

Newcastle woman charged for fatally shooting her boyfriend during argument

by Jeremy Harris, KOMO News Reporter

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SEATTLE — Prosecutors say a woman was not justified when she fatally shot her boyfriend after a fight in a parking lot in Newcastle last year.

According to court filings, Bryanna Bernardez, 23, was charged this week with one count of manslaughter in the first degree for killing her boyfriend, Tyair Stump.

[The shooting happened on October 30, 2023](#), in the parking lot of the Newcastle Library at 12901 Newcastle Way. According to an arrest report, Bernardez told responding officers that she shot Stump after he assaulted her. Stump died at the scene.

Bernardez told investigators she and Stump had an argument in their car, and he punched her in the mouth several times with a closed fist, according to the report.

She further claimed that Stump had pistol-whipped her in the head, though a deputy noted he did not see marks, bruises, or any visible injuries on Bernardez's head.

Investigators said Bernardez gave conflicting statements about the fight, including differing accounts of where her pistol was during the fight and whether Stump had hit her with his pistol.

"She stated that she exited the vehicle while standing a few steps away from it. She began to 'see red' as she was so angry that Stump had just assaulted her. Her anger boiled over, and she took her pistol out of her purse and shot at Stump several times, causing him to fall down and then run away," the report states.

Police say Bernardez took a picture of Stump after she shot him so she 'could send it to her mother.' Investigators obtained surveillance video from a nearby McDonald's. According to the report, the video appears to show Stump striking Bernardez with his hand.

Approximately 45 seconds passed before Bernardez pointed a pistol at Stump and then fired, according to the report.

Police allege the video shows Bernardez firing the gun at Stump repeatedly as he was running away from her. She then got into her car and left the area as Stump was lying on the ground, then returned to the scene seven minutes later before driving away again, the report states.

Multiple 911 callers reported hearing shots in the area, but the report notes that there is no record of Bernardez calling 911 herself.

<https://komonews.com/news/local/newcastle-woman-fatal-shooting-domestic-altercation-library-tyair-stump-bryanna-bernardez-pistol-whipped-arrest-report-manslaughter-arraignment-july-31-court-appearance>

Deputies arrived at the scene 19 minutes after the shooting and found Bernardez near Stump's body. Bernardez was booked into jail on suspicion of murder on the night of the shooting, but she was later released without being charged.

"The medical records and my observations and documentation of Bernardez three days after the incident show that her allegations of being struck violently in the head with a firearm and Stump pulling out her hair are not supported by any evidence and that the only evidence of any assault occurring during the incident at all is the minor laceration to her lip," a King County Sheriff's Office detective wrote in the report.

After charges were filed this week, Bernardez was arrested again and booked into jail on the charge of manslaughter.

She is scheduled to appear in court for an arraignment on July 31.