

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

Date: 06-01-2019

CRN: 19-24839

I, Det. Thomas Hammond #4775
(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 04-05-2019, at 63rd and Paseo in
(Date) (Address)

Kansas City, Jackson Missouri Tracy D. French
(County) (Name of Offender(s))

B/M, 11-03-1993 committed one or more criminal offense(s).
(Description of Identity)

Murder, Unlawful Use of a Weapon, Assault (Agg), Resist Arrest

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 04-05-2019, at 1908 hours, Kansas City Missouri Police Officers were dispatched to the intersection of 63rd Street and Paseo, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, in regard to an armed disturbance. Upon arrival officers observed a blue Volkswagen crashed into a business located at 1316 E. 63rd Street. Officers observed the driver, a 17 year old male, suffering from a gunshot wound to his head and the passenger, a 17 year old male, suffering from injuries from the crash. The driver was transported to a local hospital where he later died from his injuries.

The passenger, Abernathy, stated he and the driver, Campbell, had just left the Landing Mall and turned east on Meyer from the south Landing Mall parking lot near the Wendy's. Abernathy stated he observed a black male, later identified as Tracy D. French, B/M, 11-03-1993, standing in the street who began shooting at their car. Abernathy stated Campbell swerved in an attempt to avoid being shot but sustained a gunshot to the head and lost control of the vehicle. Abernathy stated he attempted to control the vehicle but was unable to stop it and the vehicle struck a building.

Detectives and Crime Scene Technicians responded and processed the scene. A black Samsung cellphone and several spent shell casings were recovered. The cellphone was located in the street near the area French ran after the shooting. Surveillance video from businesses in the area was also recovered and viewed. A red two door sedan was observed exiting the north side Landing Mall parking lot and turn east on 63rd Street. No vehicle exited behind the red car and it was not being chased or followed by any other vehicle. The vehicle appears to accelerate quicker than the traffic around it and turn south on Paseo and stopped at the intersection to turn east onto Meyer. French gets out of the driver side of the vehicle and walks to the east where he raises his hand as if he has a gun and is pointing it at someone but due to the distance of the camera you cannot clearly see the gun. The red car drives away and French runs east from the scene and the Volkswagen is observed driving northbound through the Landing Mall parking lot at a high rate of speed where it crashes into 1316 E. 63rd Street. Abernathy is observed climbing/falling out of the front passenger window.

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On 05-08-2019, French’s mother, Tracy French, responded to Police Headquarters and provided a formal statement regarding the murder. Tracy stated she overheard French talking to his girlfriend, Tiara Birdsong, who had asked French, “why you do dat, they didn’t have no gun?” Tracy stated Birdsong had let French out of the car and French did the shooting. Tracy also stated French drove a red Chevy Cobalt.

On 05-30-2019 I was advised French’s DNA was located on the black Samsung cellphone recovered from the scene. A stop order was issued for French’s arrest and a contact and advise was issued for Birdsong. On 05-31-2019 both French and Birdsong were arrested and transported to Police Headquarters for questioning. After French had been told he was under arrest he attempted to flee on foot but was apprehended. French had attempted to enter his Red Chevy Cobalt twice while running from officers. Officers located keys to the vehicle in French’s pocket.

Birdsong stated Abernathy is her child’s father and he had taken her phone from her in Grandview. Birdsong stated she was supposed to meet Abernathy at the Landing Mall to give her cellphone back. Birdsong stated when she got there Abernathy started running towards her and Campbell was yelling at him telling him “no, Kareem.” Birdsong stated she started running and Campbell grabbed Kareem and she was able to get into the car and leave. Birdsong stated French was driving and there were two other females in the car with them. Birdsong stated French was driving fast and was “acting crazy.” Birdsong stated French got out of the car and was walking in the street. Birdsong drove off and as she was driving away she heard several shots immediately as she was leaving. Birdsong stated she knows French has carried a black pistol in the past. Birdsong stated she had French’s car for a couple of weeks after the murder and had left it at a Sonic.

After waiving his Miranda Rights French originally stated he did not know anything about the murder and stated he was at his mother’s house during the time the murder happened. French later admitted to shooting at Abernathy and Campbell while they were in their vehicle. French stated Abernathy had just robbed him and Birdsong and was driving towards them hanging out the passenger window with a gun. French stated Abernathy and Campbell had been chasing him, Birdsong and other occupants of his car. French admitted to owning a Red Chevy Cobalt. No gun was found at the scene, nor was one found on Abernathy’s person.

Printed Name Det. Thomas Hammond #4775 Signature /s/ Det. Thomas Hammond #4775

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

Judge

Circuit Court of _____ County, State of Missouri.