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Press Release

Not guilty plea in Norwood murder

The Cambridge man accused of murdering Shakim Lewis-Johnson outside a Norwood residence in September 2021 was ordered held without bail after he entered a plea of not guilty at his Norfolk Superior Court Arraignment today, March 28, 2022, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

“Norwood and Massachusetts State Police detectives escorted Ernest Payne, 27, back from Florida on Friday, where he had been arrested by agents of the U.S. Marshal Service,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “We had been working with federal and local partners, as well as the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section to locate him.”

Payne stood silent wearing a surgical mask as his defense attorney, Stephen Weymouth, entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf to Judge Beverly Cannone.

“Judge Cannone imposed Assistant District Attorney Carolyn Hely’s request that Mr. Payne be held without bail,” District Attorney Morrissey said. The matter is due back in court June 8 for pre-trial conference.

Payne’s co-defendant, Anthony Loper-Feaster, 26, of Salem, was arrested in connection to the murder in October, has already entered a plea of not guilty to the murder, and is also being held without bail, Morrissey said. Loper-Feaster is due back in Superior Court April 11, 2022.