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AUTOPSY REPORT

DECEDENT: Michael Brown  
18 year old Black male

DATE OF DEATH: August 9, 2014

DATE OF AUTOPSY: August 10, 2014

PLACE OF AUTOPSY: Office of the Medical Examiner, St. Louis County

PROSECTOR:

CAUSE OF DEATH: Gunshot wounds of head and chest

MANNER OF DEATH: Homicide

DATE OF RE-AUTOPSY:

PLACE OF RE-AUTOPSY: St. Louis, Missouri

PROSECTOR:

CAUSE OF DEATH: Gunshot wounds (7) of head, chest and right upper  
extremity incurred in police encounter.

MANNER OF DEATH: Homicide

### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a previously autopsied and embalmed, well-developed, well-nourished Black male appearing the stated age of 18 years, measuring 77 inches in height and weighing approximately 285 pounds. The previous thoraco-abdominal and intermastoid autopsy incisions are sutured closed. Examination of the clothing he was wearing when shot, at St. Louis Police headquarters, shows small dried blood drops on his khaki shorts and yellow socks most consistent with drops from the hand wound.

### GUNSHOT WOUNDS

There are seven bullet tracks in the body and an additional track in the right upper chest that is most consistent with being a re-entrance bullet wound continuation of the facial wound.

The first wound was in the right hand and occurred at the patrol car as confirmed by skin tissue found on the car. It was the only close wound. The bullet entered the palm of the right hand at the base of the thumb and proceeded tangentially through skin and soft tissues for a distance of two inches exiting near to the wrist. Police photographs taken before the first autopsy show black soot on skin and the microscopic sections show gunshot particulate matter under the skin that indicate that the gun was within inches of the hand when discharged. The other gunshot wounds show no such discharge residues.

There are three wounds of the right upper and lower arm:

- An entrance perforation through the back of the right forearm about seven inches from the elbow that proceeds horizontally through the ulna bone and exits through the front of the forearm;
- A tangential superficial laceration of the upper arm near to the elbow through the skin and soft tissues in the biceps area that produces insufficient characteristics to determine whether it came from the front or from the back;
- An entrance perforation through the front of the upper arm near to the chest that proceeds through soft tissues and exits the back of the arm.

There are three gunshot tracks in the head, face and chest with three bullets recovered at the first autopsy:

- One bullet struck the very top of Mr. Brown's head just to the right of the midline and proceeded downward and to the right through the brain and skull bones and was recovered from the soft tissues on the right side of the face;
- Another bullet struck the forehead just to the right of the midline and proceeded downward and to the right lacerating the skin of the eyebrow, perforating the right eye and exiting through the skin of the right lower jaw. There is a re-entrance perforation through the adjacent skin of the upper chest and a track through the clavicle and lung that continues to the right posterior third rib where the bullet was recovered;

- A third bullet entered the right side of the chest 1-1/2 inches lower than the upper chest clavicle re-entrance perforation and also continued downward and to the right fracturing the eight rib from where it was recovered.

Given Mr. Brown's height, his head had to be bent downward with his face near parallel to the ground and the top of his head facing the shooter when the gun was discharged to produce the head and face tracks. In that bent over position the three bullets would have had to have travelled approximately parallel to the ground to produce the head, forehead and chest perforations only inches apart and then continue in similar trajectories downward and to the right. The exit perforation of the facial wound at the right lower jaw then lines up with the re-entrance wound through the clavicle.

Mr. Brown would have lost consciousness immediately from the head wound and his face would have been unprotected when he collapsed to the roadway. This would be the most likely cause for the fresh abrasions over the bony prominences on the right side of his forehead and cheek as they appear in the police photographs taken before the first autopsy.

## INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The dissected organs are present in the thoraco-abdominal cavity and are not embalmed.

Lungs: There are lacerations of the right lung with surrounding parenchymal hemorrhage.

Neck organs: Unremarkable. There is no injury to the skin of the neck, to the soft tissues of the neck, nor to the larynx or hyoid bone.

Brain shows lacerations.

Heart, liver, kidneys, spleen and other organs are unremarkable.

Extremities: There are no injuries to the backs of the hands or fingers.

## TOXICOLOGY

Toxicologic examination of blood shows evidence of recent marijuana use and the presence of no other drugs of abuse.

## HISTOLOGY

Examination of microscopic slides at the Medical Examiner's Office show the presence of gunshot material in skin from the right hand wound that is evidence that the gun was within inches of the palm of the hand at the moment of discharge.

Examination of the material removed from the outside of the patrol car shows it to be a fragment of human skin.

## ANATOMIC DIAGNOSES

There are seven bullet tracks that enter:

1. Palm of right hand, tangential. Close discharge.
2. Back of right forearm through ulna bone, exits in front.
3. Right upper arm, near to elbow, tangential, through skin and soft tissues. Direction indeterminate.
4. Front of right upper arm, near to chest, exits back of arm.
5. Top of head, right of midline, proceeds downward and to the right, through brain, bullet recovered from soft tissues right side of face.
6. Forehead, right of midline, proceeds downward and to the right, through the eye and facial bones and exits right lower jaw; it re-enters the right upper chest through the clavicle and is recovered from near the third posterior rib.
7. Right side of chest, proceeds downward and to the right through soft tissues and fractures the eighth rib from where it was recovered.

Cause of death: Gunshot wounds (7) of head, chest and right upper extremity incurred in police encounter.

Manner of death: Homicide.