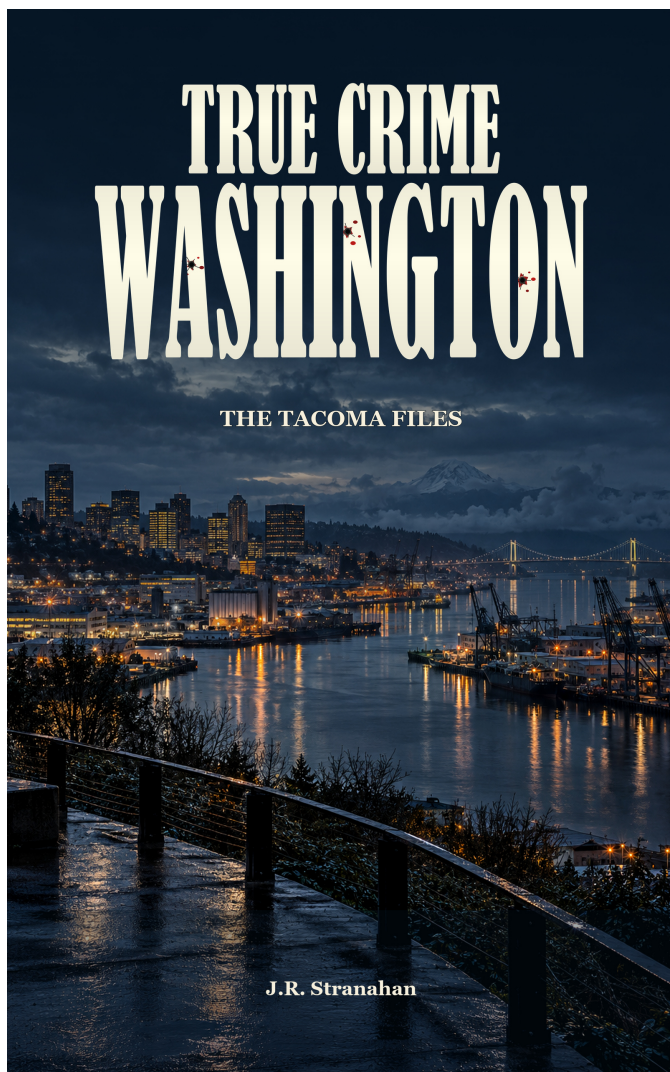


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File 1: The Lakewood Police Murders

Place and period: Lakewood and Pierce County, 2009-2015

Present legal status: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings.

This file belongs first to Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold, and Greg Richards, their families, colleagues, and the Lakewood community. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

Four Lakewood officers were attacked inside a coffee shop on November 29, 2009. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Lakewood Police Murders. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Lakewood and Pierce County, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings.

For Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold, and Greg Richards, their families, colleagues, and the Lakewood community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Clemmons fled after the shootings and received assistance from several people. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2009-2015 record from Lakewood and Pierce County contains a point that resists shorthand: Allen had driven Clemmons to the area and disputed knowing that a shooting was planned. The present legal posture is equally specific: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The State prosecuted Allen under accomplice liability rather than as the gunman. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold, and Greg Richards, their families, colleagues, and the Lakewood community privately thought.

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This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Four Lakewood officers were attacked inside a coffee shop on November 29, 2009. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings.

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The first account

By the time The Lakewood Police Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The State prosecuted Allen under accomplice liability rather than as the gunman. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The Supreme Court held that the jury instructions did not adequately require proof of Allen's knowledge of the murders. That proposition is consequential on its own. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Lakewood and Pierce County.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Four Lakewood officers were attacked inside a coffee shop on November 29, 2009. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold, and Greg Richards, their families, colleagues, and the Lakewood community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Clemmons fled after the shootings and received assistance from several people. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2009-2015. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Allen had driven Clemmons to the area and disputed knowing that a shooting was planned. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Lakewood and Pierce County. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Clemmons fled after the shootings and received assistance from several people. In the Lakewood and Pierce County record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

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Physical evidence

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Witness evidence

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

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The courtroom

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Clemmons fled after the shootings and received assistance from several people. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

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Appeal and review

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The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Allen had driven Clemmons to the area and disputed knowing that a shooting was planned. In the Lakewood and Pierce County record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

Institutions

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Four Lakewood officers were attacked inside a coffee shop on November 29, 2009. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2009-2015. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Clemmons fled after the shootings and received assistance from several people. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Lakewood Police Murders. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. In Lakewood and Pierce County, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings.

For Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold, and Greg Richards, their families, colleagues, and the Lakewood community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Allen had driven Clemmons to the area and disputed knowing that a shooting was planned. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and

families occupy different roles in the record. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2009-2015 record from Lakewood and Pierce County contains a point that resists shorthand: The State prosecuted Allen under accomplice liability rather than as the gunman. The present legal posture is equally specific: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The Supreme Court held that the jury instructions did not adequately require proof of Allen's knowledge of the murders. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold, and Greg Richards, their families, colleagues, and the Lakewood community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Lakewood and Pierce County determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2009-2015 marks the span over which the public learned it. Four Lakewood officers were attacked inside a coffee shop on November 29, 2009. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Maurice Clemmons killed four Lakewood police officers and died days later during an encounter with a Seattle officer. Darcus Allen was convicted as an accomplice of four counts of first-degree murder; the Washington Supreme Court reversed for instructional error and remanded for further proceedings. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Lakewood Police Murders

- Washington Supreme Court, State v. Allen: <https://law.justia.com/cases/washington/supreme-court/2015/89917-7.html>

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