

BREONNA TAYLOR

LMPD report details Breonna Taylor's ties to alleged drug dealer before her death

Andrew Wolfson Louisville Courier Journal

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An internal report written by Louisville Metro Police after officers fatally shot Breonna Taylor makes the case that she had more extensive ties with an accused drug trafficker than has previously been made public.

The findings of the 39-page report, supported by jail phone recordings and other documents obtained by The Courier Journal, detail multiple links between Taylor and Jamarcus Glover of Louisville, a main target in a narcotics investigation that prompted police to request a no-knock search warrant for Taylor's apartment.

But the undated report provides no new evidence justifying Taylor's fatal shooting on March 13 when three plainclothes officers battered in her door in a futile search for drugs and illicit cash.

Taylor's shooting has prompted three months of protests in Louisville and national outrage, with critics accusing police of breaking into the home of an unarmed Black woman for no legitimate reason and killing her.

Police have disputed that, and the 39-page report more fully lays out the evidence that they believe warranted officers to forcibly enter Taylor's home after midnight March 13.

"Breonna Taylor did not deserve to die no matter what her role in all this," said a law enforcement official in Jefferson County who asked not to be identified because Kentucky's attorney general is still deciding if the officers who shot Taylor should be prosecuted.

"But criminal activity always has consequences," he added.

Glover is free on bail on drug trafficking and other charges after he was arrested the same night as Taylor's shooting. He was picked up at an alleged drug house miles to the north in

Louisville's West End.

In an email to The Courier Journal, Sam Aguiar, an attorney for Taylor's estate, which filed a wrongful death suit on April 27 against the city, said "while this looks like a smear campaign, I also appreciate the need for everything to get out to the public about this case. Good and bad."

He said the police department went to "great lengths AFTER Breonna died and this case received national scrutiny to dig up all of her past."

News: No announcement this week on the Breonna Taylor investigation, AG Daniel Cameron says

Recorded jail calls mention Breonna Taylor

The Courier Journal reviewed the report on Taylor compiled by the LMPD's new Place-Based Investigations unit, which targets violent crime at specific locations, as part of its investigation of Glover. The Courier Journal also reviewed transcripts of jailhouse calls Glover and other defendants made from Metro Corrections.

The report is undated, and spokeswomen for Louisville Metro Police and Mayor Greg Fischer did not respond to requests for information about it, including whether it has been provided to the mayor, police chief or other city officials.

It was written by a detective whose name was redacted from a copy of the report The Courier Journal reviewed.

The evidence it details includes the results of a tracking device placed on Glover's Dodge Charger that shows it was driven to Taylor's apartment six times in January.

The report also said detectives photographed Glover on Jan. 16 leaving Taylor's apartment with a "suspected USPS package" in his hand. He was then observed driving directly to a house at 2605 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. that police say was used for drug transactions.

The report includes photographs of Glover entering and exiting Taylor's building. In the application for the search warrant of Taylor's apartment, police said they suspected drugs and money were being shipped to the residence.

In a recorded jail call made March 13, Glover, 30, told a girlfriend that Taylor was holding \$8,000 for him and had been "handling all my money." No money was found at her

residence during the police search.

Glover made that call about 12 hours after he was arrested at 2424 Elliott Ave. and after Taylor was shot and killed by police executing a search warrant at her apartment signed by Jefferson Circuit Judge Mary Shaw.

Aguiar has said previously that Glover and Taylor dated until about two years earlier and they maintained a "passive" friendship.

‘In the middle of something legendary’: Breonna Taylor protesters use past as rallying cry

But the recordings and other evidence reviewed by The Courier Journal show Taylor and Glover maintained closer ties.

On Jan. 3, for example, following Glover’s arrest on trafficking and weapons charges, he called Taylor from the jail and asked her to contact one of his co-defendants to get bail money.

Taylor responded that the associate was “already at the trap” — slang for a house used for drug trafficking.

Glover told her to be on standby to pick him up if he made bail. “I’m going to get me some rest in your bed,” he said, according to the recording.

“Love you,” he said, at the end of the call.

“Love you, too,” she replied.

In his email to The Courier Journal, Aguiar apologized to “the public and to Breonna’s family” for mischaracterizing the relationship, saying it was based on an erroneous conclusion he drew without the benefit of the jail recording.

Ryan Nichols, president of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, told The Courier Journal that he wishes more information about Taylor’s connection with Glover had been released earlier because it would have countered erroneous rumors that police went to the wrong address and had no reason to search Taylor’s home.

Must read: Debunking 8 widely shared rumors in the Breonna Taylor police shooting

Glover claims Taylor was holding his money

On Dec. 30, 2019, five days before her recorded jail conversation with Glover, Taylor posted a \$2,500 bond for another man charged in the same case, 34-year-old Darreal Forest.

His attorney, Casey McCall, did not immediately respond to a question about how his client knew Taylor.

Glover, Forest and three other men were charged with trafficking and weapons offenses after police received a tip from a confidential informant that they were hiding drugs and firearms in abandoned homes adjacent to the "trap house" they allegedly operated at 2424 Elliott Ave.

Police seized five handguns and three rifles, according to evidence filed in the case.

The jail recordings show that on March 13, Glover, while trying to round up cash to make bail on a new set of trafficking charges, called a girlfriend and told her Taylor had his money.

"She had the eight grand I gave her the other day, and she picked up another six," Glover said.

"Did she tell you where it was?" the caller asked him.

"She didn't have the chance to tell me nothing," he replied. "She dead."

When the caller asked Glover why he had left the money with Taylor, he said: "Don't take it wrong but Bre' been handling all my money. She has been handling s---- for me and ... it ain't just me."

Records previously examined by The Courier Journal show no money or drugs were found in the search of Taylor's apartment after her death.

And nothing in the recordings or other evidence recently obtained by The Courier Journal substantiates Glover's claim that Taylor was handling money for him.

Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly, one of the three officers who fired shots into Taylor's apartment — later told investigators from the Public Integrity Unit, which investigates potential crimes by government employees, that police believed Taylor may have held drugs and money for Glover.

But in a different recorded phone call from the jail on March 13, Demarius Bowman, who was arrested with Glover, told his sister that another woman, Alicia "Kesha" Jones, 24, had been given the group's money.

Also: Will Louisville police be forced to release the Breonna Taylor file? What a judge heard “We put all the money on Kesha,” said Bowman, also 24. “We dumped everything on her.”

Jones was holding \$3,413 in cash when she was arrested earlier following the search at 2424 Elliott Ave., according to police records.

Jones, Glover and Bowman, along with three other defendants — Rayshawn Lee, 33; Anthony J. Taylor II, 31; and Adrian Walker, 28 — are charged with complicity in trafficking in a controlled substance and running an organized crime syndicate.

They have all pleaded not guilty.

Murder victim found in car Taylor rented

The 39-page report says Taylor began dating Glover, known as “Chop,” in 2016, and in December that year, she let him borrow a car she rented. The next day, the body of Fernandez “Rambo” Bowman, 27, was found inside the vehicle.

When police came to interview Taylor about it, Glover was at her apartment and she said she let Glover use the car. She said she did not know the victim, who was Demarius Bowman’s brother.

The Courier Journal confirmed that account through evidence filed in the case of the man charged in Bowman’s slaying — Quenton Se’ville Hall, 38. It shows that Taylor rented the vehicle on Dec. 1, 2016.

Fernandez Bowman was shot, allegedly by Hall, while driving the car, which crashed into a telephone pole, a fence and a house.

Neither Taylor nor Glover was charged in Bowman’s death.

Court records show that Taylor posted bond twice for Glover in 2017, as mentioned in the police report, though it is not unusual for a girlfriend, spouse, friend or parent to post bond for a loved one.

The police report says Glover called Taylor’s phone from the jail 27 times from January 2016 to January 2020, including the Jan. 3 call in which he asked her to contact Adrian Walker — no relation to Kenneth Walker, to round up bail money for him.

The report says that on Feb. 13, detectives watched through a pole camera mounted outside the Elliot Avenue house as Taylor and Glover drove up to the Elliott house in her black Dodge Charger and he got out and went inside.

He came out after a few minutes and they drove off, the report says.

Police previously disclosed in their application to search Taylor's apartment that another vehicle registered to Taylor, a white 2016 Chevrolet Impala, was seen parked in front of 2424 Elliott Ave. several times.

Background: What we know about Breonna Taylor's boyfriend and why charges against him were dropped

The report says Glover called Adrian Walker at the jail the same day Taylor was killed and said he didn't understand why police searched her apartment because "nothing ties me to Bre house at all except those bonds" — an apparent reference to the bail bonds she posted for him in 2017.

Adrian Walker responded that there were other ties, including the rental car and photos they knew had been taken of her car from the police camera.

"Yeah, she was there the top of the week before I went to court," Glover said.

He said he was upset by Taylor's death, according to the recording. "I'm tore," he said. "I'm tore.

"I keep losing those close to me," he told Adrian Walker. "N-----, this shit kills my soul. I lose people that really be close to me. That hurt, boy."

He blamed Kenneth Walker for Taylor's death.

"At the end of the day it was not my fault. It's this n----'s fault. ... At the end of the day, if I would have been at that house Bre would be alive, bruh. ... I don't shoot at no police."

Taylor's boyfriend again says he didn't know he was firing at police

Taylor's death has been widely and loudly condemned by celebrities, including LeBron James, Oprah Winfrey and Beyonce Knowles. Both former First Lady Michelle Obama and Democratic vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris mentioned her when they addressed the Democratic National Convention last week.

Protesters have insisted Taylor was murdered and demanded that the officers be fired, charged and convicted.

Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron is reviewing the shooting. So far, neither Mattingly nor Detective Myles Cosgrove or former Detective Brett Hankison have been charged, though Hankison was fired in June by acting police Chief Robert Schroeder for firing 10 rounds “blindly” into Taylor's apartment and the one next door.

Mattingly has told investigators police knocked and announced they were officers and that nobody responded so they used a battering ram to force open the door.

Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, fired one shot from inside the apartment, saying later he thought intruders were breaking in, and it hit Mattingly in the thigh.

Mattingly and Cosgrove returned fire first through the door, while Hankison fired from the outside the back of the apartment.

Taylor died in her hallway after she was struck five times by the officers' bullets, according to her death certificate.

In a recorded call from the jail later the same day Taylor was killed, Walker, who was charged with attempted murder of a police officer, told a friend the same story he told police — that neither he nor Taylor knew the intruders were officers.

"They was beating on the door" and Breonna "was like, who is it and they ain't saying nothing," he said.

Charges against him have since been dismissed, subject to further investigation.

Aguiar, the Taylor family's attorney, said in his email that Breonna's name "should not be tarnished."

Looking back: Police officers should not be charged with Breonna Taylor's death, criminal law experts say

"She overcame a difficult childhood, being raised without a father in her life and becoming the first in her immediate family to graduate high school," he wrote.

"Breonna had no drugs or cash in her apartment at the time she was killed. Breonna was living her best life."