



# TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

*Robert P. Kochen*  
CHIEF OF POLICE

*"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"*

Date : 8/27/2016

Time : 10:57 am

Tarpon Springs Police Department detectives are currently investigating a homicide that occurred this morning at the Sunbay Motel, located at 57 West Tarpon Avenue in Tarpon Springs. Through the investigation, detectives have established probable cause for the arrest of FREDRICK ALVIN BENTLEY for the charge of Murder.

Officers responded to the motel at approximately 4:34 am in reference to a shooting victim. Upon their arrival, officers located the victim in the parking lot on the south side of the parking lot. He was pronounced deceased on-scene by Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue. The victim was identified as TARENZO LADARIUS SMITH, who was found to have been living at the motel.

The suspect had left the scene on foot, prior to the arrival of officers. A search of the area with K9 was conducted; however, he was not located.

Through the subsequent investigation, detectives were able to identify the shooter as Fredrick Bentley. The investigation also revealed that Bentley had been staying at the motel in another room and was an acquaintance of Smith. Detectives discovered that Smith and Bentley were engaged in a conversation, during the early morning hours, that led to a verbal argument. During the argument, Bentley had apparently retrieved a firearm, returning to confront Smith. Bentley then shot Smith, at close range, before fleeing the area on foot.

This incident was not a random event and stemmed from an apparent argument between known individuals. Bentley was last seen wearing long white shorts, a white t-shirt, black and white shoes and a white baseball cap. He is approximately 5'11" - 6'01" with thin build and has long braided hair (dreadlocks) that extend to his mid to lower back. Bentley also has gold teeth, a beard and tattoos (to include tattoos on both of his forearms and the right side of his neck).

Bentley has prior convictions in 2001 for Resisting Arrest with Violence and Armed Robbery. He was released from the Department of Corrections' custody in 2003.

Major Michael A. Trill



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