

Chester County District Attorney's Office

DEBORAH RYAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



201 W. Market St., Suite 4450
Post Office Box 2746
West Chester, PA 19380-0991
Phone: 610-344-6801
Fax: 610-344-5905

PRESS RELEASE

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WEST CHESTER MAN CHARGED WITH SHOOTING 21-YEAR-OLD

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and the West Chester Borough Police Department announce the arrest of Vaughn Yanko, 22, of West Chester, for the charges of attempted murder, aggravated assault, recklessly endangering another person, and related charges for shooting a 21-year-old male in the abdomen on January 22, 2023, at 2:18 a.m. at 50 block of North High Street in West Chester. The defendant is currently held at Chester County Prison on \$500k bail.

The victim is in critical condition after undergoing surgery.

District Attorney Deb Ryan said, "Gun violence must stop. This is another senseless and heartbreaking tragedy with a victim in critical condition. We all hope and pray for the victim's recovery, and the next 48-hours are critical for him. We thank the West Chester Borough Police Department for their speedy response and quick apprehension of the defendant."

The allegations in the complaint are the following¹:

On January 22nd, 2023, at approximately 2:18 A.M., the West Chester Police Department responded to the 50 block of North High Street for the report of

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

shots fired. Upon arrival, officers discovered a male victim suffering from a single gunshot wound to the abdomen. The victim was transported to two different hospitals for treatment.

The incident allegedly began after a disagreement between two groups of people over a girl and a football game. The groups had been drinking alcohol at different nearby bars before they came into contact with each other in front of the historic courthouse in West Chester.

After a verbal altercation, a fight broke out, and the defendant was observed shooting the victim. Shortly after police found the defendant in a breezeway next to 10 North High Street. A black Ruger handgun was located inside a holster in the defendant's right front jacket pocket. The defendant was immediately taken into custody.

Medical personnel reported that the victim's aorta was ruptured from the gunshot wound and he required cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

A preliminary hearing is set for February 3, 2023. West Chester Borough Police are investigating.

If you have information about this case, contact West Chester Police at 610-696-2700.

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Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney