On Friday, July 12, 2019, at 10:22 am, Treasure Island Police Officers responded to a reported Battery on Gulf Blvd in front of McDonald’s Restaurant. An investigation revealed one male physically attacked another male. Several witnesses reported seeing 40-year-old Christopher Lawrence battered multiple times by 53-year-old Tracy B. Briley. The attack was not random, and both men were socially acquainted.

The victim sustained life threatening injuries and was transported to a trauma medical facility for treatment. Mr. Lawrence had been in a coma since July 12th and passed away yesterday afternoon as a result of injuries caused by Briley’s actions.

Briley was immediately taken into custody without incident and was transported to the Pinellas County Jail where he has been held since his arrest. Briley was initially charged with Aggravated Battery; however, this charge has been elevated to Murder in the Second Degree upon the death of Mr. Lawrence.

Treasure Island Investigators are being assisted by Homicide Detectives with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office.

The Treasure Island Police Department would like to express our sincere appreciation to the citizens and businesses that assisted in the investigation by providing critical and timely information. The Treasure Island Police Department would like to recognize the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Homicide Unit and the Pinellas County State Attorney’s Office Investigators for their collaboration.