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NEWS RELEASE

December 21, 2024

Suspect in Deadly Shooting Arrested, Charged with Murder

FORT WORTH, Texas – The Fort Worth Police Department has made an arrest in connection to the December 1, 2024, murder of 40-year-old Christopher Sanders Sr. who was found shot and killed inside a vehicle parked at an apartment complex in the 6900 block of N. Beach St.

Following a thorough investigation, FWPD Homicide detectives obtained a warrant for the arrest of 19-year-old Derrick Sanders Jr. on one count of Felony Murder.

Investigators believe on the day of the murder; Derrick Sanders Jr. was the passenger riding in the back of a blue Dodge Charger that followed a Chrysler 300 that left an apartment complex near Western Center Blvd and headed north on Mark IV Pkwy.

Through follow-up investigation, detectives determined that while both vehicles were in motion, Derrick Sanders Jr. was hanging out of the window from the rear left passenger side of the Charger and shot in the direction of the Chrysler multiple times. Police were told that others inside the Dodge Charger said Christopher Sanders Sr. also fired a gun shot toward the Chrysler and then they heard additional gun shots. The bullets coming from the weapon that Derrick Sanders Jr. was using hit the outside roof of the Charger and went into the interior of that same vehicle, ultimately striking his uncle, Christopher Sanders Sr., who was sitting in the front right passenger seat.

Later that day, Fort Worth Police were called to the apartment complex in the 6900 block of N. Beach St. at 3:37 p.m. and found a deceased man inside the front passenger seat of a blue Dodge Charger who was shot. That man was later identified as Christopher Sanders Sr.

As the investigation continued, additional witnesses came forward stating they saw multiple people including Christopher Sanders Sr. and Derrick Sanders Jr. leave an area together in the blue Dodge Charger at around 2:30 p.m. on December 1.

Investigators also learned that due to the license plate of the blue Dodge Charger being covered with a temporary tag and the occupants wearing orange gloves that the shooting was preplanned. Surveillance video showed the Charger passing by and eventually following the Chrysler.

When officers initially arrived to the apartment complex on N. Beach St., the decedent was found wearing orange gloves and additional orange gloves were found near the parked vehicle.

When they searched the apartment complex, they found a fired cartridge casing near the trunk and bloody footprints that led toward an AC unit where they found clothes and a black handgun.

Detectives eventually interviewed all occupants in the blue Dodge Charger to gather more information in the case.

Derrick Sanders Jr. brought himself in on December 5th to talk with detectives and told them he was inside of the Dodge Charger when his uncle was shot. Surveillance video confirmed to investigators that Derrick Sanders Jr. shot bullets in the direction of where his uncle was sitting.

On December 6th, the Charger was inspected and investigators determined that several bullets were fired at a downward angle and into the front right passenger seat where Christopher Sanders Sr. was sitting.

The booking photo and warrant for Derrick Sanders Jr. is included as an attachment when you log in to the Media Portal.

Report # 240095217

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