



Bureau of Police
City of Lancaster
39 West Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17602



Press Release

Homicide Investigation

Author: Capt. Pete Anders

Contact Number: 717-735-3300

Date: November 10, 2008

Homicide Investigation

At 0010 Hrs., Sunday, November 09, 2008 Lancaster County Wide Communications (LCWC) received a call of a man assaulting a woman in the area of Fairview Ave. and St. Joseph St. Lancaster City. Callers described that a man, later identified as Kenneth BROWN JR. 29 years of age, was brutally beating, stomping and choking a female, later identified as Tonya Fetrow 28 years of age. LCWC was advised that BROWN was then observed throwing Fetrow into the back seat of a white Park Avenue, PA Reg GRW 8864, and fleeing the scene. Witnesses were able to provide the license plate to the Park Avenue. The vehicle belongs to Fetrow's family.

WANTED SUSPECT: BROWN JR., Kenneth, 29 years of age

LKA: 5734 Larchwood Philadelphia, PA

Brown has been known to frequent Columbia, Lancaster and York.

Photo Available for Media at Station

Note: Brown may still be wearing the following clothes: (Still wearing in late AM)

White Phillies hat with a flat rim, black hooded sweatshirt, jeans white glossy sneakers.

ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF BROWN ARE ASKED TO CALL 911 or LANCASTER CITY POLICE at 735-3300.

BROWN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A WANTED, DANGEROUS FELON.

DECEASED: Tonya FETROW, 28 years of age

Resident of Lancaster City

Patrol Officers from A Platoon under the supervision of Lt. James Smith and Sgt. Jarrad Berkihiser responded to the scene and checked the City for the vehicle. Surrounding jurisdictions were given a BOLO for the vehicle and both occupants.

Responding Officers secured the area of St. Joseph and Fairview as a crime scene due to obvious evidence of a severe assault.

Detectives interviewed witnesses immediately following the assault, and continued to canvass the neighborhood through the morning.

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Witnesses advised detectives of the following:

One witness advised that she is acquainted with both Brown and Fetrow and was aware that they were boyfriend and girlfriend. The witness related that she was with them at the time of the assault and attempted to stop Brown choking and beating Fetrow. This witness related that she was in the Buick just prior to the assault. She related that Fetrow was driving the vehicle south on Fairview Ave. toward the intersection of St. Joseph St. and that Brown was sitting in the back seat behind the driver, Fetrow. She related that when Fetrow stopped at the intersection's stop sign, that Brown reached forward and began to forcibly choke Fetrow's neck or throat area. This continued until the witness was able to forcibly remove Brown's hands from Fetrow's throat. She related that Fetrow and Brown then exited the Buick, onto the street/sidewalk area. The witness next observed Brown stomping repeatedly with his shoe on the throat of Fetrow as she laid face up on the sidewalk. The witness intervened a second time, pushing Brown away. Brown immediately returned to Fetrow and grabbed Fetrow by the neck and violently choked her as she remained on the sidewalk. Fetrow appeared unresponsive, lifeless and did not appear able to defend herself. The witness observed that there was a large amount of blood coming from Fetrow's nose and mouth. The witness related that Brown then picked up Fetrow's body and threw her into the rear seat of the Buick and fled the scene. There were no other occupants to the vehicle and the witness remained at the scene.

A second witness related that she was travelling in a vehicle immediately behind the Buick. The witness related that she observed motion in the vehicle and observed the rear passenger swinging in a downward motion toward the driver. This witness observed the vehicle stop at the intersection of Fairview and St. Joseph and a woman, who was driving the vehicle get out of the vehicle and attempt to run away from the rear seat passenger, who also exited the vehicle.

This second witness observed Brown catch up to the female driver by the sidewalk and saw Brown begin to strike the woman about the head and face with closed fists. The witness estimated that Brown struck the woman ten or more times and that she could hear the woman screaming for Brown to stop. The witness related that she observed that the woman was knocked to the ground from the assault, that the victim became quiet and motionless on the ground. The witness related that she then observed Brown kick and stomp the woman about the head and face. The woman continued to be motionless and was not making any noises. The second witness related that Brown then picked up the woman by her hair and head and threw her into the back of the vehicle "like a sack of potatoes." She then witnessed Brown get into the driver's seat of the Buick and flee the area.

Lancaster County District Attorney Craig Stedman was contacted by Lancaster Police Detectives shortly after the initial assault and provided direction toward the investigation. Lancaster Detectives have also contacted and received assistance from Detectives from the Philadelphia Police Department.

Detective Jimmy Mummau of the Lancaster Bureau of Police charged Kenneth BROWN JR. with Criminal Attempt to Commit Homicide and Aggravated Assault before MDJ Cheryl Hartman. On call MDJ Stuart Mylin issued an arrest warrant for these charges.



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At approximately 0700 Hrs., the Lancaster City Police were notified that an unknown deceased woman was found in a driveway of a house in the 1400 block of Long Lane, Columbia (East Donegal Township). The resident did not know the woman. Susquehanna Regional Police Department responded and a deceased woman with obvious signs of trauma to her head and body. The area was secured as a crime scene.

Detectives from the County Forensic Team and Lancaster City Police responded to process the crime scene in E. Donegal Township. These detectives were able to identify the deceased as Tonya FETROW in the late morning. Detectives were able to identify FETROW by physical markings. Detectives contacted City Police Chaplains and made notification of the death to FETROW's family in today, in mid-afternoon.

Detectives have continued to attempt to locate BROWN. BROWN should be considered a very dangerous, wanted felon. Detectives developed information that BROWN may be at a residence in Columbia Boro. Lancaster Police Detectives, Columbia Boro Police Officers and Lancaster City Police Officers responded and secured the residence. The Lancaster County SERT team was activated to respond to this residence. The residence was checked and BROWN was not located. BROWN is considered a wanted Fugitive.

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During a check in Columbia, Detectives located the Buick Park Avenue. Anyone with information connecting BROWN to the abandonment of the Park Avenue are asked to call Lancaster Police.

At 1543 Hrs., 09 November 2008, Lancaster City Detectives and Lancaster County SERT Officers arrested BROWN as he was walking on Columbia Ave. through Mountville toward Lancaster. BROWN was arrested without incident and was transported to the Lancaster City Police Station for processing and further investigation.

This arrest culminated a non-stop investigation involving the cooperation of numerous Agencies and almost the entire Detective Division of the City Police. The Detectives noted that a number of residents or witnesses have cooperated in an on-going effort to see this type of violence stop in Lancaster.

Any further charges will be filed upon consultation with the District Attorneys Office.

Det. Jimmy Mummau has been assigned as the lead detective for this homicide. Detectives continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding Fetrow's death, and request those residents who may have witnessed or heard information relative to the homicide contact the Police.

Residents do not have to give their name; they may provide anonymous information.



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Anyone with information relative to this investigation is asked to contact the Lancaster Bureau of Police @ 735-3300 and Det. Mummau at 735-3319.

The Lancaster Bureau of Police respectfully requests that members of the media limit their publication to the facts listed on this news release. Should any member of the media learn additional information, we respectfully request that it is not released as it may jeopardize the safety of named witnesses and the ongoing investigation. This request particularly applies to legal affidavits as the suspect is not in custody at the time of this release. The publishing of witness names can cause residents to fear that by cooperating their names will become public fodder for all of the Community including those incarcerated or acquainted with the suspect.

The Lancaster County District Attorneys Office holds a firm belief that every person accused of a crime remains innocent until the time that they may be convicted in Court.

End Release.

(end of release)