



## YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Press Release

## **2 Individuals Charged by York County Regional Police Department and Arrest Warrants Issued in 2024 Christmas Eve Shooting Death**

**York, PA** – On Thursday, May 8, 2025, York County Regional Police Department filed charges in the 2024 Christmas Eve shooting death of victim, Tivory Bartlett.

Tajai Scott, 25, of Philadelphia, has been charged with Murder of the First Degree (H1), Murder of the Second Degree (F1), Criminal Conspiracy - Murder of the Second Degree (F1), Robbery (F1), Criminal Conspiracy - Robbery (F1), Criminal Use of Communication Facility (F3), and Firearms Not To Be Carried W/O License (F3). Ajanii Barnes, 19, of York, has been charged with Murder of the Second Degree (F1), Criminal Conspiracy - Murder of the Second Degree (F1), Robbery (F1), Criminal Conspiracy - Robbery (F1), and Criminal Use of Communication Facility (F3). Arrest warrants have been issued for Scott and Barnes.

The investigation revealed that, on December 24, 2024, York County Regional police officers were dispatched to a shooting in the parking lot of Sheetz located at 4309 North George Street Ext., Manchester, PA 17345. The victim, found in his vehicle, sustained multiple gunshot wounds during the course of a robbery perpetrated by the defendants. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Witness statements and surveillance video revealed the following timeline of events:

5:01PM: The victim's vehicle, a Honda Accord, pulled into the parking lot and backs into a parking space.

5:04PM: A Hyundai sedan conveying the defendants backed into the parking space next to the Honda.

5:05PM: Scott exits the Hyundai and gets into the front passenger side of the victim's Honda.

5:06PM: Barnes exits the passenger side of the Hyundai and gets into the rear passenger side of the Honda.

5:09PM: The Honda accelerates at a high rate of speed straight ahead striking a third parked vehicle. Scott is seen shooting the victim several times and shooting out of the Honda's driver side window. The rear passenger door on the driver's side of the Honda opens and Barnes exits the vehicle and runs to the rear of the Sheetz. Scott is seen crawling out the driver's side broken window with a handgun in his right hand, running back to the parked Hyundai, then driving the Hyundai to the rear of the Sheetz where Barnes gets in the rear driver's side back seat of the Hyundai. The Hyundai is seen exiting the parking lot of Sheetz where the license plate is clearly displayed.

During a search of the victim's vehicle, among other evidentiary materials, police recovered one cell phone belonging to Scott and one cell phone belonging to Barnes, as determined through forensic analysis. Multiple forms of identification belonging to Scott were also recovered in the victim's vehicle.

York County District Attorney Tim Barker commends the York County Regional Police Department for their thorough investigation and innovative use of forensic data analysis tools in this case.

"Thank you, York County Regional Police Department, for your outstanding investigation into the shooting death of Tivory Bartlett. Led by Detective Brandy Goodling, this team of officers, detectives, and law enforcement partners relentlessly worked in pursuit of the truth. The filing of murder and related charges is the culmination of and credit to their hard work and perseverance.

Additionally, this investigation highlights why we must continue to invest in the best crime solving technology for law enforcement. The tools used by York County Regional Police Department and its partners allowed them to obtain detailed information that will demonstrate beyond a reasonable doubt the full nature and scope of the planning and execution of this crime by the defendants. We look forward to our continued investment in technologies that help law enforcement and our office to successfully investigate and prosecute criminal defendants, thereby increasing public safety." he said.

Also assisting with this investigation were the Pennsylvania State Police and York County Forensic Investigative Unit.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Tajai Scott and/or Ajanii Barnes is asked to contact York County Regional Police Department: 717-741-1259, <https://york.crimewatchpa.gov/ycrpd/submit-tip>, or call 911.

***Criminal charges, and any discussion thereof, are merely allegations and all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.***