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IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT, SALT LAKE DEPARTMENT
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALT LAKE, STATE OF UTAH

THE STATE OF UTAH

Plaintiff,

vs.

JEFFREY DON BLACK
DOB: 10/23/1975,
566 West Murray Blvd., Apt. 4B
Murray, UT 84123
OTN 56778046
SO# 208986
Booking# 18059608

Defendant.

Screened by: HOMICIDE TEAM
Assigned to: CHOU CHOU COLLINS
B. FRED BURMESTER

INFORMATION

BAIL: \$1,000,007.00

Warrant/Release: SALT LAKE COUNTY
JAIL

Case No.

DA Case No. 18028208

The undersigned Detective E. Afatasi with the Unified Police Department, in reference to agency case no. 18-185319, upon a written declaration states on information and belief that the defendant, JEFFREY DON BLACK, committed the crimes of:

COUNT 1

MURDER, 76-5-203 UCA, First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about November 24, 2018 at 3575 South West Temple Street, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah, the defendant, a party to the offense, was engaged in the commission, attempted commission, or immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of any predicate offense, to wit: Robbery and Attempted Burglary, and a person other than a party as defined in Utah Code Section 76-2-202 was killed in the course of the commission, attempted commission, or immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of any predicate offense; and acted with the intent required as an element of the predicate offense.

COUNT 2

ROBBERY, 76-6-301 UCA, Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about November 24, 2018 at 3575 South West Temple Street, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah, the defendant, a party to the offense, unlawfully and intentionally attempted to take personal property in the possession of another from her person, or immediate presence, against her will, by means of force or fear, and with a purpose or intent to deprive the person permanently or temporarily of the personal property.

COUNT 3

OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE, 76-8-306(1) UCA, Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about November 24, 2018 at 3575 South West Temple Street, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah, the defendant, with intent to hinder, delay, or prevent the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person regarding conduct that constituted a criminal offense, did provide false information regarding a suspect, a witness, the conduct constituting an offense, or any other material aspect of the investigation; and the conduct which constituted a criminal offense would be a first degree felony.

COUNT 4

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY, 76-6-202 UCA, Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about November 24, 2018 at 3575 South West Temple Street, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah, the defendant, a party to the offense, attempted to enter or remain unlawfully in a dwelling or any portion of a dwelling with intent to commit a felony or theft.

COUNT 5

FAIL TO STOP AT COMMAND OF LAW OFFICER, 76-8-305.5 UCA, Class A Misdemeanor, as follows: That on or about November 24, 2018 at 3575 South West Temple Street, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah, the defendant fled from or otherwise attempted to elude a peace officer after the officer issued a verbal or visual command to stop; or for the purpose of avoiding arrest; and by any means other than a violation of Utah Code Section 41-6a-210.

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES:

E. Afatasi, C. Aprato, W. Barnett, Z. Bench, W. Berg, S. Brobeck, D. Cannavo, S. Green, T. Griffiths, H. Lohrke, S. Maestas, G. Martinez, V. Myers, J. Nelson, C. Petty-Brown, H. Reynaud, K. Rudy, J. Stillion, M. Valencia, P. Vollmer, R. Walser, S. Warden.

DECLARATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your Declarant, Detective A. Afatasi with the Unified Police Department, based on information in report number 18-185319, interviews of witnesses, and investigation by law enforcement officers, states as follows:

On November 24, 2018, South Salt Lake Police officers were dispatched to a burglary in progress at 3575 South West Temple Street, unit 16, in Salt Lake County. Samantha Maestas reported hearing at least two people attempting to break into her residence. Upon the officers' arrival, they encountered a black Chevrolet Impala driving towards the parking lot entrance. The officers exited their vehicles, leaving their emergency lights on, loudly identified themselves as police officers, and yelled at the driver to stop. The driver accelerated towards Officer David Romrell before striking him and dragging him several feet. Officer Romrell later died from his injuries. Two male occupants fled from the crashed vehicle and were later taken into custody. The males were identified as Felix Calata and JEFFREY BLACK. Calata was transported to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead from gunshot wounds.

JEFFREY BLACK was located hiding inside a boat near where the crashed vehicle was abandoned. BLACK did not comply with commands by officers to exit the boat. BLACK was detained and interviewed, but later released.

On November 26, 2018, BLACK contacted Detective Afatasi and requested the return of his property. BLACK agreed to answer more questions regarding his involvement in the November 24, 2018 incident. Post-Miranda, BLACK admitted to going with Felix Calata to the address of occurrence to "tax" (take money), from Samantha Maestas. BLACK admitted at one point to driving the vehicle during the burglary and admitted to assisting Calata in getting a crowbar from the trunk, which Calata used to try to pry open a door. Investigating officers located pry marks on the frame and door of a rear entrance adjacent to the reported address. BLACK stated that they were unable to gain entry and that he told Calata it was taking too long. They were going to leave when he saw the police officers' vehicles with their red and blue lights activated. BLACK stated he heard the police officers yelling, "Police Stop!" Calata stated, "Fuck it", and accelerated in an attempt to flee, driving towards the police officers. BLACK stated he believed they ran over a mail box. BLACK stated shots were fired at their vehicle as they kept driving. Calata got out of the vehicle while it was still moving, and BLACK steered the vehicle into a pole. Black then fled on foot. BLACK admitted to running from the police and hiding in a boat for over an hour to avoid capture.

Detectives determined that Felix Calata was the driver of the vehicle because the location of the bullet holes in the vehicle matched the wounds he sustained.

On November 25, 2018, Dr. M. Belenky, Assistant Medical Examiner with the Utah Office of the Medical Examiner, performed an autopsy on Officer Romrell. Dr. Belenky preliminarily determined Officer Romrell's cause of death to be blunt force trauma and his manner of death to be homicide.

REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF A WARRANT:

The State hereby requests that the Court issue a Warrant of Arrest with no bail allowed in this case due to the nature of the offenses and facts as alleged in the probable cause statement. Additionally, the defendant is currently incarcerated in the Salt Lake County Jail. A Warrant of Arrest is necessary to prevent risk of injury to a person or property, to protect the public safety and welfare of the community or an individual, and to secure the appearance of the accused.

Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated § 78B-5-705 (2008) I declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

Executed on: _____

Esekia Afatasi
Declarant

Authorized for presentment and filing

SIM GILL, District Attorney

Deputy District Attorney
6th day of December, 2018
SG / DA Case No. 18028208

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OTHER PENDING CASES FOR THE DEFENDANT

| <u>Court</u> | <u>Court Case #</u> | <u>Trial Judge</u> | <u>DAO#</u> | <u>Charge</u> |
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