Sixteen Year Old Charged with 1st Degree Murder

Arrested Suspect: David Nathan Garrett, 10/19/1998 (juvenile) of 1110 32st Street South, St. Petersburg (booking photo attached)

Arrested Suspect; Karissa Ann Smock, W/F, DOB 05/25/1993 of 1110 32st Street South, St. Petersburg (booking photo to follow)

Yesterday detectives arrested David Garrett at Le Belle High School in La Belle, Florida on an outstanding warrant charging him with 1st degree murder in the shooting death of Donald J. Avery, 17 on October 11th 2014.

At about 2:40 a.m. that morning of October 11th, a passerby reported hearing a gunshot coming from the pedestrian overpass which spans 34th Street South in the 700 block. Upon looking further he discovered the victim lying on the overpass suffering a gunshot wound to the upper body and called 911. Avery was transported to Bayfront Hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

During the subsequent investigation, detectives determined that Avery met Garrett at the overpass to conduct a drug transaction. During their interaction it is believed that Garrett produced a handgun and shot Avery multiple times. The motive for the murder has yet to be determined.

Not long after the murder, after Garrett had been initially questioned by detectives and denied any involvement, he was moved out of St. Petersburg to La Belle Florida by his family.

After Garrett’s arrest in La Belle, his sister, Karissa Smock, apparently called a witness in the case and threatened to kill him. She was arrested yesterday and charged with Tampering with a Witness re. 1st Degree Murder.

Information provided by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org