



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Office of the District Attorney
Twelfth Judicial District

Scot D. Key
District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2022

CHRISTOPHER HUBLE FOUND GUILTY OF THE 2020 MURDER OF HARLEY BENEDICT

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key, announces an Otero County jury has found Christopher Huble, age 32, of Alamogordo, New Mexico, guilty of First-Degree Murder and Aggravated Battery With a Deadly Weapon, with a firearm enhancement. The jury deliberated a relatively short period of time before returning the guilty verdict to both charges. The three-day trial was held before the Honorable District Judge, Steven Blankinship.

The Defendant had resided at 601 Mercury in the past and had previously resided at this location with the female victim of the Aggravated Battery count. In November of 2019, the Defendant drove his girlfriend to El Paso, Texas, to shop. Rather than accompany the female inside the mall, he borrowed her cell phone and told her he would meet her inside after his phone call. The Defendant, however, did not go inside the mall, but rather, abandoned her and drove back to his residence in Alamogordo, New Mexico. There, he emptied out his residence before her possible return. While the Defendant owned the home, he failed to pay the mortgage for quite some time and decided to let it go into foreclosure. Despite the foreclosure lawsuit, he allowed his former girlfriend to continue to reside in his home.

His now former girlfriend, managed to return to Alamogordo within sixteen hours of her abandonment, to find all of his possessions gone. She eventually found the Defendant living elsewhere, discussed, and agreed she would remain at the Mercury residence until the foreclosure was finalized. The Defendant and female remained friendly despite the abandonment incident in El Paso, Texas.

On August 20, 2020, the Defendant walked to the Mercury residence from his new residence and discovered Harley Benedict in the female's bedroom. A confrontation ensued and the Defendant ordered both the female and Benedict to leave his residence. Benedict refused and invited the Defendant to try and force him to leave. Before leaving the residence, the Defendant told Benedict he would be returning. The Defendant walked to his new residence, retrieved his AK-47 with thirty rounds of ammunition, and drove back to the Mercury residence. Upon arrival, the female exited the residence, to which the Defendant instructed her to, "get her boy." The female went back inside the residence to advise Benedict the Defendant wanted him to come outside. Benedict, shirtless and weaponless, went to the front of the home, and approached the AK-47-armed Defendant, apparently not having seen the weapon. Before Benedict reached the halfway mark of the driveway, the Defendant shot nine or more rounds, which struck and killed Benedict.

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The parties appeared for the scheduled three-day trial from April 18, 2022, through April 20, 2022, where Huble was convicted of First-Degree Murder and Aggravated Battery With a Deadly Weapon, with a firearm enhancement. During the trial, Dr. Clarissa Krinsky from the Office of the Medical Investigator, testified to many wounds, including seven entrance wounds on Benedict's back, and a wound to his head. She described the back and head wounds as being entrance wounds, with soot about the head wound, indicating the shot was approximately one inch or less from Benedict's head.

During his testimony, the Defendant denied ever shooting Benedict in the back, denied shooting the Defendant within an inch of his head, and claimed he never shot Benedict after the initial burst of gunfire to the front of Benedict. The female victim was hit by apparent ricochets from the high velocity ammunition used. Huble's claims were contradictions to two recorded interviews with Detectives that detailed the events of that day.

Responding Officers found the Defendant still at the crime scene, with a very calm attitude, smoking a Marijuana pre-rolled cigarette.

Huble had been in Pre-Trial Detention and held without bond since August 20, 2020. His sentencing was delayed, but under New Mexico law, he is subject to a life sentence on the First-Degree Murder charge and a total of four years on the Aggravated Battery With a Deadly Weapon charge.

This case was investigated by the Major Crimes Unit. The lead Investigators consisted of Kyle Graham of the Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office and Detective, William Lewandowski, of the Alamogordo Police Department.

The Major Crimes Unit (MCU) is comprised of the Twelfth Judicial District Attorney's Office, Alamogordo Police Department, Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, Otero County Sheriff's Department, and the Ruidoso Police Department. The MCU has proven to be a tremendous resource for the entire district, and their cases continue to produce great results in Court.

Huble's case was prosecuted by Twelfth Judicial District Attorney, Scot D. Key.

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