

St. v. Aramis Jackson

District Attorney Hillar Moore's Media Release

2-24-2017

I have been in the criminal justice field for over 42 years. I have seen many tragic homicides. This is one of those that remain with you and you cannot forget. A mother killed in front of her young daughter; a daughter shot several times and severely injured, but who fought to survive.

I had the opportunity to visit Ariana in the hospital, following her injuries. At 9 years old, Ariana had to do what trained combat military and law enforcement have to do, survive a firefight. She performed heroically. At 9, she became a hero. Her life forever changed.

Ariana feigned death next to her mother, calling 911 for an excruciatingly long period of time, providing her location and later crawling to the door to allow police in to find the scene. The 911 tape is bone chilling and will bring you to tears.

This plea is a bitter sweet moment. The death penalty would be appropriate for this defendant under these horrible facts. Maybe the death penalty would have been an easier choice for the defendant?

What is ironic is that the person who has suffered the most in this case, Ariana, now 16, (along with her grandmother, the mother of Alexandra, as well as Ariana's dad) is the one who requested that the State, spare his life. I do not know if I could have made that same decision.

I believe that the death penalty is the appropriate justice for this defendant and this case; however, my beliefs come second in this case to the well-being and the request of Ariana and her family. Ariana now 16 would more than likely be 40 by the time this matter would wind its way through our current system. Ariana and family want this matter over so that they can possibly move on with their lives.

This defendant was given the best defense possible. He was well represented by honest ethical and hard-working attorneys. After 7 years of intense legal motions, he has agreed and admitted to his actions and acknowledged the strength of the state's case.

There are a lot of people who deserve recognition:

Ariana and her family. They have all been here every step of the way.

Darwin Miller and his District Attorney team. Darwin did an unbelievable job, devoting a fifth of his career to this case. His personal interaction with Ariana and her family during this

difficult time was amazing. He is an outstanding Assistant District Attorney and public servant.

The EMS technicians, especially Robert Wesley, whose son was also recently injured helping a shooting victim in Baton Rouge on Essen Lane.

The BRPD Dispatcher Tammy Rucker who handled Ariana's emotional and desperate 911 call.

The BRPD uniformed officers who responded to the scene and cared for Ariana as well as, then Chief Jeff Leduff for taking a personal interest in this case.

The BRPD homicide detectives, especially Detectives Blake and Dargin, and others who assisted in EBR and elsewhere in the state to investigate and arrest this defendant.

The alert BRPD patrolman who two weeks earlier encountered Jackson and took possession of two live rounds that had been chambered through the murder weapon, which rounds were found to be fired from the same weapon that killed Alexandra and injured Ariana.

The BRPD crime scene technicians who spent days processing the scene.

The alert BRPD officer who saw what he believed was a spec of human skin at the forced entry location to the Engler home which turned out to be the defendants.

The LSP Crime Lab scientists who worked through the night and weekend processing DNA and footprint evidence. The DNA evidence was quickly matched to the defendant and was crucial evidence in this case.

To all of the experts who provided the state with critical information and testimony throughout the years of these proceedings.

St. Luke's Episcopal School for their support of Ariana throughout this ordeal.

Dr. Michael Robichaux with the Baton Rouge Orthopedic Clinic, the OLOL hospital, doctors, nurses and staff and the other local health providers who took care of Ariana physically and emotionally.

Ariana has endured 6 surgeries. Thanks to our local doctors were supporting the staff at Boston's Children Hospital as well as the Yale Child Trauma Studies Center.

And finally the Beauregard Town community for their support and outpouring of love for the family and their interest in justice in this case.

We as a community need now to look at how this defendant evolved and why he developed the way he did. We cannot have this happen again. There are likely others today that need to be identified and addressed before they do what he did.

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### Photographs

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### Paperwork

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- [Footwear Forensic Analysis](#)
- [Plea Agreement with Aramis Jackson](#)

### 911 Calls

- [Trunk Call](#)
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