

# Man says fatal shooting at Kansas City liquor store was done in self-defense

BY NATHAN PILLING  
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A man said he had been defending himself when he fatally shot another man who grabbed his gun at a Kansas City liquor store on Monday, according to court documents.

Another man, who was with the man who died, allegedly pulled a gun during a struggle for the initial weapon and was charged with murder for his connection to the shooting.

Kansas City police identified the man who was killed as 18-year-old Donovan Booker.

Jackson County prosecutors announced on Tuesday that 18-year-old Jeremiah Williamson of Kansas City has been charged — in Jackson County Circuit Court —

with second-degree murder for the death of a person during the perpetration of an attempted robbery, as well as first-degree attempted robbery and armed criminal action.

“Sometimes, the choices we make and the company we keep can have devastating and lifelong consequences,” Jackson County Prosecutor Melesa Johnson said in a statement.

“Under Missouri law, when someone is killed during the perpetration of a felony, attempted felony or flight of a felony, any of the participants can be held accountable for felony murder. If convicted, the defendant could face 10 to 30 years in prison.

“I am proud of the swift work led by the Kansas City Police Department and our prosecution team. We’ll continue to work

together to hold those who endanger our community accountable.”

Officers responded around 6 p.m. on Monday to the Liquor Xpress store at the intersection of East 9th Street and Prospect Avenue on a shooting call and found a man suffering from gunshot trauma. He was taken to an area hospital and was later declared dead.

Officers also found the man who called 911, reporting he had shot someone else in self-defense, and Williamson, at the business. The police officers found “signs of a disturbance” near the entrance of the business and recovered two firearms, five shell casings and 33 live rounds near the front door, according to court documents.

The man who said he shot in self-defense

(whose name is redacted in the court documents related to Williamson’s charges) told police he had been at the store with his girlfriend and was talking to the cashier when the other man (Booker) grabbed a pistol that was in his pocket. The two men struggled over the weapon, and during the fight, the first man said the man he shot — Booker — told his companion — Williamson — who allegedly had pulled a weapon from his waistband, to “Hurry up and shoot him,” according to court documents.

The first man, according to court documents, said he was able to get control of the weapon and fired at Booker.

“(The man who fired) stated he did not want to shoot anyone, but he was afraid for his own safety and the safety of his girlfriend as the incident was occurring,” a police detective wrote in court documents.

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# Funeral services, memorial procession set for slain KC firefighter-paramedic

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Memorial services for Kansas City firefighter-paramedic Graham Hoffman, who was fatally stabbed while working an overtime shift Sunday, will take place Friday, the Kansas City Fire Department announced.

Services will be held at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 1600 State Route 291, in Liberty, the department said. A public visitation will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and a funeral service will take place from 1-2:30 p.m. A memorial procession will leave the church at 3 p.m.

The procession route has not yet been announced, but the department said it would pass by Station 42 in southeast Kansas City, Hoffman’s last assignment.

Hoffman was stabbed while on a call early Sunday morning in Kansas City’s Northland, as he and another paramedic were transporting a woman in an ambulance to an area hospital, according to court documents.

Callers reportedly had seen the woman, identified as Shanetta Bossell, walking in the area of State Highway 152 and North Oak Trafficway and had asked police to check on her, authorities said. The woman was bleeding from a cut on the hand, and reluctantly agreed to be taken to a hospital. During that trip, Bossell allegedly stabbed Hoffman in the heart, police said.

Authorities said Bossell then jumped into the driv-

er’s seat of the ambulance and attempted to put the vehicle in gear as the other paramedic was treating Hoffman. She also allegedly bit a police officer during a struggle as he tried to take her into custody. More officers arrived, and they arrested her.

Bossell has been charged with first-degree murder, armed criminal action, third-degree assault of a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest in Clay County. Last week, in another case, Bossell was charged with allegedly biting an off-duty police officer and deemed “a danger to the public.” She bonded out of jail on Friday, less than two days before the fatal attack.

Hoffman, 29, joined the Kansas City Fire Department in 2022.

In a statement Sunday, Kansas City Fire Chief Ross Grundyson described Graham as a dedicated professional, a skilled paramedic and a vibrant person who loved serving his community.

“The Kansas City Fire Department grieves with Graham’s family, friends, and loved ones,” he said. “This is a senseless act that has taken a great young man from his family, friends, and coworkers, and deprived our city of a dedicated firefighter, and a leader on and off the job who only wanted to serve and protect those in his community.”

Previous reporting from The Star’s Robert Cronkleton was used in this story.

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# Trump signs executive order to lessen tariff burden on auto industry

BY GABRIELLE COPPOLA AND HADRIANA LOWENKRON  
Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump signed an executive order easing the impact of his auto tariffs, yielding to weeks of intense lobbying from automakers, parts suppliers and car dealers who warned excessive levies could push up car prices, triggering plant shutdowns and job losses.

Under the executive order, signed aboard Air Force One, imported automobiles were given a reprieve from separate tariffs on aluminum and steel, an effort to prevent multiple levies from piling on top of each other.

“I have now determined that, to the extent these tariffs apply to the same article, these tariffs should not all have a cumulative effect (or “stack” on top of one another) because the rate of duty resulting from such stacking exceeds what is necessary to achieve the intended policy goal,” Trump said in the order.

Additionally, administration officials say Trump will change 25% tariffs on auto parts planned to start on Saturday by allowing carmakers who produce and sell completed automobiles in the U.S. to claim an offset worth up to 3.75% of the value of an American-made vehicle, a senior Commerce Department official said.

The offset will reduce in one year to as much as 2.5% of the car’s value, and then be eliminated the following year, a bid to motivate domestic manufacturing. The offset will

be available for cars that were produced after April 3.

Trump softened his stance ahead of a trip to Michigan, where he marked the first 100 days of his second term in the White House with a speech in Macomb County, a conservative suburb of Detroit that’s home to many of the blue-collar workers the president says his tariffs are meant to help.

While Trump’s latest tweaks will lighten the cost burden on car manufacturers, suppliers and dealers, it’s too early to tell how much financial relief they really bring. The industry is still grappling with a 25% duty on imported vehicles that threatens to significantly raise industry costs and pressure supply chains.

The industry had also been awaiting details from the administration on how to calculate tariff costs for auto parts, sowing confusion and forcing some plants to pause production as car companies game out different scenarios and spar with suppliers over who will shoulder the bulk of the new costs.

That instability was on display earlier Tuesday when General Motors Co. withdrew earnings guidance for the year and postponed a call with investors to give executives time to digest the new rules and their impact on their financial outlook.

Carmakers have so far been holding prices steady as they try to calm worries that Trump’s 25% tariff on imported cars will drive up costs by thousands of dollars. Fear that those



STEPHANIE AMADOR The Tennessean file/USA TODAY NETWORK

The new 2025 Murano is starting production exclusively at Nissan Smyrna Assembly Plant in Smyrna, Tenn., on Dec. 3, 2024.

levies could push up sticker prices drove a surge in sales in the first quarter.

**TRUMP PREDICTS CHINA WOULD ‘EAT’ TARIFFS**

Trump said China deserved the steep tariffs he imposed on their exports and predicted Beijing could find a way to reduce their impact on U.S. consumers.

“You don’t know whether or not China’s going to eat it. China probably will eat those tariffs,” Trump said Tuesday in an interview with ABC News. “China was making 1 trillion dollars a year. They were ripping us off like nobody has ever ripped us off. Almost every country in the world was ripping us off. They’re not doing that anymore.”

Trump said he did not believe hard times were ahead for U.S. consumers, while acknowledging that his 145% tariffs on many Chinese goods amounted to a near-embargo. “That’s good,” Trump said. “They deserve it.”

The defiant remarks from Trump come just days after the Trump administration signaled it was looking to repair damaged trade relations with Beijing and convince Chinese officials to enter trade negotiations.

They also come as the tariffs’ early impacts on U.S. consumers begin to emerge. Chinese retail app Temu, popular for its bottom-barrel prices, already appears to be passing down most of Trump’s new import taxes to American shoppers.

And rival fast-fashion giant Shein Group Ltd. has raised the U.S. prices of

some products ahead of imminent levies on small parcels, including an average rise of 51% for the top 100 products in its beauty and health category from last week, with several items more than doubling in price.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported that the U.S. would be willing to phase in lighter China tariffs over five years, with White House officials saying that relief was on the table. Trump told reporters then that China was “going to do fine” once talks settled and that he’d be willing to “substantially” pare back his levies.

Despite senior administration officials repeatedly predicting China would be forced to the negotiating table, talks have not commenced. Earlier Tuesday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said China could lose 10 million jobs because of the tariffs – but declined to detail any specific negotiations underway between the two nations.

“I’m not going to get into the nitty-gritty again of who’s talking to whom, but as I said, I believe for the Chinese, these tariffs are unsustainable,” Bessent said.

Trump told ABC News that Americans should not be surprised by his tariff regime, saying the levies were necessary to address trade deficits and revive domestic manufacturing.

“I said all of these things during my campaign,” Trump said. “I said, ‘You’re gonna have a transition period.’ We’ve been ripped off by every country all over the world.”

# Kansas City firefighters battle blaze in vacant building at 8th St. and Woodland Ave.

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Kansas City firefighters worked to extinguish a blaze in a vacant building at the corner of East 8th Street and Woodland Avenue on Tuesday evening.

Staff at a nearby fire station spotted a column of smoke around 7 p.m. and responded to the building, where they found a full working fire, said Battalion Chief Michael Hopkins with the Kansas City Fire Department. Firefighters entered the building and made it to the structure’s second floor but had to drop back because the fire had progressed too far, he said.

No injuries were reported.

The building is adjacent to a City Union Mission

building on 8th Street. Elizabeth Miller, with the mission, said the fire was next to the organization’s warehouse.

“At the time of the fire, no one was present inside of the building,” Miller said. “Our security team is monitoring the situation as it unfolds. To the best of our knowledge we have not sustained damage.”

Firefighters continued to work at putting out the fire around 8:30 p.m. Hopkins said the roof had burned, and the second floor of the building was fully engulfed in flames.

“We won’t know much for a while,” he said. “Based on the extent of the damage, it’s going to make the investigation very difficult as well.”

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