

Supreme Court  
of the  
State of Connecticut

SC 20632

State of Connecticut

v.

Larise N. King

**Clerk Appendix**

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ORIGINAL INFORMATION:

COURT DATE:

AT:

DISPOSITION DATE:

YES

09/23/2019

GA02 - BRIDGEPORT

DOCKET NO.: F02B-CR19-0332667-S

The undersigned Prosecuting Authority of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut charges that



KING LARISE N

32 KAREN CT APT B, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06606

Did commit the offenses recited below:

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT

Type/Class: F/B

Count: 1 MURDER 53a-54a

At: BRIDGEPORT

On or About: 09/21/2019

In Violation Of CGS/PA No: 53a-48

ACCESSORY TO

Type/Class: F/A

Count: 2 MURDER 53a-54a

At: BRIDGEPORT

On or About: 09/21/2019

In Violation Of CGS/PA No: 53a-8

SEE OTHER SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL COUNTS	DATE	SIGNED (PROSECUTING AUTHORITY)
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DEFENDANT ADVISED OF RIGHTS BEFORE PLEA (JUDGE)		COURT ACTION		BOND	SURETY	ELECTION	
<i>Dayton</i>		<i>asset</i>		\$1000000		<input type="checkbox"/> CASH	<input type="checkbox"/> COURT
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTY.	<input type="checkbox"/> PUB. DEFENDER	DATE	REDUCTION	B.O.	APPEAL	<input type="checkbox"/> JURY	
	GUARDIAN	9/23				ELECTION WITHDRAWN DATE	
						<input type="checkbox"/> SEIZED PROPERTY	

COUNT NO.	PLEA DATE	PLEA	PLEA WITHDRAWN DATE	NEW PLEA	VERDICT FINDING	FINE	JAIL	ADDITIONAL DISPOSITION
1								
2								

DATE	OTHER COURT ACTION	JUDGE	CONTINUANCES		
			DATE	PURPOSE	REASON
SEP 23 2019	PUBLIC DEFENDER APPOINTED	<i>Dayton</i>	10/8	Part A	
	TRANSFER TO PART A				

FINE PAID	RECEIPT NO.	MITTIMUS DATE	TRIAL TOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE REVERSE SIDE
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PROSECUTOR ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION	REPORTER ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION	SIGNED CLERK	SIGNED JUDGE
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Date 2019

FILE ENTRIES

Judge

10/8	Pd appeal time requirement waived on HPC	
10/8	cont to 10/29	(Richardson)
10/8	notice of st's request for disclosure filed	
10/8	st's request for disclosure filed	
9/27	Informal filed	
10/8	Amedial information filed	
10/17	Amicus filed by further Danziger PD	
" ①	Motion To Preserve Evidence	
" ②	Motion for Notice of Uncharged Misconduct	
" ③	" To Limit Impeachment of Δ	
" ④	" In Limine	
" ⑤	" To Suppress	
" ⑥	" " " Stahmel	
" ⑦	" For Ready Arguments of Counsel	
" ⑧	" To Dismiss	
"	Notice of Service / Report of Disclosure	
10/23	Δ motion 1 and 2-6R Δ motions	
10/23	3 through 8 over to T.O.T	(Alexander, J)
10/29	Δ waives time requirement - HPC	
10/29	cont to 12/3	(Alexander, J)
12/12	CONT from 12/13 to 12/19 by the court	(Alexander, J)
12/13	Information Filed	
12/19	cont to 1/9 excludable time-waiver of	(Alexander, J)
12/19	HPC time requirement	
<u>2020</u>		
1/9	Defendant waives HPC after canvass by the court Waiver found to be knowingly and voluntarily entered with the assistance of competent counsel	(Alexander, J.)
1/9	N6 plea entered Jury Election	(Alexander, J.)

Date	FILE ENTRIES	Judge
1/9	Cont to 3/10 - Excludable Time	(Alexander, J.)
2/14 (9)	Motion for Bond Reduction	
3/10	Δ motion # 9 heard and D.W.	(Alexander, J.)
3/10	Cont to 4/15	(Alexander, J.)
6/15	Appearance filed by Atty Michael Peck for Δ	
6/15	Motion for Continuance filed	
7/27	Motion for Continuance Filed (GR) - Cont to 8/26/20	(Russo, J.)
8/26	Remote Pretrial - Cont to 9/30/20	(Russo, J.)
9/30	Remote pretrial. Cont to 10/13	(Russo, J.)
10/13	Remote pretrial held. cont to 11/16	(Russo, J.)
11/16	Remote pretrial cont to 1/25/2021	(Russo, J.)
<del>2021</del>		
1/25/21	Remote pretrial cont to 2/15 at 9:30 Δ to appear by video	(Russo, J.)
2/12	State's Disclosure of Expert Witness filed	
2/15/21	Video Conference held - Atty Peck is present in court.	
	Court canvasses Δ on states offer.	
	Δ rejects offer. Δ waives jury trial and requests Court trial by 3 judge panel.	
	Court trial election (voluntarily and	(Russo, J.)
2/15	knowingly made, cont to 4/21 - Court	
2/15	trial. Date earlier for motions.	
2/18	medical records received from Yale New Haven Health System	
3/30	MEDICAL RECORDS ORDERED UNSEALED.	(Russo, J.)
	COPIES MADE AND PROVIDED TO COUNSEL	
4/6	(ATTY. M. PECK NOTIFIED VIA PHONE) Letter received from Chief Court Administrator appointing three-judge panel: Hon. Earl Richards, III (P.J.), Hon. Tracy Lee Dayton, Hon. Alex Hernandez.	

Date

FILE ENTRIES

Judge

2021

4/16 (10) State's Motion to Seal

4/20 State's Motion to Seal - GR

(Richards, J.)

4/27 DAY #1 OF TRIAL (3 JUDGE PANEL:

RICHARDS, P.J.; DAYTON, J.; HERNANDEZ, J.)

STATE REQUESTS SEQUESTRATION OF WITNESSES - GR (Richards, J.)

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION ON MOT. FOR REVIEW

UNDER SEAL READ INTO RECORD

(Richards, J.)

CONT'D TO 4/28/21

(Richards, J.)

4/28 DAY #2 OF TRIAL (3 JUDGE PANEL:

RICHARDS, P.J.; DAYTON, J.; HERNANDEZ, J.)

SEQUESTRATION ORDER NO LONGER APPLIES

TO WITNESS #9

(Richards, J.)

CONT'D TO 4/29/21

4/29 DAY #3 OF TRIAL (3 JUDGE PANEL:

RICHARDS, P.J.; DAYTON, J.; HERNANDEZ, J.)

CONT'D TO 4/30/21

4/30 DAY #4 OF TRIAL (3 JUDGE PANEL:

RICHARDS, P.J.; DAYTON, J.; HERNANDEZ, J.)

STATE SUBMITS APPLICATION FOR COURT

ORDER DIRECTING WITNESS TO TESTIFY

PURSUANT TO CGS 54-47a and

proposed orders - granted (entered as court exhibit 1) (Russo, J.)

CONT'D ~~TO 5/3/21~~ TO 5/3/21

5/3 STATE FILED REQUEST TO CONSIDER LESSER

INCLUDED OFFENSES AND APPLICABLE LAW

5/3 DAY #5 OF TRIAL (3 JUDGE PANEL:

RICHARDS, P.J.; DAYTON, J.; HERNANDEZ, J.)

- STATE RESTS

- DEFENSE MAKES ORAL MOTION FOR JUDGMENT

OF ACQUITTAL - DENIED

(Richards, J.)

Date

FILE ENTRIES

Judge

5/3	DEFENSE RESTS COURT CANVASSES A RE: DECISION NOT TO TESTIFY- KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY MADE W/ THE ASSISTANCE OF COMPETENT COUNSEL CONT'D TO 5/4/21 FOR CLOSING ARGUMENTS	(Richards, J.)
5/4	DEFENSE FILED REQUEST TO CONSIDER LESSER INCLUDED OFFENSES AND APPLICABLE LAW	
5/4	DAY #6 OF TRIAL (3 JUDGE PANEL: RICHARDS, P.J.; DAYTON, J.; HERNANDEZ, J.) STATE CLOSING ARGUMENTS DEFENSE CLOSING ARGUMENTS JUDGES' PANEL <del>COURT</del> BEGINS DELIBERATIONS CONT'D TO 5/5/21	
5/5	DAY #7 OF TRIAL (3 JUDGE PANEL: RICHARDS, P.J.; DAYTON, J.; HERNANDEZ, J.) Verdict: Count 1 - Conspiracy to Commit Murder - 53a-54a/53a-48-GY Count 2 - Accessory to Murder - 53a-54a(a)/53a-8(a)-GY Judge Richards dissents Bond revoked and remanded pending sentencing Cont'd to 6/30/21 for sentencing	(DAYTON, J.) (HERNANDEZ, J.)
5/5	PSI ORDERED (PSI ORDER SENT TO AP BRIDGEPORT)	(Richards, J.)
6/30	TES: 50 YEARS COUNT 1 - CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER - (53a-54a/53a-48) - 20Y (1Y MM) COUNT 2 - ACCESSORY TO MURDER - (53a-54a(a)/53a-8(a)) - 50Y (25Y MM) COUNTS 1 AND 2 TO RUN CONCURRENTLY COSTS + FEES WAIVED	ST. D. Applegate Clerk. C. Copersino (DAYTON, J.)



ORIGINAL INFORMATION: NO

COURT DATE: 09/23/2019

AT: GA02 - BRIDGEPORT

DISPOSITION DATE: 6/30/21

DOCKET NO.: FBT-CR19-0332667-T

The undersigned Prosecuting Authority of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut charges that

KING LARISE N

32 KAREN CT APT B, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06606

Did commit the offenses recited below:

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT Type/Class: F/B

Count: 1 MURDER 53a-54a At: BRIDGEPORT  
On or About: 07/27/2019 In Violation Of CGS/PA No: 53a-48

ACCESSORY TO Type/Class: F/A

Count: 2 MURDER 53a-54a At: BRIDGEPORT  
On or About: 07/27/2019 In Violation Of CGS/PA No: 53a-8

SEE OTHER SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL COUNTS	DATE	SIGNED (PROSECUTING AUTHORITY)
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COURT ACTION

DEFENDANT ADVISED OF RIGHTS BEFORE PLEA (JUDGE)	(DATE)	BOND \$1000000	SURETY	<input type="checkbox"/> CASH	<input type="checkbox"/> COURT	<input type="checkbox"/> JURY
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTY. <input type="checkbox"/> PUB. DEFENDER	GUARDIAN	REDUCTION	B.O.	<input type="checkbox"/> APPEAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ELECTION WITHDRAWN DATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEIZED PROPERTY	

COUNT NO.	PLEA DATE	PLEA	PLEA WITHDRAWN		VERDICT FINDING	FINE	JAIL	ADDITIONAL DISPOSITION
			DATE	NEW PLEA				
1	01/09/20	NG			GY 5/5/21			20Y
2	1/9/20	NG			GY 5/5/21			50Y

DATE	OTHER COURT ACTION	JUDGE	CONTINUANCES		
			DATE	PURPOSE	REASON
6/30/21	TES: 50 YEARS				
	COUNT 1 - CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER, (53a-54a/53a-48) - 20Y (1Y MM)				
	COUNT 2 - ACCESSORY TO MURDER, (53a-54a(a)/53a-8(a)) - 50Y (25Y MM)				
	COUNTS 1 + 2 TO RUN CONCURRENTLY				
	COSTS + FEES WAIVED	(DAYTON, J.) (Richards)			

FINE PAID	RECEIPT NO.	MITTIMUS DATE	TRIAL TOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> SEE REVERSE SIDE
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PROSECUTOR ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION D. APPELGATE	REPORTER ON ORIGINAL DISPOSITION P. GIBBS-HOPKINS	SIGNED CLERK [Signature]	SIGNED JUDGE [Signature]
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AMENDED INFORMATION

**In the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut**  
**FOR THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF FAIRFIELD**

**FBT CR19-0332667T**

PART A

APRIL

2021

DAVID R. APPLGATE, Senior Assistant State's Attorney

**Accuses LARISE KING**

**Of CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER**

and charges that in the County of Fairfield, at the City of Bridgeport, on or about the 27th day of July, 2019, at approximately 1:15 a.m., at or near the area of Newfield Avenue and Revere Street within said City, **LARISE KING**, with intent that conduct constituting the crime of MURDER, pursuant to Section 53a-54a, be performed, agreed with one or more persons to engage in or cause the performance of such conduct, and there was committed one or more overt acts in the performance of such conspiracy, in violation of Section 53a-48 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

AND SAID STATE'S ATTORNEY FURTHER ACCUSES **LARISE KING** of the crime of **MURDER**, and charges that in the County of Fairfield, at the City of Bridgeport, on or about the 27th day of July, 2019, at approximately 1:15 a.m., at or near the area of Newfield Avenue and Revere Street within said City, **LARISE KING**, with intent to cause the death of DATHAN GRAY, did solicit, request, command and importune another person to cause the death of DATHAN GRAY, in violation of Section 53a-54a(a) and Section 53a-8(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Dated at Bridgeport, Connecticut this 23rd day of April, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID R. APPLGATE  
Judicial District of Fairfield

2021 APR 23 P 2:37

NO. FBT-CR19-0332667-T : SUPERIOR COURT PART A  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT : JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF FAIRFIELD  
V. : AT BRIDGEPORT  
LARISE KING : MAY 5, 2021

**MAJORITY MEMORANDUM OF DECISION**

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
SUPERIOR COURT  
2021 MAY -5 P 2:39  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF  
FAIRFIELD AT BRIDGEPORT  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

The court makes the following findings of fact.

In October 2016, the defendant, Larise King, and Dathan Gray, a.k.a. Daedae, got married. They had an acrimonious relationship and were separated approximately two years later. In early 2019, the defendant went on Facebook Live and posted an irate message directed at Mr. Gray. The substance of the message was that the defendant was tired of supporting Mr. Gray and was no longer going to do so. The defendant told Mr. Gray that, "Whatever my family do to you is beyond me. . . They tired of you. They tired of you." The defendant also stated that she was going to "kick [Mr. Gray's] ass" every time she saw him. Finally, the defendant stated that she still loved Mr. Gray, albeit in a very angry tone of voice.

Nosadee Sampson was a very reluctant witness. She and Mr. Gray had been friends for a very long time and Sampson referred to him as her cousin even though they were not related. Sampson and the defendant had also been friends since they were teenagers. When asked if she was closer to Mr. Gray than the defendant, Sampson responded that she loved them both equally but did not see the defendant as often after the defendant and Mr. Gray separated. Sampson testified that on July 27, 2019, at approximately 10 p.m., she drove to the Snack Shack on the corner of Newfield Avenue and Revere Street in Bridgeport to meet Mr. Gray. When Sampson arrived, she heard a female yelling inside the

Snack Shack. She entered the store and saw Fatima Woodruff, who worked at the store, yelling at Mr. Gray. Sampson convinced Mr. Gray to leave. The two walked outside and got into Sampson's car, which was parked in Mr. Gray's driveway. Mr. Gray lived directly across the street from the Snack Shack in the second house from the corner of Beardsley Street and Newfield Avenue.

A short time later, Sampson got out of her car and walked to the BK Lounge to meet some friends and family. The BK Lounge, also located on Newfield Avenue, was a short walk from Mr. Gray's residence. When Sampson went to the BK Lounge, Mr. Gray remained seated in Sampson's car.

At approximately midnight, and while Sampson was still in the BK Lounge, Woodruff called the defendant complaining about Mr. Gray. The defendant called her best friend, Janice Rondon, who also testified at trial, and asked for a ride to the Snack Shack. Rondon picked the defendant up at the defendant's home on Karen Court in Bridgeport and drove her to the Snack Shack. When they arrived, the defendant got out of the car and walked across the street to where Mr. Gray was standing in front of his apartment. Rondon said that from the car she could see Mr. Gray and the defendant talking. Mr. Gray's girlfriend, Sakeryial Beverly, was also standing nearby. Rondon got out of the car and walked over to Mr. Gray and the defendant. As she approached, Mr. Gray stated "Why the fuck you over here? Mind your own fucking business, bitch." Mr. Gray then tried to spit on Rondon. Rondon spat back at Mr. Gray. The defendant and Mr. Gray, both of whom had been drinking earlier in the night, started to fight both verbally and physically.

After the fight started, an individual named "Mookie" approached Sampson, who was still in the BK Lounge, and told her that Mr. Gray wanted her to come outside. Mookie told Sampson that Mr. Gray was involved in a fight near Sampson's car. While Sampson did not want to be involved in the fight, she nonetheless left the BK Lounge and went back to the area near Mr. Gray's residence. There, Sampson saw the defendant and Mr. Gray involved in a verbal and physical altercation. Sampson and others tried

to separate the defendant and Mr. Gray. As they broke up the fight, Sampson heard Mr. Gray repeatedly stating "I don't give a fuck." Sampson also said that the defendant "kept saying" that it was "going to be [Mr. Gray's] last day" and that Mr. Gray was "going to breathe his last breath."

Pole cameras and surveillance cameras in the vicinity of the Snack Shack video recorded part of the altercation. The defendant, who Sampson identified on the video, can be seen pacing around in an agitated manner. The defendant is wearing a light-colored shirt, striped pants, and a scarf on her head. The defendant's hair is hanging over her left shoulder.

Rondon testified that the argument ended when the defendant's new boyfriend, Mike Edwards, a.k.a. "TJ," showed up and was able to calm the defendant down. Rondon then got the defendant back into her (Rondon's) car, drove the defendant to 6<sup>th</sup> Street to meet with Edwards, dropped her off, and drove back toward the BK Lounge. Rondon never actually made it to the BK Lounge, but instead parked on Stratford Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street and remained in her car.

Shortly after the altercation, at approximately 12:57 a.m., a surveillance camera recorded a light-colored SUV driving on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The SUV stopped across the street from 234 6<sup>th</sup> Street and picked someone up, whom the court finds, based on the totality of the evidence, including the defendant's admission, was the defendant. The SUV crossed from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to Newfield Avenue and drove past the Snack Shack, Mr. Gray's residence, and the BK Lounge. At approximately 12:59 a.m., another camera recorded the SUV continuing southbound on Newfield Avenue toward Orange Street. At approximately 1:10 a.m., a camera recorded the SUV driving northbound on Newfield Avenue. The SUV turned onto Beardsley Street and parked on the right side of the street approximately four to five houses from the corner of Newfield Avenue. The SUV was facing westbound toward the I-95 overpass.

After the SUV parked, the video shows a short male wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt get out of the driver's seat and a female wearing a light-colored shirt, striped pants, and a headscarf with her

hair over her left shoulder – whom, based on the totality of the circumstances, the court finds to be the defendant – get out of the rear, passenger seat on the driver’s side of the vehicle. The man walked toward the back of the car and continued on Beardsley Street toward Newfield Avenue. The defendant got in the driver’s seat of the SUV and backed it up. The court finds that the defendant did this in order to put more room between the SUV and the car parked in front of it in order to facilitate a faster getaway. The defendant kept her foot on the brake causing the rear brake lights to remain illuminated.

Pole and surveillance cameras on Newfield Avenue showed that the short male in the dark hooded sweatshirt was accompanied by a taller man in a grey hooded sweatshirt. The two men rounded the corner onto Newfield Avenue. Sampson saw the two men approaching and saw that they were wearing “hoodies.” She immediately knew something was wrong because it was too hot to be wearing hooded sweatshirts. Sampson tried to warn Mr. Gray saying, “They got hoods on; they got hoods on.” The two men approached Mr. Gray and his girlfriend. The men pushed Mr. Gray’s girlfriend aside. One of the men quickly said something to Mr. Gray and then the shorter man, who was wearing the black hooded sweatshirt, shot Mr. Gray in the face, head, neck, back, shoulder, arm, hip and abdomen. The shooter continued firing even after Mr. Gray was already on the ground.

Shotspotter registered a total of 16 gunshots at approximately 1:13 a.m. The court concludes that the defendant, from where she was waiting on Beardsley Street – approximately 226 meters away – would have heard the gunfire. Notably, rather than driving away or calling the police, the defendant simply turned off the headlights.

The two men ran back to Beardsley Street and got into the waiting SUV. The defendant turned the headlights back on and drove westbound on Beardsley Street and under the I-95 overpass. The time that elapsed from when the two men got out of the SUV to walk toward Newfield Avenue to the time they ran back, got into the SUV, and drove off was two minutes and 22 seconds.

Mr. Gray sustained 11 gunshot wounds and four graze wounds. He died as a result of the gunshot wounds. According to Associate Medical Examiner, Dr. Jacqueline Nunez, who performed the autopsy, other than the graze wounds, each of the other gunshots had "stopping power" meaning that each one was sufficient to incapacitate and/or kill Mr. Gray. Toxicology reports show that at the time of his death, Mr. Gray had ethanol, THC, and a low amount of methamphetamine in his system.

Crime scene detectives recovered 15 cartridge casings, five bullets, and one bullet fragment from the scene of the shooting. Dr. Nunez also removed several bullet fragments and a bullet from Mr. Gray's body. According to Firearms Examiner Marshal Robinson, all of the recovered bullets and casings were 9mm. Robinson determined that all of the casings were fired from one gun and that all of the bullets were fired from one gun. He could not say whether the casings and bullets were fired from the same gun without actually having a gun against which to compare them.

In addition to the bullets and casings, crime scene detectives recovered four small vials of what appeared to be crack cocaine from the ground near where Mr. Gray was shot. There was no evidence as to whom the items belonged. The substance presumptively tested positive for crack cocaine.

#### **The defendant's first statement to the police**

On July 28, 2019, Detective Jorge Cintron spoke with the defendant and her father at the Bridgeport Police Department. The defendant stated that at approximately 11:17 a.m. she received a call from Fatima [Woodruff], who was yelling and screaming on the phone and saying something about "Daedae." The defendant could not really hear what Fatima was saying because Fatima was mad. The defendant told Woodruff that she was "coming there." The defendant called Rondon and asked for a ride. Rondon picked the defendant up approximately 30 minutes later and drove her to the Snack Shack.

According to the defendant, when they arrived, she went inside and spoke to Woodruff. The defendant and Woodruff then went across the street to speak with Mr. Gray, who was sitting in the

backseat of someone's car. Mr. Gray's girlfriend was there, as well. The defendant said that Mr. Gray got out of the car and was swearing at her and "disrespecting" her. Rondon stepped in and told Mr. Gray that he was disrespecting the defendant. Mr. Gray responded by spitting at Rondon; Rondon spat back at him. The defendant calmly explained to Detective Cintron, "That's when I just punched him in the face and we started fighting." The defendant said that she and Mr. Gray were fighting about their marriage. She denied telling Mr. Gray that he was going to take his last breath that day.

The defendant continued explaining to Cintron that she called her boyfriend, Michael Edwards, who showed up at the scene, spoke to Mr. Gray, and diffused the situation. The defendant got back into Rondon's car and went to Edwards' family's house on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Edwards then drove her home to Karen Street and dropped her off. She denied calling anyone else that night and also maintained that she was at home during the shooting. The defendant claimed that she did not know who killed Mr. Gray.

#### **The continuing police investigation**

Following the interview, Detective Cintron with the assistance of other members of the Bridgeport Police Department collected the above-mentioned video footage from several surveillance and pole cameras in the area of the shooting. After reviewing the footage, they concluded that the white Ford Explorer depicted on the videos was involved in the incident. They also reviewed footage from the day prior to the incident and noticed that on July 26, 2019, a white SUV that was the same make and model (Ford Explorer), and had the same body-style, trim, wheels, sunroof, trailer hitch, and luggage rack as the SUV involved in the shooting was recorded driving in the vicinity of Newfield Avenue and Stratford Avenue at approximately 4:53 p.m. The recording from July 26, 2019 captured the license plate of the white Ford Explorer, which was registered to the defendant's cousin, Oronde Jefferson, at 247 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Bridgeport.



On July 31, 2019, Captain Brian Fitzgerald saw Jefferson's white Ford Explorer driving in the area of Newfield Avenue and Stratford Avenue. Captain Fitzgerald and Detective Cintron conducted a motor vehicle stop. Jefferson was alone in the vehicle. They confirmed that Jefferson's 2002 white Ford Explorer had all of the same external features, i.e., body style, trim, wheels, sunroof, trailer hitch, and luggage rack, as the SUV that was used during the homicide.

**The defendant's second statement to the police**

On August 1, 2019, Detective Cintron, Detective Laura Acevedo, and Lieutenant Christopher Lamaine went to the defendant's residence to interview her again. Several of the defendant's family members, including her mother and aunt, were present during the recorded conversation. When asked what she was wearing on the day of the shooting, the defendant stated that she was wearing a pink shirt, striped pants, and a scarf tied in her hair. The defendant repeated the version of the events that she gave on July 28, 2019 during her first interview, but added that she actually called Edwards because she wanted him to fight Mr. Gray and that he instead told her that she needed to "stop making a scene in public." The defendant again stated that Edwards drove her home and dropped her off before the shooting occurred. The defendant said that she first learned of the shooting when "Ala Carter" called her via Facebook Messenger at 1:32 a.m.

Officers then asked the defendant if she knew anyone who drove a white Ford Explorer. The defendant said no. They asked if there might be a video of her getting into a white Ford Explorer. Again, the defendant said no. When explicitly told that there was a video of her getting into such a vehicle, the defendant replied, "I did."

The defendant then admitted that her cousin Oronde Jefferson, whom she identified from a photograph, had a white Ford Explorer. The defendant said that Jefferson and one of his friends, who she could not identify, picked her up on 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Connecticut Avenue and Stratford Avenue.

The defendant got into the back seat behind Jefferson. When asked if she had called Jefferson, the defendant said no. She said that Jefferson was already in Bridgeport and that “he just saw me” and they “linked up out of the blue” despite it being almost 1 a.m. The defendant claimed that she went for a ride with Jefferson and that they drove down Newfield Avenue, turned left on Orange Street, and then returned via Central Avenue to 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

The officers advised the defendant that the surveillance video showed that they did not drive down Central Avenue. Rather, the video showed that the SUV stopped on Beardsley Street immediately before the shooting. It further showed two men getting out of the front of the car and the defendant getting out of the back seat of the car and into the driver’s seat. The defendant denied that she got into the driver’s seat. She then stated that she was not in the car and that they had dropped her off on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The officers asked the defendant four questions: (1) “Did they tell you where they were going?” (2) “Did they tell you why they were going to get out of the car?” (3) “Did you have any idea?” and (4) “Did they tell you to drive?” The defendant did not respond to any of the questions.

#### **Interview of Andrew Bellamy**

Andrew Bellamy very reluctantly testified under a grant of immunity. Bellamy was interviewed three times by the police; twice over the phone and once in person. All three interviews were recorded and were played for the court. Bellamy admitted that he and Jefferson were in Jefferson’s white Ford Explorer on the evening of July 26, 2019 and into the early morning hours of July 27, 2019. At some point, they picked up Jefferson’s female cousin, who, based on the totality of the circumstances, the court finds to be the defendant. The defendant sat in the back seat of the SUV and the three drove to Newfield Avenue to go to a party at the BK Lounge. According to Bellamy, he, Jefferson, and the defendant were the only three people in the SUV all night. Rather than go to the BK Lounge, Jefferson parked the car on Beardsley Street and the three had some drinks. When asked why the defendant got

out of the back seat and into the driver's seat of the SUV, Bellamy responded that it was likely because she was "nicer," meaning less intoxicated. He later changed that story and said that no one ever got out of the SUV. He maintained that story despite the video footage and despite the fact that Bellamy's cell phone recorded him taking 240 steps right at the time of the homicide. Bellamy also said that after sitting in the parked car for some time, he, Jefferson, and the defendant went to his (Bellamy's) girlfriend's house on Hawthorne Street and stayed there until 5 a.m. on July 27, 2019.

**Contemporaneous cellular telephone records contradict the defendant's statements**

Special Agent James Wines of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified regarding cell phone records and cell site location information obtained for the defendant's two cellular telephones (Verizon cell phone 203-953-8073 and Sprint cell phone 203-859-1845) and for Jefferson's cellular telephone (T-Mobile phone 203-727-5275). The court finds based upon Agent Wines' training and experience that he qualifies as an expert in cell site location information technology. The defendant provided the 203-953-8073 phone number to the police during her first interview. She provided the 203-859-1845 phone number, which she referred to as her "job" phone, and Jefferson's phone number to the police during her second interview.

The cell records show that the defendant and Rondon called each other approximately one dozen times between 11:20 p.m. and 11:41 p.m. The cell site location information establishes that during each of these calls, the defendant's Verizon cell phone was accessing a cell site in the vicinity of her residence. Beginning at 12:20 a.m., the defendant made several calls using her Verizon cell phone. Despite the defendant's claim to the contrary, during this time period, she called Jefferson four times – at 12:44 a.m., 12:45 a.m., 12:46 a.m. and 12:51 a.m. The cell site location information establishes that during each of these calls, the defendant's cell phone was accessing a cell site on Newfield Avenue in the East End of Bridgeport in the vicinity of Mr. Gray's homicide. The records further show that during the first three

calls, Jefferson was in the North End of Bridgeport. By the time of the fourth call at 12:51 a.m., Jefferson's phone had begun moving south toward the defendant in the East End of Bridgeport.

At 1:10 a.m., the defendant placed a call to Rondon. During the call, the defendant's Verizon phone accessed the same cell site on Newfield Avenue in the vicinity of Mr. Gray's homicide. At 1:15 a.m., Rondon called the defendant. Once again, the defendant's Verizon phone accessed the cell site on Newfield Avenue in the vicinity of Mr. Gray's homicide. Thereafter, the defendant placed and received several calls on both of her cellular telephones. The cell site location information shows the defendant's telephones accessing cell sites first heading westbound, in the same direction that the defendant and the shooter fled the scene of the shooting and then heading north toward the defendant's residence. Between 1:41 a.m. and 1:46 a.m., the defendant's Sprint phone and Jefferson's cell phone both accessed cell towers in the same locations. From this information and Agent Wines' testimony, the court concludes that the defendant and Jefferson were traveling together toward her residence.

### **Conclusion**

All three judges agree on the facts that were established during trial. However, we differ with respect to the conclusion to be drawn from those facts. Judge Hernandez and I find as follows:

The defendant repeatedly told Mr. Gray that it was his last day and he was going to take his last breath. He was murdered within the hour. The defendant then made numerous false exculpatory statements in an effort to distance herself from the crime. Specifically, she lied about whom she called after the altercation with Mr. Gray. She lied about where she was at the time of the shooting. She lied about knowing anyone who owned a white Ford Explorer. She then lied about being in the Explorer with Jefferson. She lied about driving by Mr. Gray's location ten minutes before the murder. She lied about driving the car away from the scene. And when given the opportunity to deny knowing that Jefferson was going to shoot Mr. Gray, she declined to do so.

The evidence establishes that the defendant was not an unknowing or unwilling participant in the crime. Rather, she called Jefferson four times in a seven minute period right after her fight with Mr. Gray. She was the one who knew where to find Mr. Gray and the only reasonable inference to draw is that she directed Jefferson to Mr. Gray's location. The defendant did not direct Jefferson to stop and beat Mr. Gray up despite claiming that is what she wanted her boyfriend, Michael Edwards, to do earlier. In fact, the evidence is clear that the defendant and Mr. Gray regularly and publicly engaged in verbal and physical altercations, and that the defendant, by her own admission, was the one who punched Mr. Gray in the face earlier in the evening. Instead, she directed Jefferson onto a dark side street. When Jefferson and Bellamy got out of the car, the defendant got into the driver's seat and backed the car up giving herself plenty of room to pull out quickly. She then sat waiting in the car with her foot on the brake while Jefferson went to kill Mr. Gray. Jefferson did not have an issue with Mr. Gray. The defendant had an issue with Mr. Gray – many of them going back several years. Yet Jefferson walked up to Mr. Gray and shot him in the face. He then shot him another 14 times. This was not a spur of the moment decision. It was a plan. Tellingly, when the shots were fired, the defendant did not take off running or drive away like Janice Rondon and everyone else within hearing range of the gunfire. Instead, she turned off the headlights and waited for Jefferson and Bellamy to return.

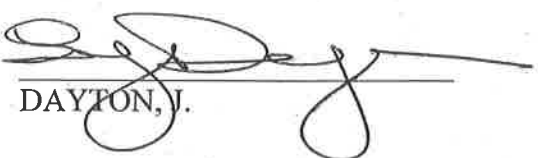
In short, based upon the defendant's stated threats to Mr. Gray before his murder, and all of the circumstances and events leading up to and immediately following the murder, the defendant's physical acts, the manner in which the murder was committed, and the defendant's serial, false exculpatory statements, the court finds that the defendant and the assailants shared the common intent to cause Mr. Gray's death. Further, based upon the foregoing and the timing of her calls to Oronde Jefferson after the fight and before the murder, the court finds that the defendant solicited, and requested him to commit the murder.

The court has considered the proffered defenses urged by defense counsel. Primarily, counsel argues that the fact that the two suspected assailants, Oronde Jefferson and Andrew Bellamy, have not been arrested and charged raises a reasonable doubt about the defendant's guilt. General Statutes § 53a-48, however, is a unilateral, rather than a bilateral, conspiracy statute, meaning that a conspirator may be prosecuted for conspiracy despite the non-prosecution or acquittal of the alleged co-conspirators. *State v. Colon*, 257 Conn. 587, 600-601 (2001).

Based on the evidence presented, Judge Hernandez and I find that the state has proven beyond a reasonable doubt, each of the elements of Conspiracy to Commit Murder, in violation of Sections 53a-54a and 53a-48 of the Connecticut General Statutes and that the state has proven beyond a reasonable doubt, each of the elements of Murder, in violation of Sections 53a-54a(a) and 53a-8(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Dated this 5<sup>TH</sup> day of May, 2021 at Bridgeport, Connecticut.

  
HERNANDEZ, J.

  
DAYTON, J.

DOCKET NO. FBT-CR19-0332667-T : SUPERIOR COURT PART A

STATE OF CONNECTICUT : JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF FAIRFIELD

V. : AT BRIDGEPORT

LARISE KING : MAY 5, 2021

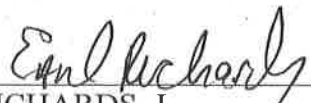
**DISSENTING**

I am in agreement with the historical facts unanimously found by the trial court and the general legal principles that the majority states. As to the Accessory to Murder count my disagreement lies with the majority's interpretation of the evidence that lead it to conclude that the state proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant had a specific intent to murder Dathan Gray concomitantly with the intent to assist the two gunmen in carrying out the crime.

I do believe however, that the evidence is sufficient to support a conviction of the lesser included offense of Manslaughter in the First Degree on this count.

In addition, I disagree with the majority's opinion that the state presented sufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant had the specific intent to murder Dathan Gray sufficient to satisfy the conspiracy to murder count. I do believe however, that the evidence is sufficient to support the lesser included offense of Conspiracy to Commit Assault in the First Degree on this count.

As I would have considered the above mentioned lesser included offenses I respectfully dissent from the majority opinion.

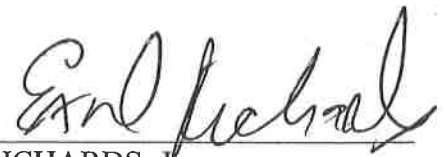
  
RICHARDS, J.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
SUPERIOR COURT  
2021 MAY - 5 P 12:32  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF  
FAIRFIELD BRIDGEPORT  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. FBT CR19-0332667 : SUPERIOR COURT  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT : JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF FAIRFIELD  
V. : AT BRIDGEPORT  
LARISE N. KING : JUNE 30, 2021

Minority Decision *State v. King*

As presiding judge I would like the record to reflect that I have full respect for the deliberative process which has taken place during the trial *State v. King*. I believe that the process worked in a fair and just manner. I believe, however, that it would not be prudent for me to participate in the sentencing phase of the trial because I did not find the defendant guilty of the greater charges as did the majority in this case. This decision is based on what I believe the law requires and it should not be construed as evidence of my opinion as to what I believe the majority sentence should or should not be.



RICHARDS, J.

**FILED**

JUN 30 2021

SUPERIOR COURT  
BRIDGEPORT



**APPEAL**     **JOINT APPEAL**     **CROSS APPEAL**     **AMENDED APPEAL**     **CORRECTED FORM**

JD-SC-33 Rev. 7-16  
 P.B. Sections 3-8, 60-7, 60-8, 62-7, 62-8, 63-3, 63-4, 63-10  
 C.G.S. Sections 31-301b, 51-197f, 52-470

*All appeals must be filed electronically unless an exemption from the requirements of electronic filing has been granted or you are an incarcerated self-represented party. For further information about e-filing or this form, see the Appeal Instructions, form JD-SC-34.*

**To Supreme Court**     **To Appellate Court**

Name of case (State full name of case)

**State of Connecticut v. Larise N. King**

Type of appellate matter

**Appeal**

<b>Trial Court History</b>	Tried to <b>Court</b>		Trial court location <b>Fairfield JD - 1061 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604</b>	
	Trial court judges being appealed <b>Hon. Tracy Lee Dayton Continued</b>		List all trial court docket numbers, including location prefixes <b>FBT-CR-19-0332667-T</b>	
	All other trial court judges who were involved with the case <b>HON. KEVIN S. RUSSO Continued</b>		Judgment for (Where there are multiple parties, specify those for whom judgment was rendered) <b>State of Connecticut</b>	
	Date of judgment(s) or decision(s) being appealed <b>06/30/2021</b>		Date of issuance of notice on any order on any motion that would render judgment ineffective	Date for filing appeal extended to
	Case type <b>Criminal</b>		For Juvenile Cases <input type="checkbox"/> Termination of Parental Rights <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Temporary Custody	
	For Civil/Family Case Types, Major/Minor code:		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

<b>Appeal</b>	Appeal filed by (Party name(s)) <b>LARISE N KING</b>			
	From (the action that constitutes the appealable judgment or decision) <b>Judgment of Convictions C.G.S. Sec. 53a-48, 53a-54a</b>			
	If this appeal is taken by the State of Connecticut, provide the name of the judge who granted permission to appeal and the date of the order			
	Statutory Basis for Appeal to Supreme Court <b>C.G.S. Sec. 51-199 (b)(3)</b>			
	By (Signature of counsel of record) <b>▶ 401722</b>	Telephone number <b>203-574-0029</b>	Fax number <b>203-574-0038</b>	Juris number (If applicable) <b>401722</b>

<b>Appearance</b>	Type name and address of counsel of record filing this appellate matter (This is your appearance; see Practice Book Section 62-8) <b>CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER-LEGAL SERVICES 55 WEST MAIN STREET SUITE 430 WATERBURY CT 06702</b>		E-mail address <b>legalservicesunit@jud.ct.gov</b>	
	"X" one if applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Counsel or self-represented party who files this appeal will be deemed to have appeared in addition to counsel of record who appeared in the trial court. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counsel or self-represented party who files this appeal is appearing in place of:		Name of counsel of record <b>Michael A. Peck &amp; all previous counsel of rec.</b> Juris number (If applicable) <b>045776</b>	

<b>Certification</b>	I certify that a copy of the appeal form I am filing will immediately be delivered to each other counsel of record and I have included their names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone and facsimile numbers; the appeal form has been redacted or does not contain any names or other personal identifying information that is prohibited from disclosure by rule, statute, court order or case law; and the appeal form complies with all applicable rules of appellate procedure in accordance with Practice Book Sections 62-7 and 63-3.			
	Date to be delivered <b>10/27/2021</b>		If this appeal is a criminal or habeas corpus matter, I certify that a copy of this appeal form will immediately be delivered to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney Appellate Bureau. Date to be delivered <b>10/27/2021</b>	
	If you have an exemption from e-filing under Practice Book Section 60-8, attach a list with the name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, and facsimile number of each counsel of record and the address where the copy was delivered.		Signed (Counsel of record) <b>▶ 401722</b>	
		Date signed <b>10/27/2021</b>		

<b>Required Documents</b>	To be filed with the Appellate Clerk within ten days of the filing of the appeal, if applicable. See Practice Book Section 63-4.			
	1. Preliminary Statement of the Issues 2. Court Reporter's Acknowledgment or Certificate that no transcript is necessary 3. Docketing Statement		4. Statement for Preargument Conference (form JD-SC-28A) 5. Constitutionality Notice 6. Sealing Order form, if any	

Entry Fee Paid     No Fees Required     Fees, Costs, and Security waived by Judge (enter Judge's name below)

*Court Use Only*  
Date and time filed

Judge  
**Hon. Alex V. Hernandez**

Date waived  
**10/19/2021**

## Appeal Form (continued)

**CASE NAME:**

State of Connecticut v. Larise N. King

**TRIAL COURT JUDGES**

Hon. Tracy Lee Dayton  
Hon. Earl B. Richards, III  
HON. ALEX V. HERNANDEZ

**OTHER TRIAL COURT JUDGES**

HON. KEVIN S. RUSSO  
HON. JOAN K. ALEXANDER

## Parties & Appearances

**PARTY/PARTIES INITIATING THE APPEAL**

LARISE N KING - **Manually Added Party**  
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WATERBURY, CT 06702  
Phone: (203) 574-0029 Fax: (203) 574-0038  
Email:

**ALL OTHER PARTIES AND APPEARANCES**

State of Connecticut - **Judgment For - Manually Added Party**

State of Connecticut - **Manually Added Party**

Juris: 425647 DAVID RICHARD APPELEGATE  
STATE'S ATTORNEYS OFFICE  
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BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604  
Phone: (203) 965-5255 Fax: (203) 965-5793  
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**Revised Information: Phone: (203) 579-6506, Fax: (203) 382-8401 Email: david.applegate@ct.gov**

LARISE N KING - **Manually Added Party**

Juris: 045776 MICHAEL A PECK  
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Email: mpeck@pecklawgroup.com

**ADDITIONAL SERVICE INFORMATION**

Larise N. King, Inmate # 315357, York Correctional Institution, 201 West Main Street, Niantic, CT 06357

**FILING PARTY CORRECTED INFORMATION**

CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER-LEGAL SERVICES Email: legalservicesunit@pds.ct.gov

S.C. 20632

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

SUPREME COURT

v.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

LARISE N. KING

OCTOBER 27, 2021

**DOCKETING STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Practice Book § 63-4 (a) (3), the defendant-appellant submits the following information:

A. Parties:

State of Connecticut  
Office of the State's Attorney  
J.D. of Fairfield  
1061 Main Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

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Tel. (203) 579-6506  
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Larise N. King (defendant-appellant)  
# 315357  
York Correctional Institution  
201 West Main Street  
Niantic, CT 06357

Jennifer Bourn (appellate counsel)  
Juris No. 401722  
Office of Chief Public Defender  
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Waterbury, CT 06702  
Tel. (203) 574-0029  
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Michael A. Peck (trial counsel)  
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Tel. (860) 236-4782  
Fax (860) 206-2762  
Email: [mpeck@pecklawgroup.com](mailto:mpeck@pecklawgroup.com)

- B. None known or reasonably ascertainable, except parties to the appeal, trial and appellate counsel for the state and the defendant and judges of record.
- C. There were no known or reasonably ascertainable criminal protective orders requested or issued during the underlying proceedings.
- D. There were exhibits in the trial court.
- E. Following a three-judge panel court trial in the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Fairfield, *Dayton, Richards, III, Hernandez, Js.*, the defendant was convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit murder, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-54a and § 53a-48 and one count of accessory to murder, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53a-54a (a) and § 53a-8 (a). She was sentenced to serve 50 years of incarceration with 25 years mandatory minimum. The defendant currently is incarcerated.

Respectfully submitted,

DEFENDANT-APPELLANT  
LARISE N. KING

BY: Jennifer Bourn  
JENNIFER BOURN  
JURIS NO. 401722  
OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER  
55 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 430  
WATERBURY, CT 06702  
TEL. (203) 574-0029/FAX (203) 574-0038  
[Legalservicesunit@pds.ct.gov](mailto:Legalservicesunit@pds.ct.gov)  
HIS ATTORNEY

**CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to P.B. §§ 62-7 and 66-3 it is hereby certified that a copy of the foregoing was sent electronically this 27th day of October, 2021 to: Bruce R. Lockwood, Juris No. 401795, Office of the Chief State's Attorney, 300 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, tel. (860) 258-5807, fax (860) 258-5828, [DCJ.OCSA.Appellate@ct.gov](mailto:DCJ.OCSA.Appellate@ct.gov), and was sent by mail to the defendant, Larise N. King, # 315357, MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, 1153 East Street South, Suffield, CT 06080. It is also certified that this document has been redacted or does not contain any names or other personal identifying information that is prohibited from disclosure by rule, statute, court order or case law. It is also certified that this document complies with all applicable rules of appellate procedure.

Jennifer Bourn  
JENNIFER BOURN  
JURIS NO. 401722