



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Not guilty pleas, no bail in Weymouth double murder

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The 20-year old accused of shooting and killing Vera Adams in her Weymouth home, and Weymouth Police Officer Michael Chesna on July 15, 2018, today (July 17, 2018) entered a plea of not guilty to two counts of murder and associated charges at his Quincy District Court arraignment.

Presiding judge in the Quincy District Court Mark S. Coven ordered the defendant, Emanuel "Manny" Lopes held without bail and ordered that he return to court for a probable cause hearing at 9 a.m. Aug. 15, 2018.

Assistant District Attorney Greg Connor gave a brief recitation of facts in support of his request that the defendant be denied bail. Connor told the Court that Weymouth police began searching the neighborhoods around South Shore Hospital following reports that a car operating erratically in that area had crashed, and the driver had departed the scene on foot.

Connor further stated that Officer Chesna had come upon Lopes on Burton Terrace, near the intersection with Torrey Road, as Lopes was allegedly throwing a rock through the window of a resident there. Lopes is then alleged to have thrown a different rock, roughly half the size of a basketball, striking the officer in the head. The officer then fell to the ground, his service weapon also falling. Lopes is accused of then retrieving the fallen weapon and shooting Officer Chesna repeatedly.

A second officer opened fire immediately upon arriving on Burton Terrace, striking Lopes in the leg. Lopes is then said to have fled through area yards until he arrived behind 100 Torrey Street, Connor told the Court, firing three more shots through the window, striking and killing Vera Adams. He was apprehended by additional arriving officers a short distance away.

Not guilty pleas were entered for two counts of murder, possession of a firearm without an FID card (to wit: Chesna's service weapon), malicious destruction of property, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and leaving the scene of a crash involving property damage.

Judge Coven denied defense attorney Larry Tipton's request that Lopes be sent to Bridgewater State Hospital for evaluation, but approved independent testing at Tipton's discretion. The defendant is to be held at the Norfolk County House of Correction in Dedham.

Pending charges represent accusations; all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt under the United States Constitution