



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

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1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

12/17/2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MURDER CHARGES FILED FOR DEATH OF BICYCLIST KILLED DURING
DOMESTIC ASSAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Blake C. Basten, 24, of Springfield, MO has been charged today with the felonies of murder in the second degree, domestic assault in the second degree, tampering with a motor vehicle in the first degree, unlawful use of a weapon, property damage in the first degree, leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident, and resisting a lawful detention. These allegations stem from a fatality collision where a white Chevrolet Impala driven by Shannon Smith struck Zachary Gibson who was on a bicycle. Basten was chasing Smith while driving a stolen red Jetta. The collision occurred at 6:45 P.M. on November 17, 2013, at the intersection of Kimbrough and Bear Blvd near the Missouri State Campus. Four days later Basten was driving the stolen red Jetta and fled from police officers before being apprehended. Basten was initially charged with leaving the scene of the accident and resisting a lawful detention for events occurring on November 21, 2013 and has been in custody since that date while the homicide investigation was ongoing. Basten is being held at the Greene County Jail with a \$250,000 bond.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Basten, 1331-CR08309

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Philip Fuhrman. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Officers Dustin Donaldson and Mark Riggins are the lead investigators assigned to the case.

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SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

FELONY PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT



F I L E D

DEC 17 2013

Date: 12/04/2013 Case #: 13-48853

CIRCUIT CLERK
GREENE COUNTY

I, Officer Dustin Donaldson, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that Blake Christopher Basten, White/Male, DOB 07/17/1989, committed one or more criminal offenses.
2. The following crime(s) happened on 11/17/2013 18:00 – 11/17/2013 19:00 at E BEAR BLVD and S KIMBROUGH AVE in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.
3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On Sunday November 17th, 2013, I was assigned to assist with the investigation of a fatality crash involving a car and a bicycle. The bicyclist was identified as Zachary S. Gibson (23). Gibson died at the scene as a result of his injuries. During my investigation into this incident I learned that the involved vehicle was a 2004 Chevrolet Impala driven by Shannon R. Smith. Smith had been traveling southbound on Kimbrough near Bear Blvd. at a high rate of speed when Gibson began crossing the street from east to west on his bicycle. Smith attempted to brake and swerve to the left but still collided with Gibson. Smith left the scene immediately after the crash. Smith was later arrested and interviewed. During my interview with Smith, she told me she was being chased by her ex-boyfriend, Blake Basten, when she struck Gibson with her vehicle.

Smith told me the incident started just prior to her dropping off her friend Richelle Gray at 1501 W. Lynn. Smith said Basten started following her and pulled up next to her as she was dropping Richelle off. Smith said Basten wanted some of his belongings back that she still had in her possession. Smith said Basten displayed a handgun to her by pointing it up in the air before she drove away. Basten again pulled up beside Smith at the intersection of Kansas Exp/Lynn when she told Basten she would get the items that he was wanting in about 10 minutes after she picked them up from a friend's house. Smith told me that Basten said he was going to go with her to pick up the items. Smith said Basten began "chasing her" through town. Smith said she was intentionally driving fast to attempt to get stopped by an officer while she was driving toward Police Headquarters. Smith pulled into the lot of Headquarters, along the west side, and stopped in front of the main entrance where she began honking to try to get assistance. Smith said Basten hit the rear of her vehicle twice with the front of his vehicle. She left the Headquarters lot and ended up southbound on Kimbrough but could not remember the route she took to get there. Smith said she saw the bicyclist start to ride out into the street and tried to avoid the impact. Smith struck and killed Gibson and continued driving while Basten continued chasing her. According to Smith, Basten followed her, "up and down some side streets," and ultimately ended up at 636 W. Edgewood where she went inside. Smith said Basten pulled onto Edgewood behind her but then backed up and sat at the end of the block while she went inside.

Richelle Gray was asked to come in for an interview. Gray said she had been in the car with Smith and Stephen Sutton in the area of Hamilton/Newton when she saw Basten. Gray said Basten quickly sped up to them and began following. Gray said Smith began panicking asking "What do I do? What do I do? He'll punch me in the face." Smith continued driving to Gray's house where she let Gray out. Gray said Basten pulled up next to Smith as Gray was getting out of the car. Gray said Smith and Basten started arguing. Once Gray was out of the car, Smith left westbound on Lynn. Gray saw Basten pull up next to Smith again at Kansas Exp/Lynn before Smith turned north on Kansas Exp. Gray said she knew Smith had been scared of Basten because he always carried a gun with him. Gray went on to say that Basten returned to her house on 11/18/13 and she went outside to talk to him. Gray said she told Basten, "You know you're done on this too don't you?" According to Gray, Basten replied, "Yeah, but I'm a heartless nigger." Gray also said Basten admitted to having a gun at the time of the incident saying, "Yeah, I had a gun, a 380." Gray said she had knowledge that Basten had pointed a gun at Smith in the past.

As a part of this investigation, I viewed video footage from the surveillance system at Police Headquarters. At approximately 1839 hours Smith can be seen pulling onto the parking lot in the white Chevy Impala followed by Basten in a red Volkswagen Jetta Wagon. Smith stops in front of the door for a few seconds when Basten quickly pulls up behind her and stops. After a few seconds Basten quickly pulls closer as if to intimidate Smith then stops again within what appears to be inches from her rear bumper. After another few seconds, Basten pulls forward striking the rear of Smith's vehicle, pushing her forward several feet. Smith then accelerates out of the parking lot onto Chestnut Exp to the West with Basten following closely behind.

On 11/22/2013, Basten was located after he fled from officers in the Jetta. While Basten was fleeing he struck another vehicle, left the scene of that crash, and then crashed into a building at 3437 W. Chestnut Exp. Basten was observed driving the vehicle by Ofc. G. Roeder. The vehicle was later confirmed to be stolen and had been reported on 11/01/2013 through the Greene County Sheriff's Department. Basten had reportedly told friends that he had stolen the car and bragged about how long he was able to keep it without it being found.

I also spoke with Amy Bell, the owner of the 2004 Chevrolet Impala that was involved in the crash. Bell told me she had spoken with Basten on the phone after the crash and he admitted to witnessing the crash. According to Bell, Basten said he was following Smith when the crash occurred. Basten told Bell that Smith hit Gibson so hard that he was able to drive under Gibson's body before he fell to the ground. Basten also told Bell that he rammed Smith's vehicle 4-5 times in the parking lot of Police Headquarters to prevent her from going inside to get help.

The facts contained above are true.



Signature

1281

DSN

Police Officer

Title

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Associate Division _____

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
)	
vs.)	Case No.
)	
BLAKE C BASTEN ,)	OCN#
)	
Defendant.)	PA File No. 077318578
State of Missouri)	
)	ss.
County of Greene)	

FELONY COMPLAINT

COUNT I

(Missouri Charge Code: 1003699.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.021, RSMo, committed the class A felony of murder in the second degree, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about November 17th, 2013, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, Zachary Gibson was killed by being struck by a motor vehicle driven by Shannon Smith as a result of the perpetration of the class C felony of tampering in the first degree under Section 569.080, RSMo and/or the class C felony of domestic assault in the second degree under Section 565.073, RSMo committed by the defendant on or about November 17th, 2013, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri.

COUNT II

(Missouri Charge Code: 1302999.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.073, RSMo, committed the class C felony of domestic assault in the second degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about November 17, 2013, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant attempted to cause physical injury to S.S. by means of a dangerous instrument by striking her vehicle with a vehicle operated by defendant and S.S. and the defendant were family or household members in that S.S. and the defendant were adults who were or had been in a continuing social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.

COUNT III

(Missouri Charge Code: 3102099.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.030.1(4), RSMo, committed the class D felony of unlawful use of a weapon, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about November 17, 2013, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly exhibited, in the presence of one or more persons a .380 handgun, a weapon readily capable of lethal use, in an angry or threatening manner.

COUNT IV
(Missouri Charge Code: 2301399.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 569.080.1(2), RSMo, committed the class C felony of tampering in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about November 21, 2013, in the county of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly and without the consent of the owner unlawfully operated a 2012 Volkswagen Jetta.

COUNT V
(Missouri Charge Code: 2311099.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 569.100, RSMo, committed the class D felony of property damage in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about November 21, 2013, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly damaged a building at Ozark Sandblasting located at 3411 W. Chestnut Expressway, which property was owned by Ozark Sandblasting, by driving a vehicle into the building, and the damages to such property exceeded seven hundred and fifty dollars.

COUNT VI
(Missouri Charge Code: 4886599.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 577.060, RSMo, committed the class D felony of leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about November 21, 2013, the defendant, while operating a motor vehicle on West Bypass, a highway, at or near West Bypass and College St. in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, was a party to an accident that caused over \$1,000 of property damage to a 2003 Buick LeSabre, and the defendant knew that such injury had occurred, and defendant left the scene of the accident without stopping and giving sufficient information by which the defendant could be readily identified and located to such person or to a police officer in the vicinity or to the nearest police station or judicial officer.

COUNT VII
(Missouri Charge Code: 2702599.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 575.150, RSMo, committed the class D felony of resisting a lawful stop, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about November 21, 2013, in the county of Greene, State of Missouri, Officer Roeder, a law enforcement officer, was attempting to make a lawful stop of defendant, and the defendant knew or reasonably should have known that the officer was making a lawful stop, and, for the purpose of preventing the officer from effecting the stop, resisted the stop of defendant by fleeing from the officer and the defendant fled in such manner that created a substantial risk of serious physical injury or death to a person in that the defendant made a u-turn in the roadway and struck a 2003 Buick LeSabre.

State v. BLAKE C BASTEN

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

DAN PATTERSON
Prosecuting Attorney of the County of
Greene, State of Missouri, by



Electronically signed;

Philip M. Fuhrman
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Missouri Bar No. 61984
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Springfield, MO 65802
(417) 868-4061
FAX (417) 868-4160

Philip M. Fuhrman, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, being duly sworn, upon oath says that the facts stated in the above information are true, according to his or her best information, knowledge and belief.



Electronically signed;

Philip M. Fuhrman
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney