

Two New York State Residents Indicted for Murder of Atlantic City Man

MAYS LANDING, NJ –Howard Griswold, 24, of Baldwinsville, NY, and Melissa Tikarem, 28, of Manlius, NY were indicted by an Atlantic County Grand Jury today murder and accompanying charges for the January 20, 2024 death of Christian Hunter, 32, from Atlantic City, NJ.

On January 20, 2024, at approximately 7:19 p.m., the Atlantic City Police Department received a ShotSpotter alert for multiple gunshots in the area of 119 N. Virginia Avenue. Officers arrived at the scene and located Hunter unresponsive on the sidewalk with multiple gunshot wounds. He was transported to the AtlantiCare Medical Center, City Division, where he was pronounced deceased. A subsequent autopsy procedure performed by the New Jersey South Regional Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death was a gunshot wound and the manner of death was determined to be homicide.

When he was found, Mr. Hunter's pockets had been turned out and his cell phone was missing. Surveillance captured the victim leaving his house and walking a short distance away. Surveillance then recorded the sound of two gunshots followed by a male voice saying, "Give me that shit" and shortly thereafter a Nissan Rogue fleeing the scene where Mr. Hunter's body was found. The Nissan was registered to Melissa Tikaram. Tikaram was recorded on surveillance driving the Nissan following the murder, as well as having a passenger in the car with her.

Friends of the victim called his phone after he had been killed, and it was answered by a man later identified as Howard Griswold. Griswold was staying in a room registered to Melissa Tikaram at Resorts Hotel & Casino. The Nissan seen fleeing the scene of the murder was also found in the Resorts parking lot.

Phone records indicate that Tikaram was in contact with the victim immediately prior to his being shot. Phone records also indicate an ongoing relationship between Tikaram and Griswold.

This investigation was conducted by the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office's Major Crimes Unit and the Atlantic City Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*****

Anyone with information about this incident or other serious crimes are asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crime Unit at 609-909-7666 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Website at ACPO.Tips and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page.

People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.



Griswold



Tikarem