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**DISTRICT I**

April 16, 2024

To:

Hon. David L. Borowski  
Circuit Court Judge  
Electronic Notice

Anna Hodges  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Milwaukee County Safety Building  
Electronic Notice

George Tauscheck  
Electronic Notice

Jennifer L. Vandermeuse  
Electronic Notice

Laron Darnell Blunt 403311  
Green Bay Correctional Inst.  
P.O. Box 19033  
Green Bay, WI 54307-9033

You are hereby notified that the Court has entered the following opinion and order:

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2023AP1600-CRNM      State of Wisconsin v. Laron Darnell Blunt (L.C. # 2020CF4052)

Before White, C.J., Donald, P.J., and Colón, J.

**Summary disposition orders may not be cited in any court of this state as precedent or authority, except for the limited purposes specified in WIS. STAT. RULE 809.23(3).**

Attorney George Tauscheck, as appointed counsel for Laron Darnell Blunt, filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32 (2021-22)<sup>1</sup> and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). Counsel provided Blunt with a copy of the report, and both counsel and this court advised him of his right to file a response. Blunt has not responded. We conclude that this case is appropriate for summary disposition. See WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21. After our independent

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<sup>1</sup> All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2021-22 version unless otherwise noted.

review of the record as mandated by *Anders*, we conclude that there is no arguable merit to any issue that could be raised on appeal.

The State charged Blunt with first-degree intentional homicide, possessing a firearm as a felon, and felony bail jumping. According to the complaint, which served as the factual basis for Blunt's plea, police officers responded to a report of shots fired and found a victim who appeared to have been shot in the chin and neck. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

During their investigation, police officers found Blunt's fingerprints on a liquor bottle at the scene. Additionally, a witness identified him in a photo array as the person she had met prior to the shooting and later saw fleeing from the crime scene with a gun in his hand.

The complaint alleged that Blunt was previously convicted of a felony and had two open criminal cases. Blunt was out on bond when the shooting occurred, and the terms of the bond prohibited him from committing new offenses rising to the level of probable cause.

Blunt pursued a *Denny* motion, seeking to introduce third-party perpetrator evidence at trial.<sup>2</sup> The circuit court held a hearing, and at the end—before the court ruled on the motion—trial counsel raised the issue of Blunt's competency. Pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 971.14(2), the court ordered Blunt to be examined. The examiner concluded that Blunt was competent to proceed, and Blunt did not contest that conclusion.

On the day his trial was to begin, Blunt pled guilty to an amended charge of second-degree reckless homicide as a party to the crime. In exchange, the State agreed to dismiss and

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<sup>2</sup> See *State v. Denny*, 120 Wis. 2d 614, 357 N.W.2d 12 (Ct. App. 1984).

read-in the charges for possessing a firearm as a felon and felony bail jumping in this case. The State additionally agreed to dismiss and read-in the charges in Blunt's other two open cases. Pursuant to the agreement, the State would not make a specific sentencing recommendation as to prison time but instead would defer to the court.

The circuit court accepted Blunt's plea and sentenced him to the maximum time allowed: fifteen years of initial confinement and ten years of extended supervision. This appeal follows.

The no-merit report addresses whether Blunt's plea was entered knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently. The plea colloquy sufficiently complied with the requirements of *State v. Brown*, 2006 WI 100, ¶35, 293 Wis. 2d 594, 716 N.W.2d 906, and WIS. STAT. § 971.08 relating to the nature of the charge, the rights Blunt was waiving, and other matters. The record shows no other ground to withdraw the plea. There is no arguable merit to this issue.<sup>3</sup>

The no-merit report addresses Blunt's sentence. The sentence constituted the legal maximum. As to discretionary issues, the standards for the circuit court and this court are well established and need not be repeated here. See *State v. Gallion*, 2004 WI 42, ¶¶17-51, 270 Wis. 2d 535, 678 N.W.2d 197. In this case, the court considered appropriate factors, did not consider improper factors, and reached a reasonable result. There is no arguable merit to this issue.

Our review of the record discloses no other potential issues for appeal.

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<sup>3</sup> The circuit court never reached a decision on Blunt's pretrial *Denny* motion. However, we note that by entering his plea, Blunt waived the issue. See *State v. Kelty*, 2006 WI 101, ¶¶18 & n.11, 34, 294 Wis. 2d 62, 716 N.W.2d 886 (discussing the guilty plea waiver rule). Likewise, we need not consider whether there was a speedy trial violation. See *Hatcher v. State*, 83 Wis. 2d 559, 563, 266 N.W.2d 320 (1978) (applying the guilty-plea-waiver rule to speedy trial issue).

IT IS ORDERED that the judgment is summarily affirmed. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney George Tauscheck is relieved of further representation of Blunt in this matter. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32(3).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this summary disposition order will not be published.

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*Samuel A. Christensen*  
*Clerk of Court of Appeals*