



St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



Media Relations Office
Bill Proffitt
Mike Puetz

Voice 727-893-7550
Fax 727-893-7773
Media Line 727-893-7878

For Immediate Release

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Detectives Investigate Homicide Which Resulted From a Shooting Saturday Morning

Victim: Eric Maurice Whitfield, B/M, 07/18/68 of 5427 56 Avenue North, Kenneth City

At about 2:47 a.m., Saturday morning, January 8th, 2011, officers were in the vicinity of the Something Different Bar at 2420 Central Avenue when they heard several gunshots and responded to the scene.

There they observed a large crowd in front of the bar fleeing the area on foot and in cars. More shots were heard as officers attempted to make their way into the crowd to investigate further.

Additional officers responded to the scene and the area around the bar was secured, however no gunshot victims or suspects were identified at that time. Expended shell casings were found in the street and a small amount of blood was observed on curb in front of 2433 Central Avenue.

Later in the morning at about 4:00 a.m., the Pinellas County Sheriffs Office contacted our agency concerning a gunshot victim who was found within their jurisdiction.

The subject, later identified as the victim Whitfield, had apparently been shot outside the Something Different Bar, but had left the scene and went home to 5427 56 Avenue North, Kenneth City where he was found by his girlfriend inside his car. She brought him inside the house and then called for medical assistance.

Whitfield was transported to Bayfront Medical Center in critical condition and passed away at about 8:30 a.m. this morning.

Whitfield had just been released from prison a few days earlier where he had been serving a 15 year sentence for manslaughter and narcotics charges.

Anyone who may have knowledge concerning this case is asked to call Detective Rodney Tower at 727-892-5008 or the St. Petersburg Police Tip Line at 727-892-5000 or Text a Tip at 727-420-8911.

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