

EXCLUSIVE: Milwaukee County DA Admits Froedtert Murder Suspect Was Freed From Jail For Obstructing Police Only Hours Before Murder (UPDATED)
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

The man accused of murdering Karlie Beaudin at Froedtert Hospital's parking complex last week was released from the Milwaukee County Jail without charges only hours earlier following an arrest for obstructing Milwaukee Police while brandishing a hammer. Kent Lovern, the top deputy to Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, in an interview with me, confirms that another assistant DA ordered Kenneth B. Freeman II released without charges. Freeman was arrested by Milwaukee Police on an obstructing charge last Tuesday January 22 after interfering with Police who were investigating a matter unrelated to him. He was held in the jail until Thursday. Karlie Beaudin was killed either late Thursday night or early Friday morning.

The decision to release Freeman was made by Assistant DA Brittany Grayson. Lovern is defending her actions saying Freeman had no adult arrest record and the proposed charge was only a misdemeanor. The police report described Freeman's actions at the time of the original arrest as erratic. He was holding a hammer when barking at police, resulting in his obstruction arrest. Lovern states that ADA Grayson was in contact with a public defender regarding Freeman and made the only logical call given that his original charge was relatively minor.

Freeman is charged with brutally attacking Beaudin and moving her from one part of the parking complex to another. It seems obvious he was having serious behavioral issues last week, culminating in the murder but it is certainly hard to say if the horrifying killing or any other violent behavior could have been foreseen when Freeman was kicked from the jail on the DA's office's orders. Freeman would have been released after 48 hours or given a chance to be released on bail regardless of Grayson's decision. To this point, no Milwaukee media outlet, other than me, has reported Freeman was in the jail for two days leading up to the Froedtert murder.

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February 1, 2019