

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUPERIOR COURT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

United States

v.

JOSEPH RANDOLPH MAYS

On Saturday, March 21st, 2009, members of the Metropolitan Police Department Fifth Police District received a radio run to “investigate the trouble” at the location of 2000 Maryland Avenue, Northeast, apartment #104. Sgt. Tyshena Wallace of cruiser 553 arrived on the scene and began knocking on the door. Sgt. Wallace heard a voice from within the apartment saying, “no, stop.” Sgt. Wallace did not hear anything else. Sgt. Wallace called the dispatcher and advised her to utilize the call back. The dispatcher advised that every time she called the phone number, the call intercept came on blocking the call. Sgt. Wallace asked the dispatcher, “what was the call for” and the dispatcher advised, “a child screaming on the phone possibly playing.” Officer Karim arrived on the scene and began knocking on the door while Sgt. Wallace began calling the residence. Sgt. Wallace could hear the phone ringing within the apartment, but no one responded to the phone call. Captain Lamar West arrived on the scene and approved forced entry into the apartment. The fire board was requested to respond to the scene. Thereafter the fire board arrived on the scene and forced entry into the apartment. Upon attempting to gain entry the firemen had difficulties opening the door. Upon pushing the door open a fireman screamed, “we have a male child on the floor by the door bleeding!” This victim was later identified as 10-year-old “D. P.” The difficulty of the door being opened was due to the fact that there was a bar “propped” up behind the door, barricading the door for entry. Sgt. Wallace requested medical personnel to respond to the scene. Once inside, Sgt. Wallace and Officer Karim began to clear the apartment for safety. The officers walked to the rear of the apartment and observed a black female laying unconscious and unresponsive in the hallway. This victim was later identified as 37-year-old Erika Peters. Proceeding down the hallway to the door on the left, which was locked, Officer Karim kicked the door open and observed a black adult male (subsequently identified as defendant Joseph Mays) laying face down on the floor, attempting to appear unconscious. Officer Karim observed a large hunting knife on a small dresser next to the defendant. Sgt. Wallace also observed a female toddler, kneeling on the floor crying, toward the left of the defendant.

Officer Karim began to search the next room to the right which is the bathroom. Inside the bathroom, Officer Karim located another victim, unconscious and unresponsive. This victim was later identified as 11-year-old “E. P.” The fire board attended to D. P., carried him out the apartment, and transported him to Children’s Hospital. Moments later additional medics began carrying out the defendant on a stretcher and transported him to MedStar.

Detectives M .W. Johnson and Douglas Reynolds responded to the Washington Hospital Center MedStar Unit to check on the status of the defendant. The defendant provided his name as Joseph Randolph Mays, residing at 2000 Maryland Avenue, Northeast, apartment #104. The defendant also correctly stated the date and provided his correct phone number. When the defendant was asked, “what happened?” the defendant stated, “my girlfriend and her son [E. P.]

has been fucking with me for the past three days, I was fixing my little girl's hair." Detective Johnson stopped the defendant and asked him "how old is your little girl?" The defendant replied, "three years old." The defendant then stated, "I told them to stop fucking with me, they would not leave me." The rest of the statement was unclear to the detectives. When the detective again asked the defendant happened, the defendant stated that he "blacked out" and could not remember. The defendant was taken to X-ray and the interviewed ended.

Medical personnel found that the defendant had superficial wounds to the left side of his chest. According to the treating physician, these wounds appeared to be self-inflicted.

Pursuant to additional investigation it was determined that the apartment was barricaded from the inside and there was no blood outside of the apartment. Decedent Ericka Peters was found laying supine in the hallway of the apartment suffering from multiple stab wounds to the chest, face, and head, with defensive wounds to the hands. The juvenile E. P. was observed in the back bathroom laying with his back against the base of the wall next to the toilet, suffering multiple stab wounds to the chest and one large laceration to the right side of head. The second juvenile D.P. was observed at Children's Hospital by detectives R. Cephas and E. Fenton of the Homicide Unit with an apparent stab wound to the back of the neck, head and right ear. Juvenile D.P. was pronounced dead at Children's Hospital by Dr. Kline at 2:40 p.m.

A knife and a hand-written note were found on the scene. Specifically, the defendant was found in a locked bedroom in the apartment. In that same bedroom, within the defendant's reach, officers observed a large, hunting-style knife with blood on it. The tip of the knife was broken off. The knife was positioned on top of a hand-written note. Only parts of the note were legible, including the phrases, "I'm sorry . . . I tried to make it work . . ."

MPD homicide detectives interviewed a witness (W-1) who is a relative of the victims. According to W-1, the two male victims had reported to IT that on many occasions the defendant would throw them down to the ground, place his knee on the back of their necks, pin their arms behind their backs, and beat them. W-1 indicated that IT has seen the male victims with black eyes as if they had been assaulted. The male victims reported being terrified of the defendant. W-1 further indicated that if the male victims learned that they were going to be left alone with the defendant they would call a relative to come pick them up because they were afraid to be left alone with the defendant.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Investigator Sheree Jameson responded to the scene and pronounced Ericka Peters and juvenile E. P. dead at 9:59 p.m. All three bodies were transported to the Medical Examiner's office pending autopsies. Deputy Medical Examiner Sarah Colvin performed autopsies on the three decedents. Dr. Colvin concluded that the cause of death for all three decedents was stab wounds and the manner of death for all three decedents was homicide. More specifically, all three decedents had been stabbed through the skull. Decedent Erika Peters had suffered the most stab wounds, with more than one dozen stab wounds to the chest alone. Additionally, a small piece of metal, consisted with the tip of a knife, was found embedded in the right rear portion of her skull.

Further investigation revealed that Joseph Randolph Mays was involved in a relationship with Erika Peters, who is was the mother of all three children found at the scene. The defendant is not the father of male juvenile decedents, but is the natural father of the three-year-old female toddler, who was uninjured. Once the defendant was released from the hospital, he was

transported to the Homicide Unit at 3244 Pennsylvania Avenue Southeast, Washington D.C., where he was advised of his rights and processed.

Accordingly, your affiant believes there is probable cause to believe that the defendant committed three counts of second degree murder while armed.

Subscribed and sworn before me this day of 2009

Police Officer Badge District Deputy Clerk