



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 2, 2019

Prepared by: Brittany Kershaw

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Release #: 174

## **16-year-old Indicted for First Degree Murder, will be Charged as an Adult**

On Thursday afternoon, August 1, 2019, Benjamin Allen, who was previously arrested for the shooting death of 17-year-old Elijah Rizvan, was indicted by a Grand Jury for First-degree Murder and will be tried as an adult by 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit State Attorney R. J. Larizza.



Allen's August 1<sup>st</sup> booking photo at the Flagler County Jail.

"We fully support the state's decision to try this young man as an adult in the shooting death of another teenager," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "We applaud the Grand Jury and State Attorney Larizza and hope that this sends a loud and clear message that this behavior will be taken seriously and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Allen, 16, was held at the Department of Juvenile Justice in Daytona Beach since his arrest on July 14. On Thursday night, Allen was brought to the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility for processing following the indictment. Allen is being held by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office at the Duval County Jail in Jacksonville as a courtesy hold as the Flagler County Jail does not have the capacity to hold juveniles.

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“Gun violence and murder place a cloud of fear and despair over our neighborhoods and communities,” State Attorney R. J. Larizza said. “It is especially disheartening when the violence involves teenagers. Charging the defendant as an adult was necessary for two reasons – to protect our neighborhoods and communities, and to hold the defendant accountable for his intentional and deadly crime.”

***Previous news releases below.***

**Date:** July 14, 2019

**Prepared by:** Brittany Kershaw

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**Release #:** 158

## **16-year-old Arrested for First Degree Murder**

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has charged 16-year-old Benjamin Sean Allen (DOB 8/22/2002) with First Degree Murder in the death of Elijah Rizvan. The homicide took place in the street in front of 7 Westford Lane in Palm Coast at 8:26 p.m. on Friday night.

“I want to start by saying that our team has done an incredible job in this case. A dozen of our detectives worked around the clock from Friday night to solve this case and I am proud to say that an arrest has been made in the death of this 17-year-old,” Sheriff Rick Staly said during a press conference on Sunday morning.

Immediately after the shooting, deputies interviewed a witness and learned that the victim had set up a drug deal to sell marijuana to someone. The arrangement was made on SnapChat. What the victim did not know was they had actually planned to rob him.

The witness also told deputies that a silver or gray sedan pulled up to the residence and two black males exited the vehicle, grabbed Rizvan by his arms, and one of them shot him in his chest. The males then got back in the car and the car sped off.

Detectives were able to utilize the SnapChat name to locate a potential witness who resides in Island Estates. In the driveway of that residence was a silver Kia Forte and a gray Ford Focus. With the use of FCSO's LPR data system, detectives were able to search for vehicles that matched the description provided by the witness, which also provided leads.

Video surveillance from the area of the crime shows a vehicle matching the Ford Focus in the area just two minutes before the murder and then speeding away minutes later.

Three witnesses were interviewed extensively by detectives and each independently told law enforcement that they were with the suspect during the incident and that the shooter was known as “Ben.” Detectives determined “Ben” was actually 16-year-old Benjamin Sean Allen (DOB 8/22/2002) of

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70 S. Riverview Bend Drive in Palm Coast.

The investigation revealed the following timeline of events from Friday night:

7:09PM – the Ford Focus is recorded by LPR traveling westbound on Palm Coast Parkway  
7:15PM – the 4 subjects are seen on video surveillance at the Cue Note Billiard Room in Palm Coast  
8:15PM – the 4 subjects are seen leaving Cue Note (During this 1 hour period the drug deal/rip was arranged on SnapChat)  
8:24PM – the Ford Focus is seen in the area of the shooting  
8:26PM – the 911 call comes in regarding the shooting  
8:27PM – FCSO arrives on scene and finds the victim laying in the street  
8:32PM – the Ford Focus is seen traveling Eastbound on Palm Coast Pkwy by FCSO's LPR system.  
8:50PM – the Ford Focus enters Island Estates

In less than 15 hours, all persons involved had been identified by FCSO Detectives.

Detectives made contact with Benjamin Allen at his residence at approximately 5:20 PM on Saturday evening. He was brought to the Flagler County Courthouse along with his mother and step-father. During the interview with detectives, he admitted to being in the vehicle with the three witnesses but then invoked his right to an attorney and all questioning was stopped.

Detectives worked with the State Attorney's Office to get an arrest warrant for First Degree murder based on the evidence gathered during the investigation and the fact that a death occurred while committing a felony.

Benjamin Allen was taken into custody and placed under arrest at the Flagler County Courthouse at 3:48 a.m. on Sunday morning. He was processed at the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility and then transported to the Department of Juvenile Justice in Daytona Beach.

Detectives were also able to obtain a search warrant for Benjamin Allen's residence, where they located the sneakers, hoodie, and jeans that Benjamin is believed to have been wearing at the time of the homicide.

"We believe this was a planned and deliberate murder," Sheriff Staly said. "This is the second young man murdered in Palm Coast this year. Parents – get involved in your child's life. Make sure you know who they are talking to on social media, where they are going, and what they are doing. Kids and adults living their lives in the drug world are setting themselves up for dangerous situations. This incident started with the sale of marijuana, and now a 17 year old is dead and a 16 year old is likely to spend the rest of his life in prison."

This investigation is ongoing. Additional charges are likely.

**Date:** July 13, 2019

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Release #: 158

# FCSO Actively Following All Leads in Homicide Investigation

**Correction: The victim's name is spelled Elijah Rizvan with a date of birth of 2/25/2002. The previous release contained a misspelling of the last name and an incorrect birth date.**

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is actively following all leads in the homicide investigation of Elijah Rizvan, DOB 2/25/2002, who was shot and killed in the W-section of Palm Coast on Friday night.

Deputies and Detectives have been working around the clock to track down and develop persons of interest. The FCSCO is utilizing all resources at their disposal, including the latest technology available both in-house and in the community.



Sheriff Staly in a briefing with Detectives Saturday morning at the courthouse.

“The community has been extremely supportive throughout the early stages of the investigation and it is paying off,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “More than a dozen investigators are working on this case. We are developing persons of interest and thoroughly following all active leads. Our team is on it and we will not rest until an arrest is made.”

A video update from the Sheriff can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/flaglercounty.sheriffsoffice/videos/467193817393245/>

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the FCSCO at 386-313-4911 in reference to

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Case Number 2019-65304. You may also contact Crime Stoppers at 1-888-277-TIPS where you could be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000.00.

This is an active criminal investigation. More details will be released as they become available.

**Date:** July 12, 2019  
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**Release #:** 158

## **FCSO Deputies Working Death Investigation in W-section of Palm Coast**

**7/12/2019 11:30 p.m. update: The victim has been identified as Elijah Risvan, DOB 2/6/2002.**

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) responded to a shooting on Friday evening just before 8:30 p.m. in the W-section of Palm Coast. A 17-year-old male was pronounced deceased from a gunshot wound.

Deputies and detectives are still actively working a crime scene at Westfield Lane and Westford Lane in Palm Coast. An increased law enforcement presence will be in the area for the next several hours.

A neighborhood canvass is being conducted for evidence and any home video surveillance. Two suspects, believed to be black males wearing dark hoodies, fled in a silver vehicle with a spoiler. Deputies are actively searching for this vehicle.

Westfield Lane and Westford Lane in Palm Coast are shut down to traffic at this time.

“This is the beginning stages of an apparent homicide investigation,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “During this active investigation, we ask that the public come forward with information that will help locate these suspects. If you saw or heard anything, we need to know about it.”

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the FCSO at 386-313-4911 in reference to Case Number 2019-65304. You may also contact Crime Stoppers at 1-888-277-TIPS where you could be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000.00.

This is all of the information available for release at this time. More information will be provided as the investigation continues.

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