

The City of
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PRESS RELEASE

101 E. Kansas St. • Liberty, Mo. 64068 • T: 816.439.4415 • F: 816.439.4419 • W: www.ci.liberty.mo.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 6, 2015
CONTACT: Capt. Andy Hedrick, Liberty Police Department, 816.439.4718 or
Ahedrick@ci.liberty.mo.us

Suspect Charged in Liberty Homicide and Arson Investigation

LIBERTY, Mo – Malcolm L. Bentley, 24, of St. Louis, Mo., has been charged by the Clay County, Missouri Prosecutor's Office with Murder in the First Degree for the homicide of Darron Washington, 49, a Liberty resident formerly of St. Louis, Mo. Bentley has also been charged with Arson in the First Degree and Armed Criminal Action. His total bond was set at \$1 million. Defendants are presumed innocent until a plea or finding of guilt.

Liberty police have been investigating this homicide and arson since Feb. 10 at 12:56 a.m. when they were dispatched to assist the Liberty Fire Department at the scene of a fire at 200 Wilshire Blvd. Shortly after the arrival of police, Washington was found deceased outside the building, the victim of an apparent homicide. Later on the same date, his abandoned stolen vehicle was recovered by police in St. Louis, Mo.

As part of the investigation, Liberty police detectives traveled to St. Louis and have worked closely with the St. Louis Police Department. Bentley was arrested in St. Louis for an unrelated parole violation warrant on Feb. 22, 2015. Since his arrest, Bentley has been in custody at the St. Louis City Justice Center, pending extradition to Clay County, Mo. for the homicide warrant.

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Malcolm L. Bentley