

## OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY ERIC M. HOFFMAN, PROSECUTOR 46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney prosecutor@co.delaware.in.us Date: January 27, 2023 8:30 PM

# JURY CONVICTS D'ANTE DAVIS OF MURDER

Muncie Indiana - Today a Delaware County jury deliberated for a little over two

hours before convicting D'Ante Davis (DOB 8/28/1998) of Murder, a felony, Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, a Level 2 Felony, and Conspiracy to Commit Armed Robbery. The jury also found Davis guilty of a firearms sentencing enhancement. A copy of the Affidavit of Probable Cause that was filed with the case is attached. The Honorable Linda Ralu Wolf, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 3 set sentencing for February 24, 2023 at 1:30 pm. Pursuant to Indiana law:

• Murder is punishable by 45 – 65 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.



- D'Ante Davis
- A Level 2 Felony is punishable by 10 30 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.
- A Level 3 Felony is punishable by 3 16 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.
- The Firearm Enhancement can add an additional 5 20 years to the total sentence.

After the verdict was returned, Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Hoffman said "Another violent felon has been taken off of our streets. I am proud of Chief Deputy Prosecutor Zach Craig Deputy Prosecutor Andrew Ramirez, Investigator Heather Stanley, Cassie Benbow, MPD Detective Andrew Sell and the entire Muncie Police Department for their hard work and dedication in this case."

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STATE OF INDIANA

DELAWARE COUNTY

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**2020 TERM** 

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

COMES NOW, , a police officer of the Muncie Police Department, and being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that the following described person was arrested, without Warrant, upon the charge(s) and circumstances hereinafter stated, and makes this affidavit for the purpose of establishing probable cause for said arrest.

MPD Case Report # 21-25441

NAME OF ARRESTEE: D'Ante Davis

D.O.B.: 08/28/1998

ADDRESS OF ARRESTEE: 2001 S. Delawanda, Muncie, IN 47302

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DATE OF ARREST: 12/13/2021

TIME OF ARREST: 1420

CHARGE 1: Murder

CHARGE 2: Murder – Felony

CHARGE 3: Armed Robbery - Level 2 Felony

CHARGE 4: Conspiracy to Commit Armed Robbery – Level 3 Felony

On July 22, 2021, Delaware County dispatch received multiple 911 calls in reference to a shooting at the Canterbury Apartments, which are located off of W. Jackson St. west of Morrison Rd. in Muncie, Delaware County. According to the 911 callers, several gunshots could be heard coming from one of the apartments in the back of the complex. Both of the callers were later interviewed by investigators. One of the 911 callers stated that that after she heard the gunshots, she saw a dark black male wearing a black mask and carrying a huge gun and a backpack get into a silver or gray car and leave. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 911 caller stated that after he had heard the gunshots, he saw two (2) black males run out of apartment 5214 W. Canterbury Dr. One of those males had dreadlocks and was carrying a large assault rifle and a bag and the other male was carrying a handgun. The description provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> 911 caller matches the physical characteristics of D'Ante Davis. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 911 caller stated that the black male carrying the assault rifle and the bag got into the back seat of a small gray car, which he later stated was a Chevy Spark, and the black male carrying the handgun got into a blue, 4-door sedan. The two cars then sped away from the scene.

Officers from the Delaware County Sheriff's Office and Yorktown Police Department were the first officers to arrive at the apartment complex. Once there, officers responded to and entered apartment 5214 W. Canterbury Dr., where they located a deceased individual, later identified as James B. King III, lying in the living room of the apartment. King was found to have been shot approximately nine (9) times. Officers also located approximately 50 spent shell casings inside of the apartment, which had substantial damage that appeared to have been caused by multiple gunshots.

After arriving on scene, officers made contact with Witness #1, who resides at 5214 W. Canterbury Dr. and was inside when King was killed. According to Witness #1, he and King were ) )

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inside the apartment when Jason Becraft, who goes by the name "Creep", showed up unannounced and came into the apartment. While inside the apartment, Becraft purchased marijuana from Witness #1. Becraft also spoke with King about firearms and wanting to purchase a larger quantity of marijuana from King. Witness #1 stated that when Becraft first entered the apartment, King was counting a large amount of money that would have been seen by Becraft. Witness #1 also stated that Becraft told him that "Tay" was outside waiting for Becraft. After being in the apartment for about 5-10 minutes, Becraft left. Witness #1 advised that about 3-4 minutes after Becraft left, the door to the apartment opened loudly and a black male wearing a black mask and holding an assault rifle came into the apartment. After entering the apartment, the black male began shooting. After seeing the black male with the rifle, Witness #1 jumped onto the couch and tried to hide under the couch cushions. Witness #1 was not aware if another individual entered the apartment with the black male. Witness #1 was also not aware if King returned fire during the shooting. According to Witness #1, the black male with the assault rifle was D'Ante Davis, who he has known for a long time and who goes by the name "Tay." Davis matches the description provided to the police by the individuals that called 911. Witness #1 advised officers that after the shooting, King's backpack, which had been in the apartment prior to the shooting, was gone. According to Witness #1, King had \$10,000-\$15,000 in the backpack at that time.

Investigators later interviewed King's girlfriend, Teriyah Boards. According to Teriyah, she spoke with King by Facetime shortly before learning of his murder. During that call, Teriyah saw Jason Becraft inside the apartment with King. That call subsequently ended. Boards advised that a few minutes after talking with King, she received a text message stating that King had been killed.

Investigators located a vehicle matching the description provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> 911 caller of one of the getaway vehicles, a light-gray Chevy Spark. This vehicle, which investigators learned had been rented by Jason Becraft shortly before King's murder, was located at Becraft's grandmother's house. Investigators later conducted an interview with Becraft. During this interview, Becraft admitted that he had been to Witness #1's apartment on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to purchase marijuana from Witness #1. According to Becraft, he travelled there in his vehicle with Taejanelle Childress, who was driving. Becraft stated that Childress remained in the vehicle when he went inside. Becraft also stated that he left the apartment after purchasing the marijuana and did not see anyone go into the apartment after he left. During his interview, Becraft first denied knowing D'Ante Davis; then admitted to knowing him, but stated that he no longer hangs out with him because of Davis's activities.

A few days later, investigators met again with Witness #1. During this meeting, Witness #1 advised that he had received several phone calls from Taejanelle Childress in the evening after King's murder. During the meeting with Witness #1, he called Childress. This phone call was recorded on one of the investigator's body worn cameras. During this phone call, Childress said that after Jason Becraft had exited Witness #1's apartment, Becraft stated to her that he "got a lick." Childress told Witness #1 that the individual who ran into Witness #1's apartment with a rifle was D'Ante Davis. Childress also stated that there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> individual who went into Witness #1's apartment with Davis. Childress told Witness #1, "I didn't even know none of that shit was going on. Didn't nobody let me know nothin' bro."

Investigators later made contact with Taejanelle Childress and conducted an interview with her. During that interview, Childress admitted to being with Jason Becraft on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Childress stated that her and Becraft went to Witness #1's apartment in Becraft's vehicle, which she was driving. When they got there, Becraft went inside to purchase some marijuana and she stayed out in the vehicle. According to Childress, Becraft was inside of Witness #1's apartment for )

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approximately 7 minutes. He then came out and got back in the car. The two of them then left the apartment complex. When investigators confronted Childress about her story, she stated, "I don't remember a lot, I blacked out." Childress was then jailed at that time for Assisting a Criminal. Following her arrest, investigators monitored her jail phone calls. During 1 of those calls, Childress says, "Y'all doing more to me than y'all doing to the motherfuckers that actually did something. All I did was drive."

The basis and reasons why this officer believes that said Arrestee committed the aforesaid offense

(s) are as follows:

I affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my information and belief. /s/ Officer Andrew Sell 1902 DATE: 12/13/2021

### JUDICIAL DETERMINATION

The undersigned, being a Judicial officer of Delaware County, and having reviewed the foregoing affidavit, now determines that probable cause existed for the arrest of said arrestee, and now fixes bond in the penal sum of \$ no bond until further order of Court

DATED: 12/14/20シレ	SIGNED: Zungha Moly	Judge of belaning
CHARGES TO BE FILED BY:	12/20/21 8	pm No Band

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