

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, December 7, 2016

(Harvey, LA)- Jefferson Parish Coroner Dr. Gerry Cvitanovich announced today that the body of Joseph McKnight has been released to Rhodes Funeral Home following the collection of tissue samples which were deferred at the time of Friday's autopsy in order to preserve all wounds for evaluation by the private pathologist retained by the family.

Dr. Cvitanovich said this morning's collection was performed by Dr. Dana Troxclair, a board-certified forensic pathologist, who also conducted the initial forensic examination. This morning's tissue collection took less than 10 minutes and consisted of excising the skin and subcutaneous tissues around the entry wounds.

"Had this procedure been performed on Friday, the private pathologist would not have been able to examine the wounds for the presence or absence of findings such as searing, soot, stippling or marginal abrasions," said Dr. Cvitanovich. "This was not a third autopsy and does not change our initial findings in any way."

When the autopsy report is completed, it will be turned over to the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's office.