



VERDICT AT CORONER'S INQUEST

File No.:2011:270-0016

An Inquest was held at Coroners Courtroom, in the municipality of Burnaby in the Province of British Columbia, on the following dates July 30 - 31, 2012 before Marj Paonessa, Presiding Coroner, into the death of BARNES Darrell Elroy 48 Male into the death of BARNES Darrell Elroy 48 Male and the following findings were made:

Date and Time of Death: July 22, 2011 2100 hours

Place of Death: Vancouver General Hospital Vancouver, British Columbia (Location) (Municipality/Province)

Medical Cause of Death

(1) Immediate Cause of Death: a) Multiple gunshot wounds. DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Antecedent Cause if any: b) DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF

Giving rise to the immediate cause (a) above, stating underlying cause last. c)

(2) Other Significant Conditions Contributing to Death: Methamphetamine and Cocaine Intoxication

Classification of Death: Accidental Homicide Natural Suicide Undetermined

The above verdict certified by the Jury on the 31st day of July AD, 2012.

MARJ PAONESSA Presiding Coroner's Printed Name

Paonessa Presiding Coroner's Signature

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FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF

FILE No.: 2011:270:0016

BARNES

SURNAME

Darrell Elroy

GIVEN NAMES

PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE INQUEST:

Presiding Coroner: Ms. Marj Paonessa

Inquest Counsel: Mr. Chris Godwin

Court Reporting/Recording Agency: Verbatim Words West Ltd.

Counsel/Participants: Mr. Bronson Toy, counsel for the Vancouver Police Department

The Sheriff took charge of the jury and recorded eight exhibits as entered. Fifteen witnesses were duly sworn and testified.

PRESIDING CORONER'S SUMMARY:

The following is a brief summary of the circumstances of the death as presented to the jury at the inquest. The summary and my comments respecting the recommendations, if any, are only provided to assist the reader to more fully understand the Verdict and Recommendations of the jury. This summary is not intended to be considered evidence nor is it intended in any way to replace the jury's verdict.

At approximately 2030 hours on July 22, 2011, Vancouver Police dispatch received the report of a man, later identified as Darrell Elroy Barnes, walking down the sidewalk near Dunlevy and Cordova Street carrying a large machete. A few moments later, dispatch reported that Mr. Barnes was now walking westbound in the 300 block of Powell Street. Uniformed officers working in the area responded to the location. Witnesses described Mr. Barnes as swinging the machete back and forth by his leg as he quickly walked down the street.

One of the first officers to arrive on scene was trained as a bean bag shotgun operator. This weapon is a 12 gauge shotgun that fires a bean bag. It can be used to avoid a potentially deadly confrontation by causing non-lethal injury to a person who poses a threat to police or others. The officer retrieved the shotgun from his trunk. His partner provided lethal coverage with her service pistol. They quickly walked behind Mr. Barnes on the same side of the street. Both officers noted a number of civilians were in the immediate vicinity. Both officers testified that they called out, identified themselves as police officers and demanded that he stop. Mr. Barnes turned around, looked at the officers and raised the machete above his shoulder. He was instructed to drop the weapon. Mr. Barnes began to wave the machete in an erratic manner horizontally in a figure eight motion while staring at the officers with what they described as a flat affect.

Mr. Barnes raised the machete and walked towards the officers. The bean bag shot gun was discharged causing Mr. Barnes to stumble and lose his balance. He maintained his hold on the machete and continued to move forward. The officer deployed all six bean bags rounds which had no significant effect on Mr. Barnes. The officers gave evidence that they continuously yelled at him to stop and drop his weapon, but he did not comply. The officers, fearing for their safety and that of the nearby pedestrians, fired their service pistols at Mr. Barnes. Mr. Barnes stumbled and fell to the sidewalk. Resuscitation efforts were initiated and emergency personnel transported him to Vancouver General Hospital where he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.



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The postmortem examination confirmed multiple gunshot wounds were present in the right shoulder, right chest, left flank and hip and the right ear and neck. Toxicology studies confirmed the presence of a moderate amount of alcohol as well as heroin and cocaine within the lethal range. The Jury heard evidence that cocaine is a stimulant that can cause psychosis and a condition known as excited delirium whereby the person demonstrates extremely combative behavior, high pain tolerance and display inordinate strength.

At the conclusion of evidence, the Jury classified the death as homicide and put forward no recommendations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Paonessa".

Marj Paonessa
Presiding Coroner