



Police Received Warning About Nashville Bombing Suspect in 2019

Erin Ailworth - Wall Street Journal



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Nashville police and federal agents were told in 2019 that Anthony Warner was building bombs inside a trailer at his home, but found little that allowed them to investigate the Tennessee man now suspected of setting off an explosive inside an RV in downtown Nashville on Christmas morning.

Investigators are still trying to determine what might have motivated the bombing outside an AT&T switching facility, which killed Mr. Warner, injured three others and damaged 41 buildings.

An Aug. 21, 2019, incident report and synopsis released Tuesday by the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department say the agency asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to look into Mr. Warner's background after a woman who identified herself as Mr. Warner's girlfriend warned police that her boyfriend "was building bombs in the RV trailer at his residence."

Police were also told by Raymond Throckmorton III, an attorney who said he represented Mr. Warner and his girlfriend, that Mr. Warner "frequently talks about the military and making bombs," according to the report.

Mr. Throckmorton didn't return a call to his office for comment late Tuesday night. When police went to Mr. Warner's home in Nashville's Antioch neighborhood that August, officers saw an RV parked in the fenced backyard but couldn't see inside the vehicle, according to the report.

They got no answer when knocking at Mr. Warner's door. Police said in an email Tuesday they saw no evidence of a crime at the time and had no authority to enter Mr. Warner's home or fenced property.

Nashville police said they next alerted their department's Hazardous Devices Unit, a nationally accredited bomb squad, and asked the FBI to check its databases for Mr. Warner and determine whether he had any prior military connections.

A day later, "the FBI reported back that they checked their holdings and found no records on Warner at all," police said Tuesday. Defense Department checks on Mr. Warner also came back "all negative" several days later.

The Hazardous Devices Unit reached out to Mr. Throckmorton, but police said investigators were told the lawyer wouldn't allow Mr. Warner, who "did not care for the police," to grant a visual inspection of his RV.

"At no time was there any evidence of a crime detected and no additional action was taken," police said Tuesday.

A criminal history for Mr. Warner that was released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation on Monday showed only one arrest in 1978 by Nashville police for possession of marijuana.

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