

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI  
AT KANSAS CITY**

<b>POLICE NO. :</b>	KC20028999
<b>PROSECUTOR NO. :</b>	095459474
<b>OCN:</b>	

<b>STATE OF MISSOURI,</b>	)	
	)	<b>PLAINTIFF,</b>
<b>vs.</b>	)	
	)	
<b>WESLEY PALTON</b>	)	
<b>4618 North Highland Ave</b>	)	<b>CASE NO. 2016-CR</b>
<b>Kansas City, MO 64116</b>	)	<b>DIVISION</b>
<b>DOB: 02/27/2002</b>	)	
<b>Race/Sex: B/M</b>	)	
	)	
	)	<b>DEFENDANT.</b>

**COMPLAINT**  
**WARRANT REQUESTED**

**Count I. Unlawful Use Of Weapon - Subsection 9 - Shoot At/from Motor Vehicle, At Person, Motor Vehicle Or Building, Resulting In Death Or Injury (571.030-015Y20145213.0)**

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.030, RSMo, committed the **Class A Felony of Unlawful Use of a Weapon**, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 571.030.9, RSMo, in that on or about May 3, 2020, at 8037 Michigan Ave, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant, knowingly shot a firearm at a motor vehicle, to wit: a black Hyundai Elantra, and as a result of the above described conduct, Mauricia R Strother suffered injury or death.

The range of punishment for a class A felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than ten (10) years and not to exceed thirty (30) years, or life imprisonment.

**Count II. Armed Criminal Action (571.015-001Y19755213.0)**

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the **Felony of Armed Criminal Action**, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about May 3, 2020, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of Unlawful Use of a Weapon charged in

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Count One, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of Unlawful Use of a Weapon by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a deadly weapon.

The range of punishment for the offense of Armed Criminal Action in violation of section 571.015 RSMo. is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than three (3) years without eligibility for parole, probation, conditional release or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a period of three (3) calendar years.

### **Count III. Murder 2nd Degree - Felony Murder - During Perpetration/attempted Perpetration/flight From Perpetration Of A Felony, A Person Dies (565.021-003Y19840999.0)**

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.021, RSMo, committed the **Class A Felony of Murder in the Second Degree**, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about May 3, 2020, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, Mauricia R Strother was killed by being shot as a result of the perpetration of the class A felony of Unlawful Use of a Weapon under Section 571.030, RSMo., committed by the defendant on or about May 3, 2020, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri.

An individual convicted and sentenced for this offense shall not be eligible for parole until eighty-five percent of the sentence is served.

The range of punishment for a class A felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than ten (10) years and not to exceed thirty (30) years, or life imprisonment.

### **Count IV. Armed Criminal Action (571.015-001Y19755213.0)**

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the **Felony of Armed Criminal Action**, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about May 3, 2020, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of Murder in the Second Degree charged in Count Three, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of Murder in the Second Degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a deadly weapon.

The range of punishment for the offense of Armed Criminal Action in violation of section 571.015 RSMo. is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than three (3) years without eligibility for parole, probation, conditional release or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a period of three (3) calendar years.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the statement(s) of facts filed contemporaneously herewith, made a part hereof, and submitted as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause.

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Wherefore, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

**JEAN PETERS BAKER**  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Jackson County, Missouri  
by,

*/s/ Jordan R. Bergus*  
Jordan R. Bergus (#64729)  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
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**WITNESSES:**

1. Taquoria Carpenter, Prosecuting Atty. Office, 415 E 12th St, Floor 11, Kansas City, MO 64106
2. DET Scott M. Emery, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106
3. DET Mary J Kincheloe, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106
4. DET Scott P. Mullen, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106
5. DET Jacquelynn R. Mutschler, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106
6. DET Hobart D. Price, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106
7. [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. DET Bradley N Thomas, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106
11. DET Daniel G Thomas, 1125 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106

**PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM**

Date: 06-09-2020

CRN: KC20028999

I, Detective Scott Mullen #5431  
(Name and identify law enforcement officer, or person having information as probable cause.)

knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

I have probable cause to believe that on 05-03-2020, at 8037 Michigan Ave in  
(Date) (Address)

Kansas City, Jackson Missouri Wesley J. Palton  
(County) (Name of Offender(s))

B/M 02-27-2002, [REDACTED] committed one or more criminal offense(s).  
(Description of Identity)

- Murder
- Agg Assault
- ACA

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 05-03-2020 at 0456 hours, Officers from the Kansas City Missouri Police Department were dispatched to 8037 Michigan Ave on a shooting call. Upon arrival a black female victim with an apparent gunshot wound to the head was located in the front seat of a black Hyundai Sonata. The victim later identified as Mauricia Strother B/F 08-03-2001 was transported to an area hospital where she later died as a result of her injuries. The witness/living victim [REDACTED] was identified as sitting in the passenger seat of the victim’s vehicle when the shooting happened.

When the crime scene was processed, 9 spent shell casings were located in the street. The shell casings started near the victim’s vehicle and then were spread out down the street to the south which was consistent with the rounds being fired from a moving vehicle. 6 of the spent shell casings had the head stamp “FED .40 S&W” and 3 had the head stamp “WIN .40 S&W”.

While on scene, Officers learned [REDACTED]’s grandmother’s house (8114 Olive St) was shot into several times earlier on 05-03-2020 at 0145 hours. A single spent shell casing was located in the street in front of the residence. The head stamp on the shell casing was “FED .40 S&W”.

[REDACTED] was transported to Police Headquarters to provide a statement. During [REDACTED] statement she stated she was asleep in the car when the shooting happened and did not see who shot at the vehicle or what type of car they may have been in. [REDACTED] talked about an incident prior to the shooting on 05-02-2020, where she and the victim ran into a group of females they were feuding with at a car gathering in Kansas City. [REDACTED] thought based off running into those females, they may have had something to do with the shooting.

Surveillance video obtained from a house down the street where the shooting happened revealed the suspect vehicle’s appearance as a dark colored 4 door sedan which resembled a later model Ford Fusion.

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The females brought up by [REDACTED] in her initial statement as having a feud with voluntarily contacted detectives and responded to Police Headquarters to provide statements. Based on the statements obtained and further investigation by detectives, the females were not believed to have been involved in the victim's homicide or shooting at 8114 Olive St.

A review of the report from 8114 Olive St showed one of the victim's [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED] stated she believed the suspect of the shooting was **Wesley Palton** based on him shooting at her vehicle in front of her home (212 Edgerton Dr, Kansas City, KS) not long prior to this shooting.

A comparison of the shell casings recovered from the homicide scene and 8114 Olive St. showed the rounds were fired from the same weapon. A NIBIN hit in regard to the shell casings revealed 11 total incidents in which the same .40 cal weapon fired rounds in those incident. One of the incidents was a shooting at 212 Edgerton Dr, Kansas City, KS reported on 04-09-2020 by SM to the KCKSPD. Three of the other NIBIN hits were from shooting incidents at 4137 Agnes, KCMO which was the homicide victim's address.

[REDACTED] provided a second statement at Police Headquarters. During her statement, [REDACTED] identified **Wesley Palton** B/M 02-27-2002 as her boyfriend. [REDACTED] stated **Palton** has been physically abusive and previously shot a gun at her in front of 4137 Agnes. [REDACTED] stated **Palton** gave her a black eye the Sunday prior to the homicide which is why she blocked his phone number. [REDACTED] stated **Palton** always had issues with the homicide victim as he felt she was trying to keep [REDACTED] from him. [REDACTED] C stated **Palton** drives a 2011 dark gray Ford Fusion. [REDACTED] stated after the victim's homicide **Palton** started to act weird about driving her places and even took her to a hotel to stay the night after the homicide. [REDACTED] stated during the night of the homicide, she unblocked **Palton**'s phone number (816-372-4499) and she had been texting him prior to and after the homicide. [REDACTED] stated she was not sure if **Palton** killed the victim but stated based on what she had been hearing, she thought he may have had something to do with it.

The victim's stepmother [REDACTED] was interviewed who stated she was aware of the abusive history between **Palton** and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated the victim had been trying to keep **Palton** away from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated earlier on 05-02-2020, **Palton** was "blowing up" the victim's phone looking for [REDACTED] and wanting to talk with her. [REDACTED] stated **Palton** was telling the victim and [REDACTED] they needed to stop playing with him and when he caught them he was going to do something bad to them. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] and the victim kept telling **Palton** [REDACTED] wanted nothing to do with him and to leave her alone.

A receipt was obtained from the LaQuinta Inn in North Kansas City where [REDACTED] stated **Palton** took her the night after the homicide. The receipt showed **Palton** made the reservation in his name and listed a Ford Fusion as his vehicle.

A phone order to include the location data for 816-372-4499 (**Palton**'s phone) was obtained. The records showed the account for 816-372-4499 in **Palton**'s name and the status on the account showed to be suspended as of 05-21-2020. The location data for **Palton**'s phone put his phone in the area of the shooting at 8114 Olive St at the time of the shooting and put his phone in the area of the homicide at 8037 Michigan at the time of the homicide.

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On 06-09-2020 **Palton** was arrested and transported to Police Headquarters. After being read his Miranda Rights, **Palton** stated the night of 05-02-2020 he was at home (4618 N. Highland, KCMO) with a female friend who left his house at approximately 2300 hours. **Palton** stated he was at home the rest of the night and did not leave. **Palton** denied being involved and stated he was not in the area of the assault at 8114 Olive St or the homicide at 8037 Michigan Ave when they happened.

Printed Name Det. Scott Mullen #5431 Signature /s/Det. Scott Mullen #5431

The Court finds probable cause and directs the issuance of a warrant this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge

Circuit Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of Missouri.