



NEXT UP



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Ronald Gasser's attorneys: Joe McKnight under influence of marijuana, painkillers, steroids when shot

BY CHAD CALDER AND FAIMON A. ROBERTS III | ccalder@theadvocate.com froberts@theadvocate.com APR 27, 2017 - 1:47 PM (1)

Faimon Roberts



Chad Calder



Attorneys for Ronald Gasser claim that Joe McKnight was under the influence of marijuana, painkillers and steroids when Gasser fatally shot the former NFL running back Dec. 1, court filings show.

Gasser's attorneys made the allegation in a motion opposing a move by prosecutors to introduce evidence of a previous alleged road-rage incident in Gasser's past.

They have asked prosecutors and the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office to turn over any evidence of McKnight's prescriptions for steroids, painkillers and marijuana.

Story Continued Below

The attorneys, Gerard Archer and Matthew Goetz, claim in the motion that Gasser learned McKnight was under the influence of drugs after Gasser was indicted on a charge of second-degree murder in McKnight's death.

They allege that Gasser feared for his life due to McKnight's "violent and erratic" behavior when he fatally shot McKnight at an intersection in Terrytown. McKnight had gotten out of his car and approached Gasser's vehicle.

An attorney for the McKnight family, George Tucker, called the claims "ridiculous" and said that Gasser's defense was a "sinking ship."

The earlier incident that prosecutors want to introduce occurred in 2006, when Gasser pulled into a gas station where he

confronted a motorist who had complained about his driving. Gasser was accused of punching the man in the head several times. He was booked on simple battery, but the accusation was dropped before a trial.

The two incidents occurred at the same intersection.

Prosecutors have said they show Gasser has a history of "quickly becoming the aggressor in reaction to a perceived slight on the road."

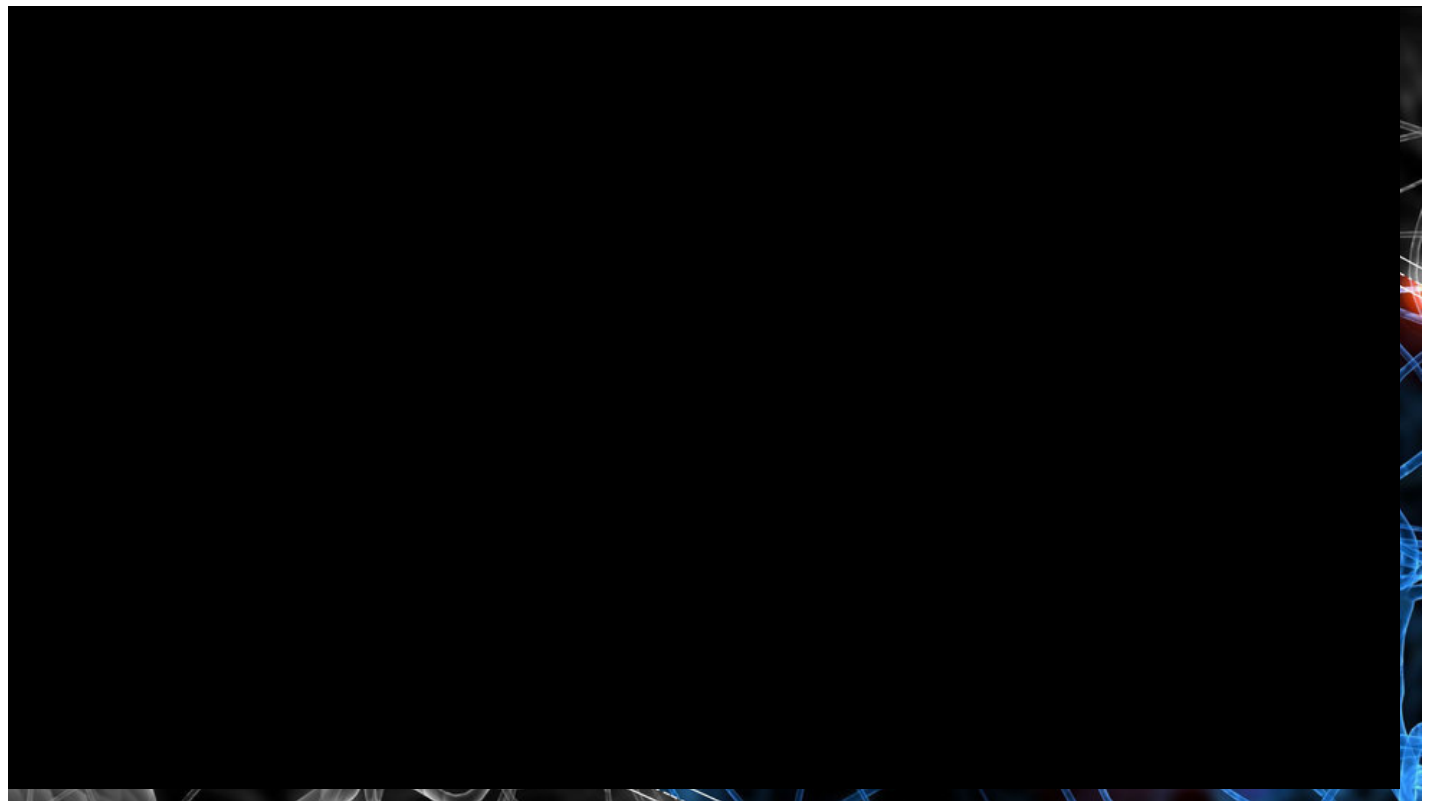
Gasser remains in the Jefferson Parish jail in lieu of \$750,000 bail.

A hearing on his attorneys' motion is set for May.

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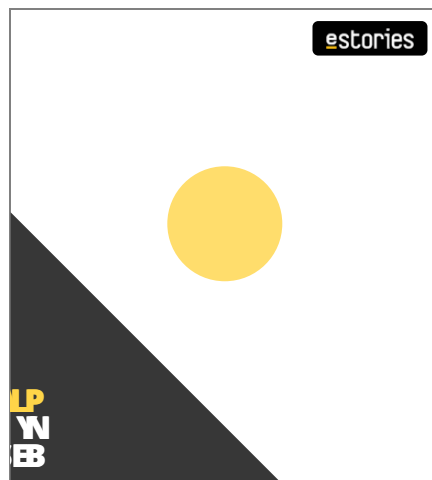
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