8/14/79)

Background on Norris:

Michael Norris has been a prisoner of the Florida Department of Corrections since February 10, 2004. According to FDOC records, his release date was December 27, 2012. FDOC records indicate Norris was serving a lengthy prison sentence for multiple felonies, most of them burglary - many of them were armed burglary - that occurred in Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties from 2001 to 2003.

Most recently, Norris was assigned to the Largo Residential Re-Entry Center where he participated in a work release program. He left this location on Sunday morning September 30, 2012 to go to work, but never returned, prompting the Center listed him as an escapee.

A few hours after departing the Largo Residential Re-Entry Center, St. Petersburg Police investigators believe Norris committed a burglary to a motel room at the Driftwood Motel, 1600 34th Street South. During the burglary, Norris stole a Glock semi-automatic handgun. Several witnesses saw Norris leave the motel and positively identified him later.

The double homicide at 2635 4th Avenue North occurred a few hours after the burglary at the Driftwood Motel.

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On Tuesday night October 2, 2012, St. Petersburg Police Department detectives arrested Norris and charged him with Escape, Armed Burglary and Felon in Possession of a Firearm (the last two charges stemmed from the Driftwood Motel burglary case).

Homicide Detectives interviewed him regarding the double homicide after finding evidence at the scene linking him to the crime. Norris was cooperative, but failed to make any admissions regarding the homicide case. He was booked into the Pinellas County Jail with no bond.

Homicide Investigators did not charge Norris with murder at that time, because they wanted to conduct further investigation and they knew he was in jail with no bond.

Today, St. Petersburg Police Department Homicide detectives charged Norris with two counts of First Degree Murder in the
According to investigators, Norris committed the burglary at 2635 4th Avenue North and then shot and killed both victims inside of the residence during the burglary. Norris then stole items from inside of the residence, set the house on fire and left in a Ford F-150 truck that belonged to one of the victims.

Investigators do not yet know why Norris targeted that house in the Kenwood neighborhood or why the victims were killed during the burglary. It is not known at this point in the investigation if Norris was acquainted with either of the victims in the homicide.

The day after the murders, the abandoned the Ford F-150 was found set on fire near the intersection of Columbus and MacDill in Tampa, Florida. The Tampa Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire.

Police investigators located stolen property from 2635 4th Avenue North inside of the cab of the truck.

The Glock semi-automatic handgun that Norris stole during the burglary to the Driftwood Inn Motel room - and which our Homicide Investigators believe was used in the double homicide, has been recovered. The results of lab tests on the weapon are still pending.

The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office booking photo of Michael Scott Norris is attached.

St. Petersburg Police Department Homicide Detectives will place the two counts of First Degree Murder charges on Michael Scott Norris sometime today.

St. Petersburg Police Homicide investigators are still looking for witnesses who can help them trace Norris’ path before and after the murders in Kenwood. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Communications Center at 727-893-7780. Anonymous tipsters can call our Tip Line at 727-892-5000 or Text a Tip at 727-420-8911.

Major Mike Kovacsev, Crimes Against Persons Division, will be available for sound today in our office from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Information by Bill Proffitt

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