

Chester County District Attorney's Office

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PRESS RELEASE

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COATESVILLE MAN CHARGED IN FATAL SHOOTING OF FRIEND

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and the City of Coatesville Police Department announce the arrest of 20-year-old Dapree Bryant, of Coatesville, for the fatal shooting of Daryl Perry, 18, on May 29, 2021. The defendant is charged with involuntary manslaughter, recklessly endangering another person, firearms not to be carried without a license and related offenses.

District Attorney Deb Ryan said, "I want to express my deepest condolences to Mr. Perry's family as they grieve this heart-wrenching loss. Parents should never have to bury a child, especially as the result of such a senseless tragedy. Mr. Perry was a new father who will not be able to watch his son grow up. I cannot stress enough the critical need to address gun violence in our county. These devastating losses affect not only families but entire communities."

The allegations in the complaint are the following¹:

On May 29, 2021, Caln Township Police were called to Brandywine Hospital for the report of a victim with a gunshot wound to the head or neck after he was

¹ A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

brought to the hospital by the defendant and another friend. The victim was later transferred to Paoli Hospital, where he died on May 30, 2021.

Police learned the incident happened in the 300-block of Community Lane in Coatesville. When Coatesville City Police arrived at the scene, they found blood on the driveway and outside a garage.

The victim had been socializing with friends, including the defendant, as they played a dice game in the garage.

While the victim sat in a chair looking at his phone, the defendant picked up a gun sitting on a plastic tub in the garage and began to play with it. The gun went off and struck the victim. During this investigation, police determined that the defendant did not know there was a round in the chamber ready to fire.

Police initially were told that an unknown suspect had shot into the garage, striking the victim; however, later, they confirmed that the defendant accidentally discharged the weapon.

Investigators found a 9mm “Ghost gun” – a gun assembled from DIY kits – and a box of bullets in the defendant’s car. The defendant does not have a license to carry a gun.

On June 2, 2021, Coatesville police recovered another firearm that was used in the shooting.

City of Coatesville Police Chief John Laufer stated, “Although the result was a senseless tragedy, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Perry family, the root cause of the death was access to illegal firearms. Addressing gun violence and the culture where illegal firearms are readily accepted by our youth will require more than efforts from the police. It will require the entire community to include parents, family, teachers, coaches, churches, and mentors in partnership with law enforcement to change that culture.”

DA Deb Ryan further said, “We have just begun to see “ghost guns” in Chester County, and it is a disturbing trend. “Ghost guns” are unregulated and untraceable firearms that are as dangerous and deadly as normal firearms. Those

who unlawfully carry these weapons will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We will not tolerate any more gun violence.”

The preliminary hearing is scheduled on June 16, 2021, in front of Magisterial District Judge Hines, and bail was set at \$100,000.

The City of Coatesville Police Department is investigating. Senior Deputy District Attorney Carlos Barraza is the assigned prosecutor.

Please contact the City of Coatesville PD with any information about this case at 610-384-2300.

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Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney