

Bar owner Chris Ferrell charged in shooting death of Wayne Mills

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Dec. 16

tennessean.com

Bar owner Chris Ferrell, who fatally shot a country musician in his downtown bar Pit and Barrel last month, was arrested Friday on a second-degree murder charge.

Ferrell told police he shot Jerald "Wayne" Mills, 44, in self-defense on Nov. 23 following an argument over Mills smoking in the Second Avenue bar. Mills later died at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Police continued to investigate Ferrell's claim in the days following the shooting. The grand jury ultimately indicted him on the murder charge.

Ferrell surrendered himself to police Friday afternoon immediately after he learned he had been indicted on a charge of second-degree murder, according to his lawyer.

Defense attorney David Raybin has represented Ferrell since soon after the shooting last month.

"I have every intention of contesting this charge," Raybin said. "My client denies that he's guilty of any degree of homicide."

Ferrell's bond was set at \$300,000. Raybin said he plans to request a bond hearing Monday.

Ferrell has faced charges of violence in the past.

This summer, court records say, he was charged with domestic assault, interfering with an emergency call and vandalism stemming from an alleged fight with a former girlfriend.

The assault and interfering charges were later dismissed. The vandalism charge was bound over to the grand jury.