

OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

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November 25, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Teen charged in Coon Rapids shooting death

The Anoka County Attorney's Office today charged Vaughn Jarod Coklas, 19, with second-degree intentional murder. Coklas is accused of fatally shooting 19-year-old Staveonte El Brown on Nov. 23 in a Coon Rapids parking lot.

Coklas appeared in Anoka County District Court this morning. Bail was set at \$1 million with conditions (no use/possession of any mood-altering chemicals and no use/possession of firearms), or \$1.5 million with no conditions.

A copy of the criminal complaint is attached.

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2020-02248
Court File No. 02-CR-20-6896

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

VAUGHN JAROD COKLAS DOB: 06/17/2001

3815 157th Avenue NW
Andover, MN 55304

Defendant.

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

Maximum Sentence: 0-40 Years Imprisonment

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/23/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20284417

Charge Description: On or about November 23, 2020, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, VAUGHN JAROD COKLAS, did cause the death of a human being, namely SEB, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation and at the time of offense, the Defendant did use or possess a firearm, to wit: a .45 caliber handgun.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

At approximately 4:37 PM on November 23, 2020, officers from the Coon Rapids Police Department and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a shooting which had occurred in the parking lot of Cub Foods, located at 2050 Northdale Blvd, in the City of Coon Rapids, within Anoka County.

Upon arrival, officers located a 19-year-old male, subsequently identified as Staveonte El Brown (DOB 3-23-2001), lying in the parking lot with a gunshot wound to the chest. First responders pronounced him dead at the scene within a few moments.

As they were arriving, bystanders directed officers to a male fleeing the scene. That male, later identified as VAUGHN JAROD COKLAS (DOB 6-17-2001), the defendant, was taken into custody.

Officers then spoke with several independent eyewitnesses, and were advised that shortly before the shooting was reported, a red Pontiac Grand Prix, driven by the defendant, pulled into the parking lot. Moments later, a silver Hyundai Santa Fe pulled in next to the Grand Prix, and the decedent went from the passenger seat of the Santa Fe into the front passenger seat of the Grand Prix. Witnesses described that a fight between the two males broke out inside the Grand Prix, which then spilled out the driver's door into the parking lot. Witnesses reported that the males then separated from each other, and the decedent began picking up money which had also fallen out of the car and onto the ground.

One of the independent witnesses described that as he was watching the decedent picking up the money, and as the decedent was still partially bent over, the defendant produced a handgun. The witness reported that the defendant closed some of the short distance between the two and shot the decedent. The same witness described in detail that once the decedent began to pick up the money, the defendant had ample time and opportunity to flee. He further reported that once outside the vehicle, the decedent did not appear to be armed in any way, nor did he make any physical or verbal threats towards the defendant.

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

Gary Patterson
Detective
11155 Robinson Drive NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Electronically Signed:
11/25/2020 08:58 AM
Anoka County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Wade A. Kish
Assistant County Attorney
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-2265
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:
11/25/2020 08:46 AM

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 2100 Third Avenue, 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 25, 2020.

Judicial Officer

Jenny Walker Jasper

Physically Signed: 11/25/2020 09:00 AM

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

**COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Vaughn Jarod Coklas

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: