

Pennsylvania v Dante Washington

Taxicab DNA evidence points to shooter

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We're happy that this nightmare is finally over. I never doubted his identification of the shooter, but we were both very worried. We are so thankful that Cybergenetics was part of it. I have no doubt that Dr. Perlin's testimony was vital to the conviction.”

Ann Phillips
victim Eugene Phillip's wife

At about 6 a.m., Eugene Phillips picked up a passenger. Less than half an hour later, that passenger demanded money and shot him “for no apparent reason.”

“The gunshot wound damaged both of Phillips' lungs, liver and stomach,” said Agent Raymond O. Kontz III. “He had to have his spleen removed and has thus far undergone four surgeries.”

Police collected physical evidence, but the local lab was unable to produce match statistics on the low-level DNA data. Then Detective Kenneth Mains sent the 12 evidence items for Cybergenetics TrueAllele analysis, which linked Washington to the crime.

Crime In December 2014, cabbie Eugene Phillips was shot and gravely wounded by a hooded passenger in Williamsport, PA.

Evidence A dozen items, including cab vouchers and a swab from a rear taxicab seat, were tested for biological evidence.

DNA The Pennsylvania State Police lab developed DNA data from the low-level mixtures.

Match The lab's manual methods deduced little identification information from the mixture data.

TrueAllele The scientific computer processed the same data. Phillips' DNA was linked to the cab vouchers dropped by Dante Washington—and Dante Washington was linked to the taxicab seat.

Cybergenetics On December 15, 2016 Dr. Mark Perlin explained the DNA results at the Lycoming County Court.

Outcome Five days later, Mr. Washington was convicted of attempted homicide, theft and all other counts. He was sentenced to 36 to 72 years in prison.

Ask for a free TrueAllele screening of DNA data from your case.