

Date: June 4, 2026

RE: IMMEDIATE STATUS UPDATE REQUIRED / NOTICE OF INTENT TO ESCALATE

Defendant: James Cameron Barnes

Waco Police Case #: 25-6572

Charge: Cruelty to Non-Livestock Animals (Texas Penal Code § 42.092 — Third-Degree Felony)

Bond Status: \$20,000 Bond (Booked May 30, 2025)

TO:

The Honorable Josh Tetens
Criminal District Attorney, McLennan County
McLennan County Courthouse Annex
219 North 6th Street, Suite 200
Waco, TX 76701

CC:

- Judge Susan Kelly, 54th District Court
- Chief Sheryl Victorian, Waco Police Department
- Rebecca Eubank, McLennan County District Clerk

Dear District Attorney Tetens,

We are writing on behalf of Animal Victory and our global coalition of animal welfare advocates to demand an immediate, formal update on the prosecution of James Cameron Barnes (Waco Police Case #25-6572).

More than a full year has passed since Mr. Barnes was arrested on May 30, 2025, for the heinous and sadistic killing of two cats, whose bodies he shot in the head and hung from a public utility line near Baylor University. This third-degree felony offense, carrying a statutory penalty of up to 10 years in prison, shocked the Waco community and outraged advocates nationwide. Yet, as of our latest review of McLennan County records, this case has still not been formally indicted by a Grand Jury.

We have made numerous calls and sent several emails to your office, as well as other officials who may have jurisdiction over this case. Our most recent call was in March. Despite these efforts, we have been unable to obtain clear and consistent information regarding the status of this matter. We need to know exactly where this case stands. The ongoing lack of communication and clarity is unacceptable, particularly given the amount of time that has passed.

Over 18,200 concerned citizens have signed our formal petition demanding that your office aggressively pursue justice. We are delivering these signatures to your office, and we are mailing a physical copy alongside a digital drive containing the complete roster of supporters directly to the District Judge of the McLennan County Courthouse.

<https://animalvictory.org/petition/sign-baylor-graduate-killed-cats-and-hung-them-on-utility-lines/>

The link between animal abuse and subsequent violence against humans is a well-documented psychological and criminological fact. A failure to vigorously prosecute a perpetrator who recorded himself repeatedly attempting to hang mutilated animals on public utility lines is not just a failure of justice for these two cats, it is a direct threat to the safety of the citizens of Waco.

We demand that your office provide a written response to this inquiry within ten (10) business days addressing the following:

1. Has this case been presented to a McLennan County Grand Jury? If so, what was the outcome and cause number?
2. If it has not yet been presented, what specific administrative or evidentiary barriers are delaying the indictment of James Cameron Barnes?
3. Who is the designated Assistant District Attorney of record assigned to prosecute this case?

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ESCALATE:

Please be advised that if we do not receive a formal response or a clear indication that this case is actively moving toward indictment within ten business days, Animal Victory will take this matter a step further.

We are prepared to immediately escalate this campaign by:

1. Mobilizing our database of over 18,200 signees to launch a targeted, high-volume public calling and emailing campaign to your office and local county commissioners.
2. Formally requesting an administrative inquiry through the State Bar of Texas and Texas state oversight bodies regarding the prosecutorial delay.
3. Engaging national media outlets, local Texas investigative journalists, and Baylor University alumni networks to publicly highlight the lack of progress on this severe animal cruelty case under your administration.

The public has a right to know why a confessed animal killer remains free on bond without a trial date. We expect your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your immediate acknowledgment.

Sincerely,

Janelle Babington

CEO & Founder, Animal Victory

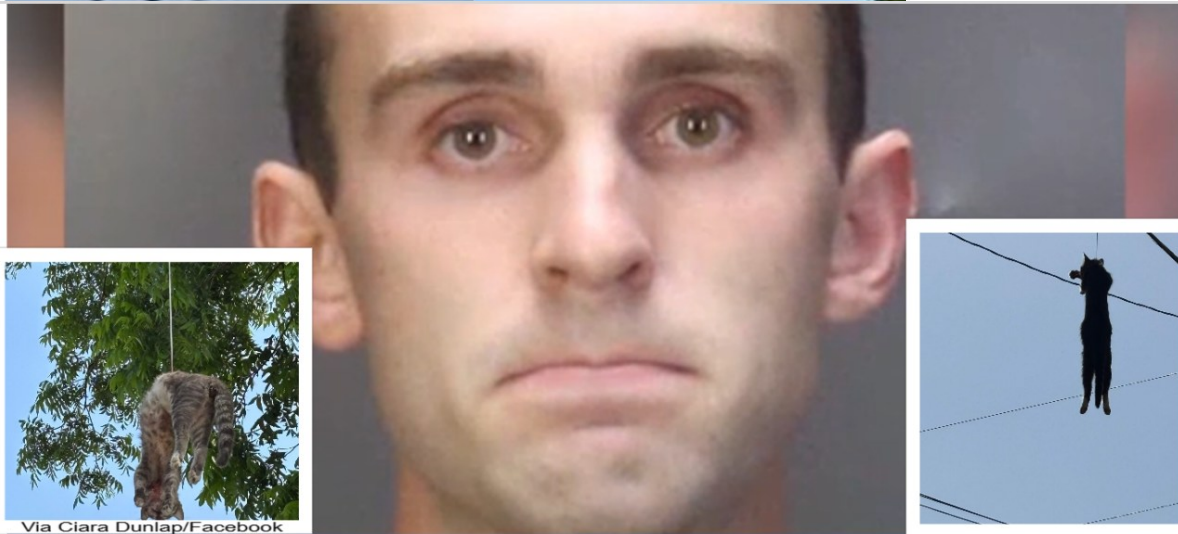
Email: Courtcase@animalvictory.org

Mailing Address: 1319 Military Cutoff Road, Suite CC, Unit #101, Wilmington, NC 28405

Phone: 1-800-634-3439

References

1. [Animal Victory Petition Page](#)
2. [McLennan County District Attorney Office Information](#)
3. [McLennan County 2025 County Offices Directory](#)
4. [KWTX Arrest Report and Affidavit Details](#)
5. [Waco Police Department Administration](#)



Via Ciara Dunlap/Facebook

ALLEGED CAT KILLER IN WACO ARRESTED

Janelle Babington
CEO & Petitioner
Animal Victory
1319 Military Cutoff Road, Suite CC, Unit #101
Wilmington, NC 28405
☎ 800-634-3439
✉ Info@animalvictory.org



From: Kelley Kite

Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 1:25 PM

To: lisa.blakemore@mclennan.gov; ella.davis@mclennan.gov; tracy.viladevall@mclennan.gov; Josh.Tetens@mclennan.gov

Cc: Janelle Babington <info@animalvictory.org>

Subject: Petition regarding James Barnes

January 19, 2026,

Defendant: James Barnes; Waco Police Case #25-6572

Dear District Attorney Josh Tetens,

- We are Janelle Babington, Penny Eims, and Kelley Niles, animal welfare petitioners with Animal Victory <<https://animalvictory.org/>> Attached you will find a petition which we created with our intentions regarding James Barnes.

<https://animalvictory.org/petition/sign-baylor-grad...on-utility-lines/>

- At this time, we are sending you **18,201 supporters** of the petition who demand that James Barnes be held accountable for killing innocent cats and sadistically displaying their bodies in such a gruesome manner. This man's cruel actions must be met with the harshest consequences to ensure that he can never inflict such horror on an animal again. These cats were targeted by this man and their lives were stolen. We do not want to see a paltry slap-on-the-wrist for this man; we want significant prison time, the maximum fine, and a lifetime ban on owning or residing with animals. Failing to hold this perpetrator accountable not only denies justice for these innocent cats but also endangers the community at large. It is imperative that we send a clear message that such cruelty will not be tolerated.
- Violence against animals is extremely harmful and dangerous to all of us; including you and your community. Studies show there is a direct correlation between animal abuse and domestic abuse. It's crucial for everyone that officials like you respond properly to this case. We have rights and our public officials work for us. They have obligations to us and we have a right to protections, justice and respect. We have a right to complain loudly when officials don't work hard to give us these things.
- We are snail-mailing a snapshot version of this petition along with a flash drive of all the petition signatures to the courthouse for the judge. While we understand you must operate within the boundaries of the law, we are hopeful

you will present our petition to the judge and argue for interpretations or applications of the law that are legally permissible to achieve the best possible outcome for this case and not against the law itself.

Thank you for your hard work on this case. We look forward to your acknowledgement of our petition as well as a favorable outcome.

If you are not the attorney of record, kindly email us to let us know.

Very Sincerely,

Kelley Niles

Animal Abuse Court Researcher

Courtcase@animalvictory.org

1319 Military Cutoff Road
Suite CC, Unit #101
Wilmington, NC 28405
800-634-3439

