

Chief Jackson: Good afternoon. This is very difficult for me very difficult, very frustrating day for me.

Chief Jackson: On June 29th, early this morning at 12:21 AM. My officers responded to the unit block of West Street for report of a victim suffering from gunshot wounds. Officers arrived at that location and located an adult female victim suffering from a gunshot wound officers and emergency medical services personnel attempted all saving measures, but the victim was pronounced deceased at the scene. The victim was identified as Michelle Jordan Cummings. She's an African-American female 57 years of age who resides in Houston, Texas. Our preliminary investigation reveals that the victim was sitting on the patio area at a local hotel and was not the intended target at this time. The investigation at this time in investigation is believed that the shots were fired on Pleasant Street and traveled a short distance shooting. This is an active and fluid investigation, and we urge anyone with information about this incident to contact detectives at (410) 260-3439.

Chief Jackson: You can also call Metro Crime Stoppers at 1-866-7LOCKUP and submit an anonymous tip. If your tip leadsto an arrest and indictment, you may be eligible for a cash reward for up to \$2,000. I'd also like to state real quick before I turn it over to the mayor that we have detectives from the Annapolis PD working 24 hours a day, I've authorized the detectives to work around the clock to follow up on any investigative leads. Very tragic story. Ms. Cummings and her husband brought their son to settle in. He was to be inducted into the United States Naval Academy. He's also a prospect for the football team, so it turned out to be a celebratory occasion for the family, celebrating their side and going into one of the best institutions in the United States turned into a tragic event. So after I turn it over to the mayor will gladly answer any questions and give you any updates that we have that we can reveal. Thank you. This is I'm going to turn it over to Mayor Gavin Buckley.

Mayor Buckley: So this city's heart is broken. Somebody has lost their mum on the most proudest day probably of her life. So there are no circumstances where this can be tolerated. My sympathies, go out to the family. We are focused on getting guns off the street, but it only takes one criminal with a gun for the results to be tragic. This was a horrific, horrific outcome for the kind of everyday gun violence that many across America have seen Annapolis, sadly is not immune. We have deployed a crisis intervention team to assist the victims family. Chief Jackson has been updating me regularly on the status and every resource is being deployed to solve this case. The perpetrators will be found and they will be held to account. Thank you.

Mayor Buckley: I just want to tell you who is with me head of public safety Alderwoman, Rhonda Pindell, Charles. The Alderwoman for this Ward, Alderwoman Ellie Tierney. Here deputy chief Brandford, Alderwoman Sheila Finlayson and of course, Chief

Jackson and Michelle Stevenson, the city's public information officer. We can now take questions,

Reporter: Chief Jackson, can you come to the podium please? Quick question for you. What leads you to believe that this woman was an innocent bystander?

Chief Jackson: Well, I'll say this there's nothing in her background. She was here to bring her son to the Naval academy. She's not from the city. She's from Houston, Texas. She was with friends, another set of parents who was there to bring their son to the Naval academy as well. They, you know, got together to socialize when this unfortunate thing happened.

Reporter: You said he was a prospect

Chief Jackson: Football prospect for the United States Naval academy. Okay.

Reporter: And how many times was this woman shot?

Chief Jackson: That's yet to be determined. She was shot more than once.

Reporter: And did you recover any shell casings?

Chief Jackson: I don't want to talk about that part of it as yet. We'll we'll do a follow-up and I'll give you an update,

Speaker 5: But you have recovered. Have you checked surveillance cameras or ring cameras in the area to see if they perhaps would have captured the shooter or a description of the shooters

Chief Jackson: As we speak, we have detectives who were working around the clock, a big part of what they're going to do as they work around the clock is to look at closed circuit, TV, both private and public cameras. We've obtained warrants to look at cameras in and around the area. That's probably, we'll probably look at most of the cameras in the city of Annapolis.

Reporter: Suppose the shooter is watching this, like now, what do you say to them?

Chief Jackson: I say to the shooter or any other shooter, first of all, my heart does go out to the family. I mean, I've had a rough day because I'm a parent. And you come here with the expectation to see your son go on the journey. And one of the most exciting times of life only to be met by a reckless shooter. So what I'll say to the shooter, turn yourself in we're coming after you, as we get into the summer, we're not gonna tolerate this. We going to come after you, you know, we want you to come and enjoy the city of Annapolis, but the one thing that we're not going to tolerate is this lawlessness.

Reporter: And were there witnesses that you've identified?

Chief Jackson: We still working on that we've received several calls. We're still investigating that probably one of the calls came from the hotel, but we're, we're working on that. They were together. And another couple I can't confirm that I won't confirm that right now.

Reporter: What were the circumstances of being out on the patio at 1230

Chief Jackson: Just enjoying themselves at night, hot night, they were enjoying the breeze. They knew each other because their sons had went through the the Naval academy of preparatory program. And I believe it's in Rhode Island. And so they knew each other when, when they went to see their sons off for their induction and there's the plebe process. They recognize each other and they thought they get together and just kind of talk to each other and celebrate. I mean, if my son was going to the Naval academy, it'd be a proud moment for me. And so they were just true victims just sitting there enjoying themselves

Reporter: Was there another incident on Pleasant street that you were aware of, that this may have spilled out on.

Chief Jackson: Yeah. Shot shots were fired on Pleasant street. And we're still investigating that. We know that a couple of shots were fired on Pleasant street and those were the fatal shot possibly. I don't want to give out any information before it's confirmed. We're looking into that, but we know that the Pleasant street incident was separate. There was an assault on president president pleasant street. I'm sorry, there was an assault on pleasant street. Multiple shots were fired at a, at, at individuals and a parked car. And unfortunately one of the shots made it to the hotel parking lot where the victim and her husband along with another couple were just enjoying the night.

Reporter: Can you release the name of the Navy Midshipman?

Chief Jackson: Not at this time, any other victims along well, we have, if you count the victims who were shot at, we consider them victims as well. They weren't struck, but they are victims as well. So we're investigating that too. The ones See people inside a parked car who were shot at yes,

Reporter: how common are shootings in that part of the city.

Chief Jackson: Oh, very rare. And that part of the city, very rare, but as the mayor said as the police chief, first of all, my job is to make sure the city is safe and every time this happens, it's very upsetting. I take it personally. I really do. I want to ensure the citizens, that this is not a common in that area, and we want to make it uncommon and all of Annapolis. But to answer your question, that's since I've been the chief I don't know of a shooting in that area that that's occurred since I've been here. And I believe it's extremely rare. It's very unfortunate and extremely rare.

Reporter: Can you confirm Whether this was at the unit block of west street or the 100, block

Chief Jackson: Unit Block, a unit, a unit block? I believe

Speaker 7: Unit block is like between church circle and Calvert. That'd be like by the Ram's Head, but the Graduate hotels are in the 100 block.

Chief Jackson: OK, 100 block

Reporter: And can you spell the last name of the victim?

Chief Jackson: I believe it's C U M M I N G S. And her first name is Michelle. Michelle, Jordan Cummings, female black 57

Reporter: I just want to make sure to get it.

Chief Jackson: I'm spelling it. M I C H E L L E. Yes, ma'am.

Reporter: And the patio where they were socializing, is it on the, on West street or was it back restaurant on west street right here in front.

Chief Jackson: Yes, sir.

Chief Jackson: And the last name again? Last name is Cummings. C U M M I N G S like the former Congressman Elijah Cummings

Reporter: You cut out a little bit when you were giving the number again?

Chief Jackson: The, the number, yes. The, the number to the detectives. Oh, yes. And we really need you to call us at area code (410) 260-3439. And we'll be taking calls 24 7. And if somebody doesn't answer please call back. We are going to be on the street tonight looking at cameras and anything that we say we're going to follow up. And I wanted to ensure the Cummings family, that we're going to do everything and use every tool at our disposal to come to a successful resolution in this crime.

Reporter: Do you have an idea of how many suspects you may be looking for at this point?

Chief Jackson: No, sir. I don't know. As of yet, that's still being investigated still very early on in the investigation. We have leads. I don't want to get into that at this time, because we're still, we're still sorting this out, but we do have leads

Reporter: [Inaudible] thanks,

Mayor Buckley: I just want to let everyone know that the first thing we did this morning was reached out to Admiral Buck at the academy and he had been up all night with

the families. So not to go out, not only to the families, but to the whole Naval academy family. So this loss, this is a tragic event of a rare event in the city's history, but we all devastated and determined to find out who did this

Reporter: How many Homicides this year. So far,

Mayor Buckley: This is the third homicide this year. Yep.

Reporter: Last question. Was it an elevated patio into the hotel?

Chief Jackson: Yeah, it's a it's it's it's elevated near a parking garage On the level. Yes, sir. That's correct. All right. Thank you. Thanks. We'll wrap it up.