



Final Case Report

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On July 8, 2023, at approximately 0009 hours, Officer Brandon Tyson was on patrol when heard what he believed to be a gunshot. Simultaneously, Endicott Police received calls of a drive by shooting and a male shot on Fillmore Avenue. Officer Tyson arrived on scene and located a large group of people yelling on Fillmore Avenue, who then directed him to a black male victim lying on the sidewalk with a gunshot wound to his chest. The victim was later identified as Richard Nims. Officer Tyson began life-saving efforts on Nims with Officer Joe Stone who had also arrived on scene, and Union Volunteer Emergency Squad and Endicott Fire Department medics responded.

Richard Nims was in grave condition when he was transported to Wilson Hospital and was later pronounced dead. An autopsy that was performed on July 9, 2023, by Broome County Medical Examiner Dr. Mort Allee determined the cause of death to be homicide. During the autopsy it was discovered that Richard Nims's internal thoracic artery had been ruptured by as a result of the gunshot wound. A single 9 mm projectile round was discovered lodged inside Nims, underneath his right shoulder.

Officers that initially arrived on-scene were advised by witnesses that the perpetrator was "Antonio" or "Tony," a white male who drives a silver or grey sedan. Witnesses reported that "Tony" was operating the silver or grey sedan when he arrived on Fillmore Avenue from North Street, then stopped the vehicle in front of 4 Fillmore Avenue, where Richard Nims and the witnesses were playing cards and listening to music. Mr. Nims approached Tony's vehicle, then a verbal argument ensued, followed by a single gunshot. Tony then fled the area in the grey vehicle. One witness identified Tony as Desiree Watson's boyfriend.

Sgt. John Willy arrived on scene and was advised of the preliminary interviews conducted by patrols. Sgt. Willy immediately recalled a previous domestic incident he had investigated involving Desiree Watson and a male named Tony who drove a silver or grey Ford Focus. After conducting a records search of the previous incident, Sergeant Willy identified Antoine Croop as a suspect, who had been operating NY ABC-123 at the time of the previous incident. Croop fit the description of the perpetrator and

was known to have a concealed carry permit and carried a handgun.

An attempt to locate was distributed to Broome County agencies and a search of areas known to be frequented by Croop were conducted. Croop's vehicle bearing NY ABC-123 was located behind 106 W. Main Street, Endicott and surveillance teams were assembled around the residence. A short time later, Croop was observed leaving the residence, walking east on Main Street, and taken into custody. Interviews with other occupants at 106 W. Main Street revealed that Croop had arrived a short time earlier and kept repeating that there had been an accident, but did not provide further details. Forensic examination of Croop's vehicle revealed a single 9 MM round which had not been fired, resting on the front seat of the vehicle. Fingerprints matching Antoine Nims were located on the driver's side A and B pillar, on the windshield on the driver's side, and on the hood of the vehicle on the driver's side.

A search warrant was conducted at Croop's residence, during which a HI Point, Model C9, 9 MM with serial number A987654 registered to Antoine Croop was discovered and placed into evidence. The weapon was test fired by the NYSP Forensic Investigation Center Ballistics Unit and the round secured. Forensic examination of the expended round by the NYSP Forensic Investigation Center Ballistics unit demonstrated the round was consistent with the projectile that was secured from the body of Richard Nims during autopsy.

As a result of the investigation, Antoine Croop was charged with Murder in the Second Degree and subsequently indicted on October 25, 2024 by a Broome County Grand Jury for Murder in the Second Degree.

As of the date of this executive summary, Croop's case is pending trial in Broome County Court.