

**People v Binns**

2022 NY Slip Op 34950(U)

December 13, 2022

County Court, Westchester County

Docket Number: Indictment No. 22-72018-01

Judge: Anne E. Minihan

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FILED

DEC 13 2022

TIMOTHY C. LIZZI  
COUNTY CLERK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

COUNTY COURT: STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

FILED  
AND ENTERED  
ON 12-13 - 2022  
WESTCHESTER  
COUNTY CLERK

-----X  
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

-against-

RASHEED BINNS

Defendant.

DECISION & ORDER

Indictment No. 22-72018-01

-----X  
MINIHAN, J.

Defendant, Rasheed Binns, is charged by Westchester County Indictment Number 22-72018-01 with Manslaughter in the First Degree (Penal Law § 125.20[1]), Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree (Penal Law § 265.02[1]), and Tampering with Physical Evidence (Penal Law § 215.40[2]). Defendant is charged together, with codefendant Leah Guy, with a second count of Tampering with Physical Evidence (Penal Law § 215.40[2]).

The indictment charges codefendant Leah Guy with Hindering Prosecution in the Second Degree (Penal Law § 205.60).

Defendant has filed an omnibus motion consisting of a Notice of Motion, an Affirmation in Support, and a Memorandum of Law. In response, the People filed an Affirmation in Opposition together with a Memorandum of Law.

I.

MOTION to INSPECT, DISMISS, and/or REDUCE  
CPL ARTICLE 190

Defendant moves pursuant to CPL 210.20 to dismiss the indictment, or reduce the counts charged against him, on the ground that the evidence before the Grand Jury was legally insufficient, and the Grand Jury proceeding was defective within the meaning of CPL 210.35. On consent of the People, the Court has reviewed the minutes of the proceedings before the Grand Jury.

The Court denies defendant's motion to dismiss or reduce the counts in the indictment for legally insufficient evidence because a review of the minutes reveals that the evidence presented, if accepted as true, would be legally sufficient to establish every element of the offenses charged (*see* CPL 210.30 [2]). Pursuant to CPL 190.65(1), an indictment must be supported by legally sufficient evidence which establishes that the defendant committed the offenses charged. "Courts assessing the sufficiency of the evidence before a grand jury must evaluate whether the evidence, viewed most favorably to the People, if unexplained and uncontradicted--and deferring all questions as to the weight or quality of the evidence--would warrant conviction" (*People v Mills*, 1 NY3d 269, 274-275 [2002]). Legally sufficient evidence means competent evidence which, if accepted as true, would establish every element of an offense charged and the defendant's commission thereof (CPL 70.10[1]; *see People v Flowers*, 138 AD3d 1138, 1139 [2d Dept

2016]). “In the context of a Grand Jury proceeding, legal sufficiency means prima facie proof of the crimes charged, not proof beyond a reasonable doubt” (*People v Jessup*, 90 AD3d 782, 783 [2d Dept 2011]). “The reviewing court’s inquiry is limited to whether the facts, if proven, and the inferences that logically flow from those facts supply proof of every element of the charged crimes, and whether the Grand Jury could rationally have drawn the guilty inference. That other, innocent inferences could possibly be drawn from those facts is irrelevant to the sufficiency inquiry as long as the Grand Jury could rationally have drawn the guilty inference” (*People v Bello*, 92 NY2d 523, 526 [1998]). Here, the evidence presented, if accepted as true, is legally sufficient to establish every element of the offenses charged (CPL 210.30[2]).

With respect to defendant’s claim that the Grand Jury proceeding was defective within the meaning of CPL 210.35, a review of the minutes reveals that a quorum of the grand jurors was present during the presentation of evidence and that the Assistant District Attorneys properly instructed the Grand Jury on the law and only permitted those grand jurors who heard all the evidence to vote the matter (*see People v Collier*, 72 NY2d 298 [1988]; *People v Calbud*, 49 NY2d 389 [1980]; *People v Valles*, 62 NY2d 36 [1984]; *People v Burch*, 108 AD3d 679 [2d Dept 2013]).

To the extent that defendant’s motion seeks disclosure of portions of the Grand Jury minutes beyond the disclosure directed by CPL Article 245, such as the prosecutor’s instructions and/or colloquies, the Court denies that branch of the motion.

## II.

### MOTION to SUPPRESS PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

This branch of defendant’s motion is granted solely to the extent of conducting a *Mapp* hearing prior to trial to determine the propriety of any search resulting in the seizure of property (*see Mapp v Ohio*, 367 US 643[1961]). Insofar as defendant challenges the seizure of evidence not obtained from his person, the pre-trial hearing will address whether defendant had a reasonable expectation of privacy in any of the locations searched to constitute standing to challenge the seizure of any physical evidence (*see Rakas v Illinois*, 439 US 128 [1978]; *People v Ramirez-Portoreal*, 88 NY2d 99 [1996]; *People v Ponder*, 54 NY2d 160 [1981]; *People v White*, 153 AD3d 1369 [2d Dept 2017]; *People v Hawkins*, 262 AD2d 423 [2d Dept 1999]). The hearing will also address whether any evidence was obtained in violation of defendant’s Fourth Amendment rights (*see Dunaway v New York*, 442 US 200 [1979]).

With respect to any evidence which was retrieved pursuant to a search warrant, the motion to suppress is denied. The results of a search conducted pursuant to a facially sufficient search warrant are not subject to a suppression hearing (*People v Arnau*, 58 NY2d 27 [1982]). Upon review of the four corners of the search warrant affidavits, provided to the Court, the warrants were adequately supported by probable cause (*see People v Keves*, 291 AD2d 571 [2d Dept 2002]; *see generally People v Badilla*, 130 AD3d 744 [2d Dept 2015]; *People v Elysee*, 49 AD3d 33 [2d Dept 2007]). Moreover, defendant’s argument that “reasonable cause must be based upon reliability” pursuant to *Aguilar v Texas*, 84 S. Ct. 1509 (1964) and *Spinelli v United States*, 89 S. Ct. 584 (1969) (*see Defendant’s Memorandum of Law*, page 2), is improper here

since the warrants were based upon a police officer's knowledge and not that of a confidential informant or anonymous tip.

III.

MOTION for SANDOVAL and VENTIMIGLIA HEARINGS

Defendant has moved for a pre-trial hearing to permit the trial court to determine the extent, if at all, to which the People may inquire into defendant's prior criminal convictions or prior uncharged criminal, vicious, or immoral conduct. On the People's consent, the Court orders a pre-trial *Sandoval* hearing (*see People v Sandoval*, 34 NY2d 371 [1974]). At said hearing, the People shall notify defendant, *in compliance with CPL Article 245*, of all specific instances of his criminal, prior uncharged criminal, vicious, or immoral conduct of which they have knowledge and which they intend to use in an attempt to impeach defendant's credibility if he elects to testify at trial, *and, in any event, not less than 15 days prior to the first scheduled trial date*. Defendant shall bear the burden of identifying any instances of his prior misconduct that he submits the People should not be permitted to use to impeach his credibility. Defendant shall be required to identify the basis of his belief that each event or incident may be unduly prejudicial to his ability to testify as a witness on his own behalf (*see People v Matthews*, 68 NY2d 118 [1986]; *People v Malphurs*, 111 AD2d 266 [2d Dept 1985]).

If the People determine that they will seek to introduce evidence at trial of any prior uncharged misconduct and criminal acts of defendant, including acts sought to be used in their case in chief, they shall so notify the Court and defense counsel, *in compliance with CPL Article 245, and, in any event, not less than 15 days prior to the first scheduled trial date*, and a *Ventimiglia/Molineux* hearing (*see People v Ventimiglia*, 52 NY2d 350 [1981]; *People v Molineux*, 168 NY 264 [1901]) shall be held immediately prior to trial to determine whether or not any evidence of uncharged crimes may be so used by the People. The People are urged to make an appropriate decision in this regard sufficiently in advance of trial to allow any *Ventimiglia/Molineux* hearing to be consolidated and held with the other hearings herein.

IV.

MOTION to DISMISS for LACK of SPEEDY TRIAL

In his Memorandum of Law, defendant includes one sentence with respect to his motion to dismiss for lack of speedy trial pursuant to CPL 30.30: "...[I]n this case it should have been declared ready within 6 months, but the arraignment was more after the charges were filed." This is the only argument made in support of his motion. Indeed, the People did not respond to the speedy trial motion in their answer. In any event, since defendant is charged with Manslaughter in the First Degree (Penal Law § 125.20[1]), speedy trial does not apply to defendant's case (*see* CPL 30.30[3][a]). Even if speedy trial did apply, the People were clearly within the six-month statutory timeframe pursuant to CPL 30.30(1)(a). The criminal action commenced when the felony complaint was filed in the City of Mount Vernon on July 25, 2022; thus, the People would have had six months from that date, or 184 days, to be ready for trial in accordance with CPL 30.30. The People filed a Certificate of Compliance and Statement of Readiness on September 19, 2022. As such, 56 days could be chargeable to the People, not including any periods of excludable time as enumerated in CPL 30.30(4). Based on the foregoing, defendant's motion to dismiss for violation of statutory speedy trial is denied.

V.

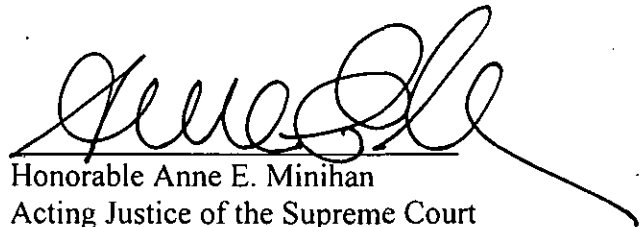
COURT ORDERED WADE/RODRIGUEZ and SANDOVAL HEARINGS

Pursuant to CPL § 710.30(1)(a), the People served defendant with notice of an alleged statement he made on July 24, 2022 to members of the City of Mount Vernon Police Department at approximately 5:15 A.M. The Court orders a pre-trial *Huntley* hearing to determine whether the alleged statement was involuntarily made within the meaning of CPL 60.45 (*see* CPL 710.20[3]; CPL 710.60[3][b]; *People v Weaver*, 49 NY2d 1012 [1980]). The hearing will also address whether the alleged statement was obtained in violation of defendant's Fourth Amendment rights (*see Dunaway v New York*, 442 US 200 [1979]), or his Sixth Amendment right to counsel.

Additionally, pursuant to CPL § 710.30(1)(b), the People served defendant with notice of two alleged identifications made of him pursuant to photographic arrays on July 23, 2022. The Court orders a *Wade* hearing (*see United States v Wade*, 388 US 218 [1967]) at which the People bear the initial burden of establishing the reasonableness of the police conduct and the lack of any undue suggestiveness (*see People v Chipp*, 75 NY2d 327, 335 [1990] *cert. denied* 498 US 833 [1990]; *People v Berrios*, 28 NY2d 361 [1971]). Once that burden is met, defendant bears the ultimate burden of proving that the procedure was unduly suggestive. Where suggestiveness is shown, the People must show the existence of an independent source by clear and convincing evidence. The hearing will address whether an identifying witness had a sufficient prior familiarity with defendant as to render the witness impervious to police suggestion (*see People v Rodriguez*, 79 NY2d 445 [1992]).

The foregoing constitutes the Decision and Order of this Court.

Dated: White Plains, New York  
December 13, 2022

  
Honorable Anne E. Minihan  
Acting Justice of the Supreme Court

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