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Date: July 14, 2023
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MURDER SUSPECT ARRESTED AFTER CAUGHT ON MDOC CAMERAS

JACKSON, MS (July 12) – U.S. Marshals stormed a house in Jackson early Tuesday morning, arresting 31-year-old murder suspect Brandon Pugh. Pugh is accused of wounding a 14-year-old Hinds County teenager in a drive-by shooting on May 28. The victim died six days later. Pugh remained on the run for a month.

Pugh was identified by law enforcement on July 6 after surveillance video at an MDOC prison showed Pugh throwing six packages of contraband over a fence. (See video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msQgQN0VndE>) At 1:40 in the morning, Pugh walked onto the grounds of Walnut Grove Correctional Facility in Leake County and threw packages of cellphones and chargers over a 30-foot perimeter fence. Mississippi Department of Corrections Executive Deputy Commissioner Karei McDonald and Walnut Grove Superintendent Brady Sistrunk said the video showed Pugh, a convicted felon, drawing a handgun.

“That could be a felony by itself,” said McDonald. “Last year, we installed 900 high-definition cameras at MDOC facilities so we record 24-hours a day inside and outside the prisons. That video now becomes evidence.”

Said Superintendent Sistrunk, “Bringing an unauthorized weapon on grounds can be a felony charge.”

Two women suspected accomplices were arrested by Walnut Grove Police outside the prison. Law enforcement later identified one as a convicted felon and both were charged with possession of drugs. In addition to the Hinds County murder charge, Pugh also faces multiple other charges including firing into a home and attempting to smuggle into a prison facility. The suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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