

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



TIMOTHY J. CRUZ  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MAIN OFFICE:  
32 Belmont Street  
Brockton, MA 02301  
Tel: (508) 584-8120  
Fax: (508) 586-3578

NEWS RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 24, 2015

CONTACT: BETH STONE  
(508) 584-8120

**ARREST WARRANT ISSUED FOR DORCHESTER MAN WANTED IN MURDER OF  
BRIDGEWATER BURN VICTIM**

*New charges against New Hampshire couple for their role in homicide*

**BROCKTON** – An arrest warrant has been issued for a Dorchester man and new charges have been filed against a New Hampshire couple, all believed to be involved with the murder and disposal of a victim found dead and burned in Bridgewater, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today.

State Police assigned to the District Attorney's Office today obtained an arrest warrant for Fernando Owens (DOB: 9/4/72) of Dorchester. Owens is wanted for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> murder of 29-year-old Ashley Bortner of New Jersey.

Also today, arrest warrants were issued against a Manchester, N.H. married couple, charging them with Accessory After the Fact of Murder. Julian Squires (DOB: 12/08/74) and Shannon Squires (DOB: 07/04/76) were arraigned yesterday on charges they misled investigators. Today, those charges were upgraded for their roles in Bortner's death.

Bridgewater Police received a 911 call at approximately 11:40 pm November 3<sup>rd</sup> and responded to a fire burning on the west side of the MBTA train tracks and determined it was a human body burning. The victim was later identified as Bortner. Her body was burned over 70%, she had been gagged by her own clothing and her face was wrapped with a towel and she was found in a comforter. Bortner's hands and feet were bound behind her and electrical cord was around her neck.

State Police investigators have determined that Owens was acquainted with the victim in this case and that he believed Bortner had a hand in the recent death of Fernando's son, Domenic Owens. Police seized items from Fernando Owens' home at 65 Lonsdale Street in Dorchester that link him to the murder, including the same sort of Egyptian cotton bath towel and identical electrical cord found on the victim.

Cell phone records from the Squires put the couple in Bridgewater around the time of the 911 call to Bridgewater Police on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, the Squires own a vehicle similar

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to the dark SUV described by the 911 caller. The couple are currently still being held on bail in the misleading police charge.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Fernando Owens is encouraged to contact State Police at 508-947-8087 or Bridgewater Police at 508-697-6118.

This remains an active and ongoing investigation by State Police assigned to the District Attorney's Office and Bridgewater Police. MBTA Police and Boston Police assisted with the investigation. Assistant District Attorneys Jessica Elumba and Brian Fahy are prosecuting the case.

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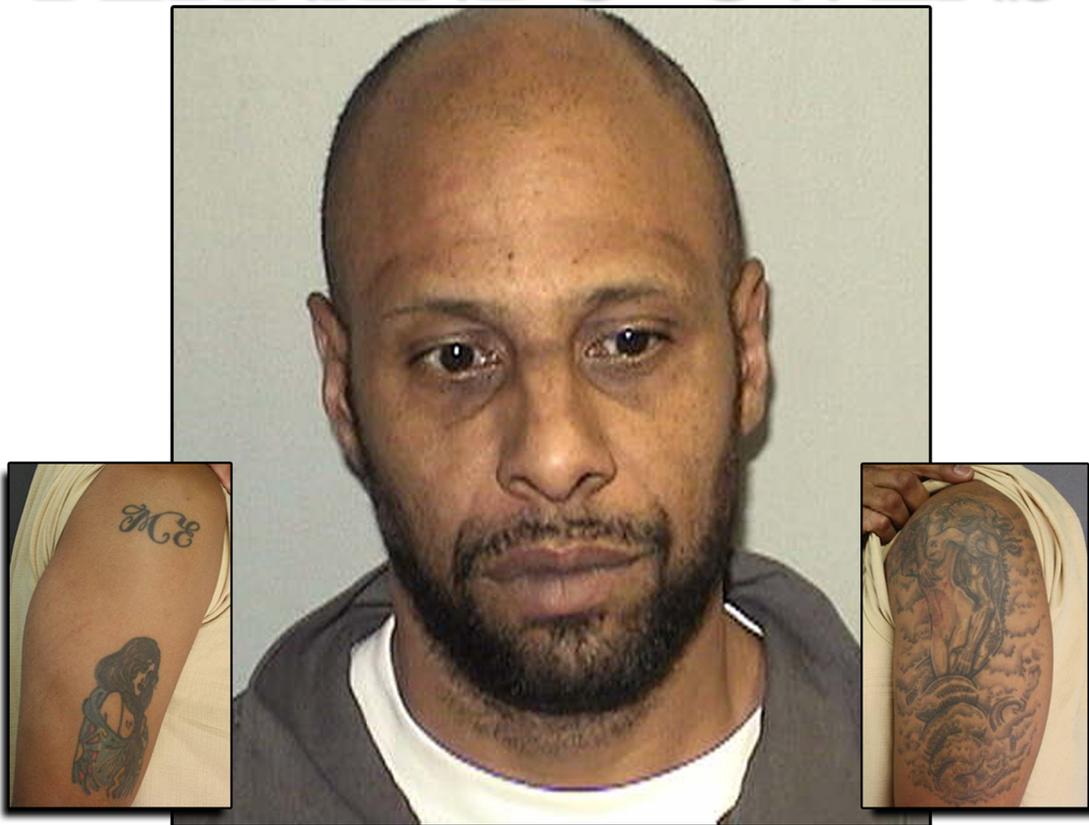
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# WANTED

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# FERNANDO OWENS



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Height: **5'9"** Weight: **160lbs** Age: **43**  
Hair Color: **Black** Eye Color: **Brown**

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**SUSPECT IS ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS**

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Anyone with information on Fernando Owens is asked to  
call Massachusetts State Police **(508-947-8087)** or  
Bridgewater Police **(508-697-6118)**.