

Calvert woman's accused murderer set for April trial

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Liam Cameron Penn

Annapolis, MD - A Suburban Baltimore man indicted for the murder of a Calvert County woman last September in Anne Arundel County is tentatively set to go on trial in April. The defendant—Liam Cameron Penn, 25 of Woodstock—is charged with killing Danielle Valerie Gunson, 18 of Owings and attempting to kill Terence John Caruso Jr. In addition to first-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder, Penn was indicted on four counts of firearm use in a violent crime, attempted second-degree murder and three firearm possession charges including possession of a firearm with a felony conviction.

According to documents on file in the Maryland Court system, “on Thursday, Sept. 27 at approximately 9:21 a.m., members of the Anne Arundel County Police Department and the Baltimore City Police Department responded to the area of the 100th block of Riverside Road, Baltimore for a report of a deceased female located in a wooded area near a business.”

Detective J. DiPietro stated in court documents that the deceased was later identified as Gunson (pictured, left). “The female had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to her person,” DiPietro stated. Later that day, Anne Arundel County Police Department officers responded to a location on Johns Hopkins Road in Crofton where Caruso had been located suffering from gunshot wounds.

On the following day, Anne Arundel investigators “learned that both Danielle Gunson and Terrance Caruso were together up until Thursday, Sept. 27 at approximately 1:30 a.m.,” DiPietro stated. “Investigation revealed that both Gunson and Caruso were last in the company of the defendant prior to Gunson being murdered and Caruso being shot. Investigation learned that the homicide and attempted homicide occurred in the area of Saint Stephens Church Road and Johns Hopkins Road, Crownsville on Thursday, Sept. 27 at approximately 1:30 a.m. investigation also revealed that after Gunson was murdered she was transported to the area of Riverside Road in an apparent attempt to conceal the crime from law enforcement. This information was obtained via witness statements and evidence recovered during the course of the investigation.”

DiPietro stated that Penn was identified as the suspect “based upon the recovery of forensic evidence, digital evidence and witness statements. Investigators also located another witness. That witness advised law enforcement that the defendant confessed to murdering Gunson and shooting Caruso.”

Gunson was a graduate of South River High School.

The state's case against Penn is being prosecuted by Anne Arundel County assistant state's attorneys Natalie D'Antonio and Theresa C. Morse. Penn is being represented by Upper Marlboro-based attorneys Justin T. Eisele and Mirriam Z. Seddiq. Penn is being held without bond.

The trial in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court is currently scheduled to start April 19 and could last as long as six days.

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