

CASE #CC24-302

SONYA MASSEY

**SANGAMON COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE
JIM ALLMON
CORONER**

200 S. 9th, Room 303
Springfield, Illinois 62701



Phone: 217-753-6610
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**REPORT OF POSTMORTEM
EXAMINATION**

NAME: Sonya Massey	CASE #: CC24-302
SEX: Female	RACE: Black
DATE OF BIRTH: 2-12-1988	ADDRESS OF DECEDENT: 2868 S. Hoover
CITY AND STATE: Springfield, IL	DATE OF DEATH: 7-6-2024
TIME OF DEATH: 1:47 AM	DATE OF AUTOPSY: 7-8-2024
TIME OF AUTOPSY: 8:30 AM	EXAMINED BY: Nathaniel Patterson, M.D.
ASSISTED BY: Zach Thomas	

The body is examined at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois, under the authority of Coroner Jim Allmon.

The body is received in a body bag sealed with a Coroner's tag. A Coroner's band on the right wrist confirms identity. Photographs and a radiograph of the head are taken.

When first viewed, the body is clad in a pair of pink shorts and a pair of white shorts. Beneath the body are a previously cut white nightgown and a previously cut white tank top. Loose in the body bag are a cutaway pair of gray pajama pants and a red and blue scarf. Received with the body are a pair of green fabric boots and a pair of white socks. A clear stone piercing is in the right cheek. The hands are bagged. The bags from the hands and the clothing are released to the Illinois State Police (see EVIDENCE SUBMITTED). The clear stone piercing from the cheek is left in place and released with the body to the funeral home.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a well-developed, well-nourished, black woman, whose appearance is

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compatible with the stated age of 36 years. The body is 112 pounds and 64 inches. There is good preservation in the absence of embalming. The body is cold, rigor is fully developed, and the posterior lividity is partially fixed.

The black scalp hair is twisted into several cornrow-style braids. The irides are brown, the corneae are clear, and there are no petechiae of the bulbar or palpebral surfaces of the conjunctivae. The ears, nose, and lips are unremarkable. The teeth are natural and in good condition. The neck is symmetrical. The chest and breasts are symmetrical. The abdomen is flat and unremarkable. The external genitalia, anus, and perineum are unremarkable. The extremities are well developed and symmetrical. The back is unremarkable.

IDENTIFYING MARKS AND SCARS

A 1 x 1/4 inch, ovoid scar is on the anterior surface of the left knee.

EVIDENCE OF THERAPY

An endotracheal tube and an orogastric tube extend from the mouth. EKG leads are on the trunk. Adhered to the tip of the left ring finger is a pulse oximeter lead. In the anterior surface of the left lower leg is an intraosseous line.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

There is a gunshot wound of the head and minor blunt force injuries of the right leg.

On the lower eyelid of the left eye is a 1/4 inch in diameter, round gunshot wound of entrance, with a circumferential, 1/16 inch wide, moist, red marginal abrasion. The wound is centered 4-3/4 inches below the top of the head and 1-1/4 inch left of the midline. There is no soot or gunpowder stippling on the skin.

After perforating the skin and subcutaneous soft tissues of the left lower eyelid, the bullet sequentially perforates the left zygomatic bone, the musculature surrounding the left side of the base of the skull, the left internal carotid artery, and the musculature of the posterior-left surface of the upper neck.

On the posterior-left surface of the upper neck is a 3/8 x 1/4 inch, V-shaped gunshot wound of exit. The wound is centered 7 inches below the top of the head and 1-1/2 inch left of the midline.

Associated injuries include swelling of the soft tissues in the area of the left side of the jaw, a 2-3/4 inch, curvilinear fracture in the left side of the posterior fossa, and subarachnoid hemorrhages on the anterolateral surface of the right temporal lobe, inferior surface of the left temporal lobe, and on the left lobe of the cerebellum.

The direction of the bullet is from front to back, downward, and slightly right to left.

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A 1-1/2 x 3/8 inch, horizontally-oriented band of faint purple, contused skin is on the anterior surface of the right thigh. On the anterior surface of the right knee is a 1 x 1/4 inch, red, contused abrasion.

These injuries, having once been described, will not be repeated.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

The following items are collected, sealed within appropriately labeled containers, and released to the Illinois State Police:

1. Bags from the hands.
2. Buccal swabs.
3. Fingernail clippings.
4. Pulled head and pubic hair.
5. A DNA blood card standard.
6. Fingerprint cards.
7. Clothing.
8. A gunshot residue kit.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

ORGAN WEIGHTS:

Brain	1200 g	Right Lung	450 g	Right Kidney	100 g
Heart	280 g	Left Lung	410 g	Left Kidney	120 g
Liver	900 g	Spleen	40 g		

BODY CAVITIES: The thoracic and abdominal organs are in their normal anatomic positions. The body cavities contain no adhesions or abnormal collections of fluid.

HEAD: See EVIDENCE OF INJURY. The leptomeninges are thin and delicate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical, with an unremarkable gyral pattern. The cranial nerves are unremarkable. Sections through the cerebral hemispheres, brainstem, and cerebellum are unremarkable. There are no hemorrhages within the deep white matter or the basal ganglia. The cerebral ventricles contain no blood. The spinal cord, as viewed from the cranial cavity, is unremarkable.

NECK: See EVIDENCE OF INJURY. The hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages are intact. The lumen of the larynx is not obstructed.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: See EVIDENCE OF INJURY. The aorta and its major branches and the great veins are normally distributed. The pulmonary arteries contain no thromboemboli. The pericardium, epicardium, and endocardium are smooth, glistening, and unremarkable. The endocardium is free of mural thrombi. The foramen ovale is closed. The coronary arterial system is free of significant atherosclerosis. The atrial and

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ventricular septa are intact. The cardiac valves are unremarkable. The myocardium is dark red-brown and firm, without focal abnormality.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The upper airway is not obstructed. The laryngeal mucosa is smooth and unremarkable, without petechiae. The pleural surfaces are smooth and glistening. The major bronchi are unremarkable. Sectioning of the lungs discloses a dark red-blue, moderately congested parenchyma.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM: The liver is covered by a smooth, glistening capsule. The parenchyma is dark red-brown and moderately congested. The gallbladder contains approximately 5 mL of dark green bile, with no calculi.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophageal mucosa is gray, smooth, and unremarkable. The stomach contains approximately 10 mL of tan fluid. There are no tablets or capsules. The gastric mucosa has normal rugal folds, and there are no ulcers. The small and large intestines are unremarkable externally. The appendix is present. The pancreas is unremarkable externally and upon sectioning.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The capsules of both kidneys strip with ease to reveal smooth and slightly lobulated surfaces. The cortices are of normal thickness, with well-demarcated corticomedullary junctions. The calyces, pelvices, and ureters are unremarkable. The urinary bladder contains approximately 50 mL of clear yellow urine. The mucosa is gray, smooth, and unremarkable. The uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries are unremarkable externally and upon sectioning.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The thyroid gland is unremarkable externally and upon sectioning. A 1.1 cm, well-delineated nodule in the left adrenal cortex has homogeneous, tan-yellow cut surfaces. The right adrenal gland is unremarkable externally and upon sectioning. The pituitary gland is unremarkable externally.

LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM: The spleen is covered by a smooth, blue-gray, intact capsule. The parenchyma is dark red. The cervical, hilar, and peritoneal lymph nodes are not enlarged.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: The clavicles, ribs, sternum, pelvis, and vertebral column have no fractures. The diaphragm is intact.

TOXICOLOGY

1. Peripheral blood, vitreous humor, and urine are sent for toxicology with the following results:

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<u>Analyte</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Matrix Source</u>
Gabapentin	6.0	mcg/mL	001 - Peripheral Blood
Delta-9 Carboxy THC	7.0	ng/mL	001 - Peripheral Blood
Delta-9 THC	14	ng/mL	001 - Peripheral Blood

- Cardiac blood and a section of skeletal muscle are retained (see toxicology report).

SPECIAL STUDIES

- Tissue biopsies are retained in a formalin stock bottle.
- A DNA blood card standard is released to the Coroner.
- Documentation photographs are taken for the Coroner.
- A radiograph of the head is taken.

FINDINGS

- Gunshot wound of the head:
 - Entrance: beneath the left eye.
 - Injury: perforation of the left internal carotid artery.
 - Exit: posterior-left surface of the upper neck.
 - Associated injuries: skull fracture and subarachnoid hemorrhages.
 - Direction: front to back, downward, and slightly right to left.
 - Range: no soot or gunpowder stippling on the skin.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information available to me, and on the autopsy findings, it is my opinion that Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old black woman, died as a result of a gunshot wound of the head.


 Nathaniel Patterson MD
 Forensic Pathologist

7/19/2024
 Date Submitted

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