

On Wednesday, November 22, 2023, Detective Wittenberger and Pottstown Police Detective Michael Damiano interviewed Thomas Niarhos, the father of Thomas James Niarhos. Thomas Niarhos stated he received a phone call from a friend who was crying telling him to report to the police department as his son was there. Thomas Niarhos stated his son resided primarily with him since the summer of 2023. Detectives showed Thomas Niarhos a picture of the recovered firearm and he immediately identified the firearm as belonging to him. Thomas Niarhos stated he possessed several firearms and that was the only firearm that was missing from his residence.

Thomas Niarhos stated he recently began locking that specific firearm in his master bedroom, secured in a locked nightstand, however he kept the key in another location in his master bedroom. Mr. Niarhos stated that he had no knowledge that his son took or possessed his firearm. Mr. Niarhos informed detectives that today he found a note in his son's bedroom indicating that his son planned to run away and located a packed bag of clothes and a cellular phone charger in his son's bedroom.

Detectives were able to locate video surveillance in the area that captured this incident. The video depicts Niarhos and Hawkins at the intersection of South Hanover Street and Security Plaza. Niarhos can be seen extending his arm toward Hawkins, at close range, as if holding a firearm. Hawkins appears to attempt to knock the gun out of Niarhos' hand with a bicycle tire, but Niarhos fires one single shot at Hawkins face and Hawkins immediately falls to the ground. As Hawkins is falling to the ground it appears Niarhos fires a second shot at Hawkins, before dropping the gun and quickly walking away toward the parking lot of the Blue Elephant.

A search of Pottstown Police Department records revealed that on July 13, 2023 at 5:58 AM, Pottstown Police found Thomas Niarhos loitering in the area of Security Plaza. Police stopped Niarhos who told them that his girlfriend, ZB was "raped" behind a dumpster near the railroad tracks in the area of Security Plaza. Niarhos told police that a homeless man named "Jay" was responsible for the rape and he (Niarhos) was in the area looking for "Jay". Since Niarhos was in violation of Pottstown's curfew ordinance they transported him to his residence in Stowe.

Due to the allegations made by Niarhos Pottstown Police Detectives were able to identify ZB, who is 16 years old. Pottstown Detectives made contact with ZB's mother on July 13, 2023. ZB's mother told detectives that ZB would only tell her that "something had happened to her" in Pottstown but she would provide no details of the incident. ZB's mother was told that she should take ZB to Childrens Hospital to have a SANE examination. ZB's mother contacted

Pottstown Police Detectives the following day and stated that they did not wish to pursue a criminal investigation into the matter.

On Wednesday, November 22, 2023, Doctor Khalil Wardak, a Forensic Pathologist, conducted an autopsy on the body of Jeramiah Hawkins. Doctor Wardak found that Hawkins had been shot once on the right side of his face, at close range. After the autopsy Doctor Wardak opined that the cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head and the manner of death was homicide.

Based upon the information detailed above we respectfully request a warrant of arrest be issued for Thomas James Niarhos charging him with First Degree Murder and related charges.