

Lexington Park Stabbing Murder Started with a Neighbor Complaint

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The stabbing murder of a 25-year-old Virginia man in Lexington Park last week was the end result of a fist fight that escalated from a confrontation with a neighboring residence.

Shortly before 11:50 p.m. Aug. 3, St. Mary's patrol responded to Mako Way in Lexington Park, for a reported fight.

Upon arrival, officers learned the victim, Edmond Travis Copeland, was stabbed twice after a fight ensued between people at a house party and a neighboring house. Copeland died from the wounds upon arrival at St. Mary's Hospital.

Lt. John Horn, Commander of the St. Mary's Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI), told The Bay Net a few people were involved in the brawl, which continued into a residence, where the victim and suspect were located.

After investigation at the scene, BCI detectives arrested Eric Anthony Brooks Jr., 18, of Lexington Park, on a charge of 2nd degree murder. He was incarcerated in the St. Mary's County Detention Center pending a bond review, and reportedly was released afterwards on \$500,000 bond.

Brooks apparently is claiming his actions were in self-defense.

Brooks is the son of St. Mary's College Public Safety Director Eric Brooks Sr., and the victim, Copeland, is reportedly the brother of a Patuxent Naval Air Station law officer with the Department of Defense.

Lt. Horn also reported detectives continue to chase down many leads in the investigation of a murder in late June in Charlotte Hall of a hair salon owner in his shop.

The Bay Net will bring more details on these cases when the information is acquired.

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