

# OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tony Palumbo, County Attorney

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**December 11, 2017**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Two guilty pleas in Fridley murder**

Two defendants charged in a Fridley murder pleaded guilty in Anoka County District Court Monday.

Johnny Earl Edwards, 44, pleaded guilty to second-degree unintentional murder while committing a felony. Prosecutors will argue at sentencing for a prison term of 276 to 363 months, which represents an aggravated sentence based on Edwards' violent criminal history.

Bryston Markeis Hill-Turnipseed, 35, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of aiding an offender during the commission of second-degree unintentional murder while committing a felony. Per a plea agreement, Hill-Turnipseed has agreed to 138 months in prison.

Both men will be sentenced Feb. 13.

Edwards and Hill-Turnipseed were charged for their roles in a May 27 shooting at a residence in Fridley, which resulted in the death of 54-year-old James Lamont Chapman. Edwards was accused of being the gunman. Hill-Turnipseed allegedly made arrangements to go to the residence to purchase marijuana from the would-be victim.

"We feel, after lengthy discussions with the victim's family, that this is a just resolution to the case," said Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo.

Copies of amended complaints are attached.

State of Minnesota  
County of Anoka

District Court  
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2017-01051  
Court File No. 02-CR-17-3290

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**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**JOHNNY EARL EDWARDS DOB: 02/13/1973**

5607 Colfax Avenue  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Order of Detention

Amended

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The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**COUNT I**

**Charge: Murder in the 2nd Degree (With Intent) (Not Premeditated)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.11.5, 609.05.1

Maximum Sentence: 36 months - 40 Years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 05/27/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17115698

Charge Description: On or about May 27, 2017, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JOHNNY EARL EDWARDS, did cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation and at the time of offense, the Defendant or an accomplice did use or possess a firearm.

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony**

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.2(1), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.11.5

Maximum Sentence: 36 months - 40 years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 05/27/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17115698

Charge Description: On or about May 27, 2017, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JOHNNY EARL EDWARDS, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, cause the death of a human being, without intent to effect the death of any person, while committing or attempting to commit a felony offense other than criminal sexual conduct in the first or second degree with force or violence or a drive-by shooting and at the time of offense, the Defendant or an accomplice did use or possess a firearm.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

During the evening hours of Saturday, May 27th, 2017, law enforcement responded to a 911 call from a residence on Osborne Road in the city of Fridley, Anoka County. The caller said a shooting just occurred at the residence and a male had been shot. Upon arrival, law enforcement went to the lower level of the residence and located a male laying on the floor. The male had a single, apparent gunshot injury to his upper left chest. A single bullet casing was located near the body. The male was deceased upon arrival by law enforcement. The deceased was identified as James Lamont Chapman (DOB: 9/9/62).

The owners of the home were present and cooperative with law enforcement. The male homeowner said that he invited the victim of the shooting to his home. The male homeowner admitted the plan was to arrange a marijuana sale between the victim and Bryston Markies Hill Turnipseed (DOB: 3/7/82), a defendant herein. The male homeowner said defendant Turnipseed was going to buy marijuana from the victim. When the victim arrived at the location of the shooting, he went downstairs with the homeowner to a room which is used as a music studio. The music studio room is directly accessible from an entry within the garage, without having to enter the home from the main entrance. The music room is also accessible from a door within the residence as well.

Defendant Turnipseed entered the music room from the garage area. Defendant Turnipseed appeared to be alone. According to the homeowner, the victim, defendant Turnipseed, and himself were in the music room for about 10 minutes dealing with the sale of the marijuana. At that point, defendant Turnipseed left the music room and exited the home through the garage entrance. A few moments later, defendant Turnipseed and a second male re-entered the music room from the garage entrance. The homeowner describes at that point, after about 45 seconds, that the unknown male pulled out a black handgun, with what appeared to be a "square frame". The homeowner says no words were said by either defendant Turnipseed or the unknown male. The unknown male fired a single shot at Chapman, striking him and causing him to fall. Defendant Turnipseed and the unknown male then fled the room and exited out the garage entrance. The homeowner saw both defendant Turnipseed and the unknown male get into a silver colored SUV with tinted windows and flee the scene. The silver vehicle had been in the driveway, backed in, rather than pulled in with the engine facing the home. The vehicle was unfamiliar to the homeowner.

The homeowner describes the unknown male as being African-American, about 5'6", wearing a white shirt and grey pants. The unknown male also had what appeared to be injury or scarring to his face. The unknown male shooter also had an amputated right leg and was using crutches.

A photo line-up which included a known photo of defendant Turnipseed was conducted and the homeowner identified Turnipseed as the male who purchased the marijuana and brought the unknown male into the music room. Eventually, law enforcement identified a male matching the description of the shooter. This person is Johnny Earl Edwards (DOB: 2/13/73), a defendant herein. Defendant Edwards is known to have used the name "Turnipseed" in the past. Additional investigation revealed that the phone defendant Turnipseed was using during his communication of the marijuana deal was in Minneapolis. During the afternoon hours of Sunday, May 28th, Defendant Turnipseed and Defendant Edwards were located in a car at a gas station on Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis. A third individual was driving the car. Law enforcement approached the car at the gas station and identified and arrested defendant Turnipseed and defendant Edwards. Clearly visible inside the car was a 9mm handgun. The driver of the car admitting picking up Turnipseed and Edwards a short time prior. The driver said the gun was not in the car prior to Turnipseed and Edwards being in the car.

In follow-up statements, the homeowner provided additional detail about his observations of the shooter. The homeowner stated he saw a media story about the shooting which included the booking photo of defendant Edwards. The homeowner says defendant Edwards is the person who shot Mr. Chapman. The homeowner knows this because of the time he was with the shooter in the music room and the presence of

the unusual injury or scarring to the face of defendant Edwards.

## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:  
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or  
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

**Complainant**

Jim Schilling  
Detective  
6431 University Avenue NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Electronically Signed:  
11/14/2017 02:57 PM  
Anoka County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Laura M. Schwartz  
Assistant County Attorney  
2100 3rd Ave  
Anoka, MN 55303-2265  
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:  
11/14/2017 02:14 PM

**FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

**SUMMONS**

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM before the above-named court at 325 E Main Street, Anoka, MN 55303 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

**WARRANT**

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

*Execute in MN Only*

*Execute Nationwide*

*Execute in Border States*

**ORDER OF DETENTION**

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$  
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: November 14, 2017.

**Judicial Officer** Dyanna Street  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 11/14/2017 03:47 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF ANOKA  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Johnny Earl Edwards**

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE  
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of  
Detention upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

## DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

**Name:** Johnny Earl Edwards  
**DOB:** 02/13/1973  
**Address:** 5607 Colfax Avenue  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

**Alias Names/DOB:**

**SID:** MN93008444

**Height:**

**Weight:**

**Eye Color:**

**Hair Color:**

**Gender:** MALE

**Race:** Black

**Fingerprints Required per Statute:** Yes

**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:** Yes

**Handgun Permit:** No

**Driver's License #:** D704070255311 (MN)

**Case Scheduling Information:** RUSH - AMENDED - Count 1 Aid & Abet Modifier added. Count 2 added.  
No change to PC. Please process before PT on 11/15 @ 2:30PM

**Alcohol Concentration:**

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

<b>Cnt Nbr</b>	<b>Statute Type</b>	<b>Offense Date(s)</b>	<b>Statute Nbrs and Descriptions</b>	<b>Offense Level</b>	<b>MOC</b>	<b>GOC</b>	<b>Controlling Agencies</b>	<b>Case Numbers</b>
1	Modifier	5/27/2017	609.11.5 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm	Felony	H2010	X	MN0020600	17115698
	Charge	5/27/2017	609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated	Felony	H2010	X	MN0020600	17115698
	Modifier	5/27/2017	609.05.1 Liability for Crimes of Another-Intentional	No-Level	H2010	X	MN0020600	17115698
2	Charge	5/27/2017	609.19.2(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony	Felony	H2010	X	MN0020600	17115698
	Modifier	5/27/2017	609.05.1 Liability for Crimes of Another-Intentional	No-Level	H2010	X	MN0020600	17115698
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State of Minnesota  
County of Anoka

District Court  
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2017-01050  
Court File No. 02-CR-17-3291

**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

vs.

**BRYSTON MARKEIS HILL-TURNIPSEED DOB: 03/07/1982**

NPA

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Order of Detention

Amended

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**COUNT I**

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Offense Date (on or about): 05/27/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17115698

Charge Description: On or about May 27, 2017, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, BRYSTON MARKEIS HILL-TURNIPSEED, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another, Johnny Earl Edwards, cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation and at the time of offense, the Defendant or an accomplice did use or possess a firearm.

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony**

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the unusual injury or scarring to the face of defendant Edwards.

## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

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(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or  
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

**Complainant**

Jim Schilling  
Detective  
6431 University Avenue NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Electronically Signed:  
11/14/2017 02:55 PM  
Anoka County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Laura M. Schwartz  
Assistant County Attorney  
2100 3rd Ave  
Anoka, MN 55303-2265  
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:  
11/14/2017 02:06 PM

**FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

**SUMMONS**

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**WARRANT**

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

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*Execute in Border States*

**ORDER OF DETENTION**

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$  
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: November 14, 2017.

**Judicial Officer** Dyanna Street  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 11/14/2017 03:45 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF ANOKA  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Bryston Markeis Hill-Turnipseed**

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE  
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of  
Detention upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

## DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

**Name:** Bryston Markeis Hill-Turnipseed  
**DOB:** 03/07/1982  
**Address:** NPA

**Alias Names/DOB:**  
**SID:** MN04401294  
**Height:**  
**Weight:**  
**Eye Color:**  
**Hair Color:**  
**Gender:** MALE  
**Race:** Black  
**Fingerprints Required per Statute:** Yes  
**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:** Yes  
**Handgun Permit:** No  
**Driver's License #:** D914057433214 (MN)  
**Case Scheduling Information:** RUSH - AMENDED - Count 2 added. No change to PC. Please process before PT on 11/15 @ 2:30PM  
**Alcohol Concentration:**

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

<b>Cnt Nbr</b>	<b>Statute Type</b>	<b>Offense Date(s)</b>	<b>Statute Nbrs and Descriptions</b>	<b>Offense Level</b>	<b>MOC</b>	<b>GOC</b>	<b>Controlling Agencies</b>	<b>Case Numbers</b>
1	Modifier	5/27/2017	609.05.1 Liability for Crimes of Another-Intentional	No-Level	H2010		MN0020600	17115698
	Modifier	5/27/2017	609.11.5 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm	Felony	H2010		MN0020600	17115698
	Charge	5/27/2017	609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated	Felony	H2010		MN0020600	17115698
2	Charge	5/27/2017	609.19.2(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony	Felony	H2022		MN0020600	17115698
	Modifier	5/27/2017	609.11.5 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm	Felony	H2022		MN0020600	17115698
	Modifier	5/27/2017	609.05.1 Liability for Crimes of Another-Intentional	No-Level	H2022		MN0020600	17115698