



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: April 27, 2026, around 6:26 p.m.
Incident: 2026-577821
Location: 3100 West Cheryl Drive
Victim: Roosevelt Darnell Ward Jr., 51-year-old, deceased
Suspect: Kiaree Steele, 29-year-old, MCSO booking #G251216

Homicide Investigation

On April 27, 2026, at approximately 6:26 p.m., officers responded to the area of 31st Avenue and Cheryl Drive regarding a deceased person. Upon arrival, officers located an adult male, identified as 51-year-old Roosevelt Ward Jr., inside a nearby home with obvious signs of trauma. Ward Jr. did not survive his injuries and was pronounced deceased on scene. The Phoenix Police Department's Homicide Unit responded and assumed the investigation.

During the course of this investigation, detectives learned that the night before at approximately 8:25 p.m., officers contacted an adult male at a business near 9600 North Metro Parkway. The man was identified as 29-year-old Kiaree Steele. During the contact, officers observed a significant amount of blood on Steele's clothing, indicating he had recently been involved in some type of altercation. Steele was found to have an outstanding arrest warrant and was taken into custody. He refused to speak with officers about his condition or the blood on his clothing. His clothing was collected as evidence, and impound procedures began after officers were unable to locate a related scene near his residence in the area of 31st Avenue and Cheryl Drive. Steele was booked on his outstanding felony warrant.

Evidence from the original homicide scene was later compared with blood on Steele's shirt. Phoenix Police Department Laboratory personnel conducted the comparison, and the results linked Steele to the murder of Ward Jr. Steele was re-interviewed regarding his connection to the homicide, during which he made admissions to his involvement. He was subsequently booked into jail on charges related to the murder.

Additional details remain part of the ongoing investigation, which remains active.

Sergeant Rob Scherer
Public Affairs Bureau

