



# St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



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## For Immediate Release

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## Detectives Charge Suspect in the Shooting Death of Eric Whitfield

Arrested Suspect: Ontario Lamont Thompson, a.k.a. Ontereo Reid, B/M, 11/15/81 of 2744 3 Avenue South, St. Petersburg

Victim: Eric Maurice Whitfield, B/M, 07/18/68 of 5427 56 Avenue North, St. Petersburg

Ontario Thompson was charged yesterday evening with 2nd degree murder in the shooting death of Eric Whitfield which took place at approximately 2:47 a.m., Saturday morning, January 8th, 2011 outside the Something Different Bar at 2420 Central Avenue.

Thompson was initially arrested on Thursday, January 13th 2011 and remained in custody on several outstanding warrants for violation of probation. He has been questioned by homicide detectives and admitted his involvement in the shooting.

Detectives advise that acquaintances of Thompson became involved in a confrontation with the victim Whitfield inside the bar which then escalated into a brawl outside. During that incident, Thompson produced a handgun and shot Whitfield six times before fleeing the scene.

Whitfield also fled the scene with the assistance of his acquaintances and was driven back home to 5427 56 Avenue North, St. Petersburg without contacting the police or seeking medical assistance.

He was found by his girlfriend inside his car parked in the driveway and she brought him inside the house where she called for medical assistance.

Whitfield was transported to Bayfront Medical Center in critical condition and passed away at about 8:30 a.m., Monday, January 10th, 2011.

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