



OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

ANGELO J. ONOFRI

Prosecutor

VELDON HARRIS

Chief of County Detectives

240 West State Street, 8th Floor

P.O. Box 8068

Trenton, New Jersey 08650-0068

Phone: (609) 989-6350

Fax: (609) 989-0161

mercercountyprosecutor.com

DORIS M. GALUCHIE

First Assistant Prosecutor

MICHAEL J. NOVEMBRE

Deputy Chief of County Detectives

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CONTACT: Casey A. DeBlasio
(609) 989-6379

Lawrence Man Indicted in Applebee's Homicide

A Mercer County grand jury returned an indictment this week charging a 27-year-old Lawrence man with the November 2017 murder of Devin Smith, Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

Noel Powell III was indicted on one count of first-degree murder, one count of second-degree unlawful possession of a weapon and one count of second-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose. He remains in the Mercer County Correction Center.

Smith, 23, of Lawrence, was seated at the bar at Applebee's restaurant on Route 1 in Lawrence Township, when he was shot in the head at approximately 12:25 a.m. on November 14, 2017. The suspect, later identified as Powell, then fled the property in a dark-colored SUV. Smith was pronounced dead at the scene. No other injuries were reported. Powell was arrested a few days later by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force and the U.S. Marshals NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force.

Assistant Prosecutor Michael Nardelli presented the case to the grand jury.

Despite having been indicted, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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