

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
AT INDEPENDENCE**

POLICE NO. :	20-047425
PROSECUTOR NO. :	095460057
OCN:	

STATE OF MISSOURI,	)	
	)	
PLAINTIFF,	)	
vs.	)	
	)	
ARIEOUS K. WALTON-MERRITT	)	
2609 NW Lookout Ridge	)	CASE NO. 2016-CR
Lees Summit, MO 64081	)	DIVISION
DOB: 08/27/1996	)	
Race/Sex: B/M	)	
	)	
DEFENDANT.	)	

**COMPLAINT
WARRANT REQUESTED**

Count I. Murder 2nd Degree (565.021-001Y19840904.0)

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 July 23, 2020, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly or with the purpose of causing serious physical injury to Matthew Bland-Williams caused the death of Matthew Bland-Williams by shooting him .

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 II. Armed Criminal Action (571.015-001Y19755299.0)

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

State vs. Arieous K. Walton-Merritt

571.015.2, RSMo, in that on or about July 23, 2020, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of murder in the second degree charged in Count I, 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, and

On or about September 26, 2013, in Circuit Court of Jackson County Missouri, the defendant was convicted of the offense of armed criminal action in Case # 1316-CR00585.

The range of punishment for the offense of Armed Criminal Action in violation of section 571.015 RSMo. as a second offense is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than five (5) years without eligibility for parole, probation, conditional release or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a period of five (5) 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.

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/ Michael J. Hunt

Michael J. Hunt (#34818)
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
321 W. Lexington
Independence, MO 64050
(816) 881-3856
mhunt@jacksongov.org

WITNESSES:

1. Matthew Bland-Williams, 1223 N 75th St, Kansas City, KS 66112
2. DET Christopher Burris, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050
3. PO Joshua Gena, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050
4. CST Dale Perry, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050
5. CIV Kelly Pope, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050
6. DET Steven Schmidli, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050
7. DET Todd Winborn, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 7/24/2020

Report: #2020-47425

I, Steven D. Schmidli, a Detective with the Independence, Missouri Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that on 7-23-2020 at 1824 hrs., Arieous K. Walton-Merritt (Race – B, Sex - M, DOB: 8-27-86, [REDACTED], Last Known Address: 2609 NW Lookout Ridge, Lee's Summit MO 64081) Committed one or more criminal offenses in Jackson County, Missouri.

2. The facts supporting this believe are as follows:

That on 7-23-2020 at 1824 hrs., the Defendant, Arieous K. Walton-Merritt knowingly shot and killed Matthew Bland-Williams during a disturbance at 18848 E. Wigwam Place in Independence, Jackson County Missouri.

On 7-23-2020 at 1824 hrs., Independence MO Police were dispatched to 18848 E. Wigwam Place in reference to a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located an unresponsive black male shooting victim in front of the residence. Officers performed life saving measures on the victim but he succumbed to his injuries and was later pronounced dead at Centerpoint Medical Center. The victim was identified as Matthew Bland-Williams. The crime scene was secured by police on Wigwam Place and all witnesses and involved parties were identified for detectives.

At 1831 hrs., a secondary crime scene was identified when another black male subject responded to 19715 E. Millhaven in Independence MO with gunshot wounds. The homeowner identified as Jamie Hayes, contacted police when a male subject he knew as Arieous drove over to his residence in a black Chevrolet Camaro and collapsed in front of his residence with gunshots wounds to his body. The Arieous subject told Mr. Hayes that he had been "shot" and instructed him to "drive me to the hospital". Police arrived on scene and positively identified the Arieous subject as Arieous K. Walton-Merritt of Lee's Summit MO. Mr. Walton-Merritt was transported to North Kansas City Hospital for treatment of his injuries. Police secured the crime scene and determined this was related to the initial shooting at 18848 E. Wigwam Place.

Detectives responded to the crime scenes located at Wigwam Place and Millhaven as part of the homicide investigation. Detectives on Wigwam Place observed a silver Ford Mustang parked in the middle of the cul-de-sac with fresh damage to the entire driver's side of the vehicle. The Mustang was determined to belong to the victim, Matthew Bland-Williams. A live 9 mm round and a spent 9 mm shell casing were observed on the ground in the cul-de-sac. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were identified by responding officers as possible witnesses to the shooting.

Detectives on Millhaven observed a newer model black Chevrolet Camaro parked in the grass adjacent to the driveway with vehicle damage to the rear passenger side bumper and quarter

panel along with a broken out passenger side window. Detectives spoke to [REDACTED] about the incident. [REDACTED] stated that Mr. Walton-Merritt told him that “a nigga I’ve funk’ with a minute, pulled some fuck shit on me a while back! I just ran into him and he aired at me!”. [REDACTED] stated that Mr. Walton-Merritt told him the shooting occurred at a nearby gas station.

While detectives were conducting an area canvas on Wigwam Place, they contacted a neighbor whom was identified as [REDACTED] that lives at 18852 Wigwam Place. [REDACTED] stated that he has an exterior surveillance system on his residence which captured the shooting on video. Detectives responded to [REDACTED] Blanc’s residence and viewed the surveillance video of the shooting. The incident started when the victim pulled up to the residence in his silver Ford Mustang. Mr. Walton-Merritt was already at the residence on Wigwam Place and his black Chevrolet Camaro is parked in the cul-de-sac. Mr. Walton-Merritt whom has long black dreads and is observed wearing a white t-shirt, approaches the victim in the cul-de-sac as he is exiting his vehicle. Without warning, Mr. Walton-Merritt pulls a handgun and fires two rounds at the victim at point blank range. A physical altercation ensues between the victim and the Defendant. The victim manages to disarm the Defendant at which time, the Defendant enters his Camaro in an attempt to flee the scene. The victim fires multiple rounds at the Defendant through the passenger side window of the Camaro. The Defendant rapidly accelerates in reverse, circling the cul-de-sac and runs into the driver’s side of the victim’s Mustang. The Defendant flees the crime scene in his Camaro at which time, the victim realizes that he has been shot. The victim is last seen walking into the driveway of 18848 E. Wigwam Place with the Defendant’s handgun. Shortly thereafter and prior to police arrival, a black female is observed on surveillance video picking up evidence related to the crime in the cul-de-sac. This female was identified as [REDACTED]

Detectives contacted [REDACTED] and she openly admitted that she collected crime scene evidence in the cul-de-sac and placed it outside the front porch of the residence on Wigwam Place. The evidence that [REDACTED] recovered was not located therefore Ms. Llamas voluntarily responded to IPD Headquarters for a formal statement on the incident.

Det. Chris Burris interviewed [REDACTED]. She stated that her mother lives at 18848 E. Wigwam Place and was babysitting her 2 year old daughter. She stated that when she arrived, her cousin, [REDACTED] was at her mother’s residence. She advised that the victim responded shortly thereafter and she identified him as a boyfriend to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that her mother did not want the victim at her residence as there has been some past domestic abuse related issues between the victim and [REDACTED] e. She stated that the victim left the residence without incident. A little while later, another black male subject arrived at the residence to visit with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] claimed that she does not know the black male subject but described him as having long black dreads and wearing a white t-shirt. She stated that she heard a commotion in front of the residence and saw the unknown black male subject shoot the victim. [REDACTED] stated that after being shot, the victim started physically fighting with the shooter. She stated that the victim disarmed the black male shooter of his handgun. She advised that as the shooter was attempting to flee the scene in his Camaro, the victim fired several rounds from the shooter’s handgun into the passenger side window of the Camaro. She stated that the shooter fled the scene and the victim ended up collapsing on the front porch of her mother’s residence. [REDACTED] admitted that for unknown reasons, she went out into the cul-de-sac and picked up

the victim's sandals, a handgun magazine and several spent shell casings. She stated that she placed these items beside the front porch. [REDACTED] denied hiding the crime scene evidence or handling the handgun used in the offense.

Det. Scott McKee interviewed [REDACTED] at the crime scene on Wigwam Place. [REDACTED] refused to provide the investigation with a formal statement.

Det. Todd Winborn completed a search warrant for the residence on Wigwam Place. The search warrant was executed on the residence. A Smith and Wesson 9 mm handgun was found hidden in a hall closet along with a loaded handgun magazine and several spent 9 mm shell casings.

The Defendant is currently on probation through the State of Missouri for Assault – 2nd degree and Armed Criminal Action.

Det. Steve Schmidli #842

/s/ Steve Schmidli

Print Name

Signature