

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER**  
**Center for Forensic Medicine**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER**

Davidson County Medical Examiner: Feng Li M.D., J.D., Ph.D.

Judicial District Number: 20

District Attorney: Honorable Glenn Funk

**State Number: 16-19-6481**

**Case Number: MEC16-3140**

|   |  |   |  |                                    |                      |
|---|--|---|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Name of Decedent</b><br>Ashley Michelle Brown  |  | <b>Age</b><br>27 Years                        | <b>Race</b><br>White   | <b>Date of Birth</b><br>12/22/1988 | <b>Sex</b><br>Female |
| <b>Address</b><br>8640 Old Charlotte Pike, Pegram, TN 37143   |  |   |  |                                    |                      |
| <b>Date of Death</b><br>12/21/2016 7:37 AM  | <b>Type of Death</b><br>Suspected Homicide |   | <b>Investigating Agency/Complaint #:</b><br>Metro Nashville Police Dept, Complaint #: 2016-1124879 |                                    |                      |
| <b>Place of Death</b><br>1160 Freightliner Dr., Nashville, TN   |  |   |  |                                    |                      |
| <b>Narrative Summary</b><br><p>Reportedly, this unidentified white female was found by workers at Republic Services on 12/21/2016 at 04:22 hours. Per 911 reports, Metro Nashville Fire/EMS responded to the scene. Investigator Patterson was notified via pager by Detective Bixenmann, Hermitage Precinct. Per Detective Bixenmann, the business is where garbage trucks dump their loads before heading to the dump. This investigator responded to the scene and pronounced death at 07:37 hours on 12/21/2016. The scene was documented via photography and a brief body examination was performed. The body was then transported via Middle Tennessee Removal Service to the Center for Forensic for further investigation by a forensic pathologist. Final disposition arrangements are unknown at this time.</p> <p>Investigator Leslie Patterson 12/21/2016 08:56 hours</p> |  |   |  |                                    |                      |
| <b>Jurisdiction Accepted</b><br>Yes   |  | <b>Autopsy Ordered</b><br>Yes                 |  | <b>Toxicology Ordered</b><br>Yes   |                      |
| <b>Physician Responsible for Death Certificate</b><br>Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D.  |  |   |  |                                    |                      |
| <b>Cremation Approved</b><br>No   |  | <b>Funeral Home</b><br>Woodlawn-Roesch-Patton |  |                                    |                      |
| <b>Cause of Death</b><br>Multiple blunt force injuries and strangulation  |  |   |  |                                    |                      |
| <b>Contributory Cause of Death</b>  |  |   |  |                                    |                      |
| <b>Manner of Death</b><br>Homicide  |  |   |  |                                    |                      |

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER**  
**Center for Forensic Medicine**  
**850 R.S. Gass Blvd.**  
**Nashville, Tennessee 37216-2640**

**CASE: MEC16-3140**  
**County: DAVIDSON**

**AUTOPSY REPORT**

**NAME OF DECEDENT:** BROWN, ASHLEY MICHELLE **RACE:** White **SEX:** Female **AGE:** 27

**DATE AND TIME OF DEATH:** December 21, 2016 at 7:37 a.m.

**DATE AND TIME OF AUTOPSY:** December 22, 2016 at 10:35 a.m.

**FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST:** Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D.

**COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER:** Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Honorable Glenn Funk

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**PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES**

Adult white female found in a garbage repository with multiple blunt force injuries and strangulation:

1. Multiple blunt force injuries:
  - A. Multiple contusions.
  - B. Multiple abrasions.
  - C. Multiple lacerations/cuts.
  - D. Fracture/dislocation, right ankle.
  - E. Patchy subgaleal hemorrhage.
  - F. Extensive skull fractures.
  - G. Bilateral clavicular fractures.
  - H. Multiple rib fractures and sternal fracture.
  - I. Thoracic vertebral column and lumbar vertebral column fractures.
  - J. Pelvic fractures.
  - K. Hemoaspiration with areas of contusions, both lungs.
  - L. Focal contusion, left edge, tongue.
2. Strangulation:
  - A. Numerous petechial hemorrhages, eyelids, conjunctivae and sclerae.
  - B. A layered forensic neck dissection demonstrates multiple small areas of soft tissue and muscle hemorrhage with no palpable neck bone fractures.

(Continued)

3. Other findings:
  - A. Multiple tattoos.
4. Postmortem toxicologic studies indicate the presence of ethanol in the liver tissue and vitreous fluid.

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|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>CAUSE OF DEATH:</b>         | Multiple blunt force injuries and strangulation |
| <b>MANNER OF DEATH:</b>        | Homicide  |
| <b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH:</b> | Assaulted and strangled by other(s)             |

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*I hereby certify that I, Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., have performed an autopsy on the body of Ashley Michelle Brown on December 22, 2016 at 10:35 a.m. at Center for Forensic Medicine. The purpose of this report is to provide a certified opinion to the County Medical Examiner and District Attorney General. The facts and findings to support these conclusions are filed with the Tennessee Department of Health. The autopsy was performed in the presence of Miguel Laboy, M.D.*

#### **EXTERNAL EXAMINATION**

The body is that of an adult white female measuring 66 inches and weighing 148-1/2 pounds. The body is normally developed and appears consistent with the given age of 27 years. She is received with purple jacket, gray/black shirt, gray undershirt, pink bra, blue jeans, and two blue socks. Postmortem changes consist of early state of decomposition including skin slippage, fixed posterior livor mortis and minimal rigor mortis.

The scalp hair is brown and long. The corneas are cloudy. The sclerae and conjunctivae are hemorrhagic. The irides are brown. The mouth contains natural teeth. The palate is intact. The ears and mouth show no abnormalities. The neck is of normal configuration and there are no palpable masses. The thorax is symmetrical. The abdomen is flat. The axillae, external genitalia, and anus are without trauma. The extremities are symmetrical and normally developed.

Identifying marks include multiple tattoos, a nose ring, nipple rings, and a belly ring, which are documented by digital photography.

#### **EVIDENCE OF INJURY:**

External examination reveals multiple red colored contusions on the top of the forehead, right periorbital bruise, contusion on the nasal bridge, neck, chest, back, and on the extremities. There are multiple lacerations/cuts on the right temple, right jaw, right forearm, and on the back with no evidence of reaction.

There are areas of abrasions on the posterior neck, abdomen, back and on the extremities. The mandible is fractured on the right side. The right ankle shows fracture/dislocation.

Internal examination reveals patchy subgaleal hemorrhage, extensive skull fractures including hinge fractures, patchy subarachnoid hemorrhage, areas of cerebrocortical contusions, bilateral clavicular fractures, multiple rib fractures including all the ribs in multiple places on the right side, left first to third, sixth to twelfth ribs at multiple places, some of which have associated soft tissue hemorrhage, sternal fracture at the third intercostal space level with no apparent associated soft tissue hemorrhage, complete transection of the T12 to L1, patchy pelvic fractures, contusions on both lungs, hemoaspiration of the lungs, and contusion on the left edge of the tongue.

There are numerous petechial hemorrhages on the eyelids, sclerae and inferior palpebral conjunctivae. A layered forensic neck dissection, after removal of the internal organs, demonstrates multiple small areas of soft tissue and muscle hemorrhage with no evidence of palpable bone fractures.

*Having been mentioned above, these injuries will not be repeated below, except as needed for clarification.*

### INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The organs occupy normal positions, and all the internal organs are in a state of autolysis. There are no fluid collections, adhesions, or mass lesions.

**HEAD AND NECK:** There is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage. The brain weighs 1220 grams. The vasculature overlying the cerebral hemispheres is congested. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and large vessels, are intact. Serial sections through the cerebral hemispheres, cerebellum, and brain stem reveal no tumor or evidence of infection.

The structures surrounding the upper airway are intact.

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** The heart weighs 240 grams. The epicardium is intact and smooth. The coronary arteries arise from unobstructed ostia, follow the usual distributions, and are without significant arteriosclerosis. The cardiac valves are normally formed and the chambers are of usual dimensions. The atrial and ventricular septa are intact. The myocardium is red-brown, firm and unremarkable. The aorta and its major branches are intact.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** The right lung weighs 330 grams and the left lung, 240 grams. The pulmonary arteries are without thromboemboli on initial incision into the pulmonary trunk and on dissection. On sectioning, the pulmonary parenchyma is otherwise unremarkable.

**DIGESTIVE SYSTEM AND LIVER:** The esophagus is unremarkable with a recognizable gastroesophageal junction. The stomach is empty. The duodenum, small intestines and large intestines are unremarkable. The appendix is not identified. The liver weighs 840 grams. It is intact. The parenchyma is red-brown and soft without focal lesions. The unremarkable gallbladder contains approximately 3 cc of bile. The extrahepatic bile ducts are patent and unremarkable. The pancreas is unremarkable.

**RETICULOENDOTHELIAL SYSTEM:** The spleen weighs 100 grams. There is a normal distribution of unremarkable lymph nodes. The thymus gland is unremarkable.

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** The right and left kidneys weigh 80 grams and 100 grams,

respectively. The subcapsular surfaces are smooth. The cortices are of normal thickness with sharp corticomedullary junctions. The calyces, pelves, and ureters are patent and unremarkable. The unremarkable urinary bladder is empty.

The internal genitalia consists of a uterus, cervix, ovaries and fallopian tubes. They are appropriate for age. There is no evidence of pregnancy.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:** The pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands are unremarkable.

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:** The musculoskeletal system is unremarkable.

**TOXICOLOGY:** The following specimens are submitted for possible toxicologic analysis: blood, liver, bile, and vitreous humor. A separate report will be issued.

#### SUMMARY OF CASE

This 27-year-old white female later identified as Ashley Brown was discovered deceased in a garbage repository on December 21, 2016. An autopsy was performed on December 22, 2016.

Major autopsy findings include an adult white female with multiple contusions, abrasions, lacerations/cuts, fracture/dislocation of the right ankle, numerous petechial hemorrhages, scleral hemorrhage, and multiple tattoos upon external examination. Internal examination reveals patchy subgaleal hemorrhage, extensive skull fractures, patchy subarachnoid hemorrhage, areas of cerebrocortical contusions, multiple fractures including bilateral clavicles, multiple ribs, sternum and pelvis, hemoaspiration and contusions of the lungs, and contusion of the left edge of the tongue. A layered forensic neck dissection reveals multiple small areas of soft tissue and muscle hemorrhage with no palpable neck bone fractures.

Based upon the circumstances surrounding death, as currently known, the cause of death is multiple blunt force injuries and strangulation. The manner of death is homicide.

***\*\*Electronically signed by Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D. on Thursday, March 23, 2017\*\****

Feng Li, M.D., J.D., Ph.D.  
Senior Associate Medical Examiner

FL/pc  
T: 12/31/2016

# LABORATORY REPORT



## Client Information

Client: Forensic Medical - Nashville  
Report To: Dr. Feng Li  
Forensic Medical-Nashville  
850 RS Gass Blvd  
Nashville, TN 37216

## Case / Sample Information

Specimen ID: 4633807  
Workorder ID: 61215  
Client Case ID: 16-3140 Brown, Ashley  
Reason for Test: Postmortem

Specimen Type: Liver  
Collected: 12/22/2016 11:00  
Received: 12/23/2016 15:00  
Reported: 12/31/2016 16:45

## Test(s) Performed

| 70511 - Confirmation Amphetamines |               | 40579 - Profile- Comprehensive Tissue | 70251 - Confirmation Volatiles |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tested For                        | Result        | Quantitation                          | Reporting Threshold            |
| Alcohol - Volatiles               | POSITIVE      |                                       | 10 mg/100g                     |
| Ethanol                           | POSITIVE      | 121 mg/100g                           | 10 mg/100g                     |
| Methanol                          | NEGATIVE      |                                       | 10 mg/100g                     |
| Acetone                           | NEGATIVE      |                                       | 10 mg/100g                     |
| Isopropanol                       | NEGATIVE      |                                       | 10 mg/100g                     |
| Amphetamines                      | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| Amphetamine                       | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| Methamphetamine                   | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| MDA                               | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| MDEA                              | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| MDMA                              | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| Phentermine                       | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| para-Methoxyamphetamine           | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| CNS Stimulants                    | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 50 ng/g                        |
| Barbiturates                      | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 600 ng/g                       |
| Sedatives/Hypnotics               | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 200 ng/g                       |
| Methadone                         | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 100 ng/g                       |
| Benzodiazepines                   | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 15 ng/g                        |
| Cocaine Metabolite                | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 100 ng/g                       |
| Opiates                           | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 100 ng/g                       |
| Synthetic Narcotics               | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 100 ng/g                       |
| Phenothiazines                    | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 10 ng/g                        |
| Tricyclic Antidepressants         | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 150 ng/g                       |
| Atypical Antidepressants          | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 6 ng/g                         |
| Antipsychotics                    | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 1 ng/g                         |
| Dextromethorphan                  | NONE DETECTED |                                       | 100 ng/g                       |
| Miscellaneous                     | NONE DETECTED |                                       |                                |

I certify that the specimen identified by this accession number has been handled and analyzed in accordance with all applicable requirements.

\* Examiner: Missy Mathis, M.S.

Date: 12/31/2016



\*Electronic Signature represented by plain textual name and date of when individual applied Electronic Signature Certification in Aegis LIMS.  
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FL  
1-4-17

# LABORATORY REPORT



## Client Information

Client: Forensic Medical - Nashville  
Report To: Dr. Feng Li  
Forensic Medical-Nashville  
850 RS Gass Blvd  
Nashville, TN 37216

## Case / Sample Information

Specimen ID: 4633808  
Workorder ID: 61215  
Client Case ID: 16-3140 Brown, Ashley  
Reason for Test: Postmortem

Specimen Type: Vitreous  
Collected: 12/22/2016 11:00  
Received: 12/23/2016 15:00  
Reported: 12/31/2016 16:45

## Test(s) Performed

40405 - Alcohol/Volatiles

| Tested For          | Result   | Quantitation | Reporting Threshold |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|---------------------|
| Alcohol - Volatiles | POSITIVE |              | 10 mg/dL            |
| Ethanol             | POSITIVE | 52 mg/dL     | 10 mg/dL            |
| Methanol            | NEGATIVE |              | 10 mg/dL            |
| Acetone             | NEGATIVE |              | 10 mg/dL            |
| Isopropanol         | NEGATIVE |              | 10 mg/dL            |

I certify that the specimen identified by this accession number has been handled and analyzed in accordance with all applicable requirements.

\* Examiner: Missy Mathis, M.S.

Date: 12/31/2016



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1-4-17