



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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Security Guard Arrested for Nightclub Shooting



Justin R. Smith

Sheriff's detectives have arrested a security guard for killing a man during a shootout at a north Shelby County nightclub. The security guard was also shot during the parking lot brawl about 3:30 yesterday morning at the VIP Club at 4731 Covington Pike.

Justin R. Smith, 25, of Memphis, has been charged with Second Degree Murder and Possessing a Firearm during the Commission of a Dangerous Felony. Investigators say he shot Douglas Smith, 30, of Bartlett, (no relation) as Smith drove his 1998 Buick Park Avenue in the parking lot of the nightclub.

Deputies believe Douglas Smith was trying to escape gunfire from several people shooting at each other. Smith managed to drive about a quarter of mile down Austin Peay Highway before he died in his car.

Investigators are still sorting out details of what led to the gunfight which also left Justin Smith with a gunshot wound to the leg. He was treated and released from the hospital. Deputies don't know who shot Justin Smith but they don't believe it was Douglas Smith. No gun was found in his car when Deputies discovered his body.

During questioning Justin Smith admitted he fired several shots at Douglas Smith's vehicle because he thought Smith was trying to run over him. Detectives say surveillance video captured the event.

Deputies say Smith had no handgun carry permit and wore a black tee shirt that said "Security." It is still unclear whether he is a licensed security guard by the State of Tennessee.

Anyone present during the fight at the VIP Club is asked to call Sheriff's detectives at **(901) 545-5600** or Crime Stoppers at **(901) 528-CASH**.

(End of Release)