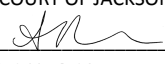


GRANDVIEW STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
REPORT NUMBER: 24002486

FILED	
DIVISION 25	
16-Jul-2025 15:13	
CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MO	
BY 	DCA

I, Detective Anner A. Umaña, 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 07/05/2024 at approximately 2230 hours, at [REDACTED], Grandview, Jackson County, Missouri, that Steffon L. Smith ([REDACTED]) committed one or more criminal offenses: First Degree Murder

On July 6, 2024, at approximately 0802 hours, Grandview officers were dispatched to [REDACTED], Grandview, Jackson County, Missouri [REDACTED] on a reported shooting. [REDACTED] is part of a townhouse complex. The townhomes share a parking lot; some of the residences have garages. Upon arrival, a Grandview police officer located the victim, [REDACTED] on the ground unresponsive and started to first aid. Officer Halter noted [REDACTED] had no pulse, was cold to the touch, and his body was rigid. The victim was lying between two vehicles: his own vehicle, a white Ford Fusion bearing Missouri temporary tag, and a gray Jeep Renegade. Both vehicles were backed into parking spaces. There were bullet holes into the victim's vehicle, the white Ford sedan, through the rear passenger side window and blood spatter on the rear passenger door of the vehicle. Medics arrived on scene and declare the victim deceased. Three 9mm shell casings were located in close proximity to the victim, between the two aforementioned vehicles: one positioned under the driver side tire of the gray jeep, one located under the gray Jeep, and one next to the passenger side tire of the victim's white Ford sedan. The victim sustained two gunshot wounds. The clothing around one of the gunshot wounds, the wound on the left side of his chest, was burnt which led investigators to believe that he was shot close range. Also adjacent to the victim was a black, Rick and Morty baseball cap on the ground near the victim's feet next to a plastic bag filled with a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana. Through the course of the investigation, based upon statements provided by witnesses and family and an examination of the victim's phone, detectives learned that the victim did not wear baseball caps. The family and witnesses were shown photographs of the hat found at the scene and indicated the hat did not belong to the victim. Witnesses and family also described that the victim's bag, a blue, gray and black Cookies backpack, was missing and presumed stolen from him. The victim's phone was on his person and downloaded pursuant to a search warrant.

Detectives, as part of the investigation, collected LPR data from the camera #10 located at [REDACTED] faced East. License plate [REDACTED] was captured on LPR camera on July 5, 2024 at approximately 2222:02 hours CDT on the date of the homicide. It should be noted that Steffon Smith ([REDACTED] 9) was ticketed by Grandview Police driving a vehicle with that license plate. The photograph captured on LPR showed the vehicle was a SAAB. The hat collected at the scene was submitted to KCPD crime laboratory for DNA testing. On August 5, 2024, detectives received a CODIS hit

(ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NEEDED)

on the DNA collected from the hat which responded to Smith. A phone number was found to be associated with Steffon Smith and a warrant was obtained for the records. The records were sent to the FBI CAST Task Force. The CAST Task Force submitted a preliminary report showing the phone being in the area during the homicide, then leaving shortly after, showing in the area of Steffon Smith's residence.

On April 17, 2025, members of the Jackson County Drug Task Force were conducting surveillance on Smith at his residence. Smith had been under continuous surveillance by the Jackson County Drug Task Force for approximately four to five months due to this homicide. Surveillance efforts included both physical observation and the use of a pole mounted surveillance camera. At the time of this incident, Jackson County Drug Task Force officers were aware that Smith had an active felony warrant for his arrest, in addition to his designation as a person of interest. Jackson County Task Force Officers participating in the surveillance operation were in possession of briefing materials, which included a Missouri Department of Revenue photograph of Smith, still images captured from video surveillance of Smith, and photographs of two vehicles known to be associated with him. On the aforementioned date, officers observed Steffon Smith enter a silver Saab sedan bearing Missouri license plate [REDACTED], one of the two vehicles previously identified as being operated by him. Based on their familiarity with Steffon Smith and the available photographic evidence, Sergeant Studdard, assigned to the Jackson County Task Force, positively identified Steffon Smith as the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle. After a traffic stop was initiated, Steffon Smith fled from officers at a high rate of speed. Steffon Smith ultimately fled the vehicle on foot where Grandview officers lost sight of him. After an extensive area canvass, Steffon Smith was not located.

On April 18, 2025, Grandview detectives conducted surveillance at [REDACTED], Grandview, Jackson County, Missouri [REDACTED] in an attempt to locate Steffon Smith. The surveillance was both in person and via a pole-mounted surveillance camera. At 0915 hours, Detective Sergeant Gilbert, who was conducting surveillance in person, observed Steffon Smith open the front door of the residence, look east, west, and south, before closing the door. At 0919 hours, Detective Sergeant Gilbert observed Steffon Smith at the open east side door of the residence. At that time, Steffon Smith brought a dog into the house and closed the door. Steffon Smith had the following active felony warrants: - Cass County, Missouri felony warrant (issued 02-16-2024) for Obstructing Police/Resisting Arrest (24CA-CR00143). - Jackson County, Missouri felony warrant (issued 01/19/2024) for Burglary 2nd degree (1616-CR2479). Steffon Smith refused to exit the residence as commands were given. A search warrant was obtained for the residence. The Grandview Swat Team served the search warrant on the residence. Steffon Smith's girlfriend [REDACTED] exited the residence. Steffon still refused to exit the residence after more commands were given. At that point the Grandview Swat team introduced chemical munitions were introduced to the residence at which point Steffon exited the residence and was taken into custody. Steffon was transported to the Grandview Jail for his outstanding warrants as well as being placed on a 24 hour hold for Homicide and Valentine's Law.

While in custody, Detective Sergeant Gilbert conducted an interview with Steffon Smith. Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith about July and if he remembered what he was doing on July 4th. Steffon Smith stated that he was at home doing fireworks with the kids. Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith about July 5th, Steffon Smith stated that he was at home. Detective Sergeant Gilbert told Steffon Smith that he knew that he was not at home the whole time on July 5th. Detective Sergeant Gilbert then showed Steffon Smith a picture the hat that was recovered from the homicide scene. It should be noted that the hat was recovered by the feet of [REDACTED] deceased body. The picture was of the front of the hat which read "FLIP THE PICKLE MORTY" "I'M PICKLE RICK!" and had an image of a pickle and a screw driver. Detective Sergeant Gilbert also show another picture of the hat, showing the light blue underside of the bill. Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith if he remembered the hat. Steffon Smith stated "I've had a lot of hats, yeah and no". Steffon Smith stated I can't say a 100%. Steffon Smith then stated "it's been awhile", "I am trying to remember the hat, I don't have any pictures of me with the hat on or anything". Steffon Smith stated "I can't say for sure".

Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith if he say for sure if he remember having it or where he got it. Steffon Smith replied "where I got it or having it". Steffon Smith was familiar with Rick and Morty show. Detective Sergeant Gilbert observed that Steffon Smith started to drink the water that he had refused at the beginning of the interview. Detective Sergeant Gilbert observed Steffon Smith appearing to have a loss for words.

Detective Sergeant Gilbert showed Steffon Smith a picture of a multi-color blue, tan and brown camo Cookies backpack. Steffon Smith stated that he did not remember the backpack and that it was not his backpack. Detective Sergeant Gilbert advised Steffon Smith the backpack was not Steffon Smiths. Detective Sergeant Gilbert advised Steffon Smith that that the hat was on a homicide scene that Detective Sergeant Gilbert responded to on July 6th (2024), it was at the feet of the dead body and that Steffon Smith's DNA recovered from the hat.

Detective Sergeant Gilbert observed a Steffon Smith breathing change and he started taking slower and deeper breaths. Detective Sergeant Gilbert advise Steffon Smith that his cell phone and vehicle was at the scene during the time of the murder.

Detective Sergeant Gilbert advised Steffon Smith that this was his chance to give his side of the story. Steffon Smith started looking at the floor and took some time to say something. Steffon Smith stated "like you said July 5th I could have been passing through the area going back home". Detective Sergeant Gilbert advised Steffon Smith that the Grandview Police had been watching him and that the traffic stop was for his warrants and for the

homicide. Steffon Smith appeared to be at a loss for words and again and made the statement "I don't, uh nothing, I don't own a gun. I uh"

Detective Sergeant Gilbert advised Steffon Smith that this was his opportunity to tell his side of the story and show if he has any remorse. Steffon Smith stated "any remorse for something that I didn't do, how do you have remorse for something that you didn't do".

Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith if he killed [REDACTED], Steffon Smith stated "no, no". Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith if he saw [REDACTED] get killed, Steffon Smith replies "no". Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith how his DNA end up on the inside of the hat less than a foot away from [REDACTED] body. Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith if he knew him, Steffon Smith stated that Detective Sergeant Gilbert hadn't even said his name. Detective Sergeant Gilbert again pointed out that Steffon Smith's DNA was on the Crime scene, his phone and car was there. Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked Steffon Smith he know what the chance of DNA being the same as anyone else's, Steffon Smith replied "next to none".

Detective Sergeant Gilbert observed Smith lean against the wall starring off at the floor and wall while taking slow deep breaths shaking his head. After 3 minutes and about 30 seconds of silence, Smith stated "I love my kids".

After another minute and 30 seconds of silence Steffon Smith stated "I wish I spent enough time with my kids". Steffon Smith stated "I don't know what to say". Steffon Smith stated that he did not have anything else to say. Detective Sergeant Gilbert told Steffon Smith that he was wondering why he never asked the name of the person that was killed. Steffon Smith stated he did not know he was supposed to ask. Detective Sergeant Gilbert stated that if someone told him that he had killed someone he would want to know who it was. Steffon Smith stated the he never killed anyone.

Detective Sergeant Gilbert served Steffon Smith with his Aggravated Fleeing warrant. Detective Sergeant Gilbert advised Smith that if he wanted to think about it all talk some more about it later in the morning. Smith asked how he could get an attorney. Detective Sergeant Gilbert explained if he asked for an attorney that he would be screened for a public defender at Jackson County Jail. Smith then stated several times "I did not kill anyone".

Detective Sergeant Gilbert escorted Steffon Smith back to the Jail. A warrant for a buccal swab was obtained for Steffon Smith and a buccal swab was obtained.

On 04-19-2025, Steffon Smith was transported to the Jackson County Jail. From the phones at the Jackson County Jail, Steffon Smith contacted [REDACTED]. Crime Analyst Heinen listened to phone calls placed by Steffon Smith from the Jackson County Jail. Steffon Smith stated to [REDACTED] to "go look in the Christmas tree box" it is heard on the phone call [REDACTED] is moving around. Steffon then asks [REDACTED] "is it gone" to which [REDACTED] replies "no". Steffon then tells [REDACTED] he has been being watched for a while over "the thing they talked about". Steffon then states he tried to hang himself, then said he should have shot himself eluding to prior to being arrested. Steffon asks what law enforcement took from the residence but also alludes to items still being in the residence. On another call on 04/19/2025, Steffon Smith asks [REDACTED] to get his two cell phones to get numbers out of them and gives the passcodes to them. In another call, [REDACTED] and Steffon discuss getting rid of the "real BB gun" by contacting [REDACTED].

Steffon advised [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] contact information was in one of his phones. Steffon advises [REDACTED] he needs her to understand this is a homicide investigation. In one of the calls between Steffon Smith and [REDACTED], Steffon states "by the time the DNA evidence come back I need to be gone or I'm (going) be in here. I'm just letting you know that". Steffon later states in the phone call "I don't want to say too much on the phone if I'm not out I'm gonna be here, that just as honest as I can be, but I aint gonna lie to ya I don't think I can do this shit in here for the rest of my life". [REDACTED] then states "I know". To which Steffon replies "I probably might go that route that I always talked about".

Law enforcement believes since the homicide, Steffon has changed phones and phone numbers. The phone number registered to him at the time of the incident is no longer registered to him. On 04/21/2024, Detectives served a search warrant on the residence. While inside the residence for an initial search warrant, detectives located ammunition as well as firearm components and accessories. Detectives also located a phone which could possibly be the phone used by Steffon Smith at the time of the homicide.

[REDACTED] was at the residence during the execution of the search warrant. Detective Sergeant Gilbert spoke with [REDACTED] regarding the jail phone calls which pertained to her getting rid of something for Steffon Smith by transferring it to [REDACTED]. Detective Sergeant Gilbert advised [REDACTED] of her Miranda Rights. Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked [REDACTED] if she had removed anything from the Christmas tree box to which she replied she had. Detective Sergeant Gilbert asked her where the item was to which [REDACTED] replied "it's gone". [REDACTED] said she "gave it to somebody". Detective Sergeant Gilbert then asked if [REDACTED] gave the item to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] stated "yes". [REDACTED] was arrested for tampering with evidence at that time.

Detective Umaña contacted [REDACTED] regarding the item he received from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] agreed to speak with Detective Umaña and bring the gun to the station. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] had contacted him and sold him the gun. The gun was seized and tested but did not match the weapon used in the crime.

Detective Umaña submitted the swabs collected by the Medical Examiner's Office from [REDACTED] right and left hand during the autopsy to the Kansas City Crime Lab for DNA examination. Kansas City Crime Lab's examination documented the presence of Steffon Smith's DNA on the swab from [REDACTED] left hand.

Anner A. Umaña

DETECTIVE

THE COURT FINDS PROBABLE CAUSE.

SIGNED BY JUDGE

*This is a redacted public document. The original
unredacted document bears the Judge's signature.*

JUDGE

16-Jul-2025 3:13 pm

DATE