

REPORT NUMBER 14-4394
GRANDVIEW STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

I, Detective Tiffani Kendrick, 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 09-29-20147 at 0247 hours, 12003 Belmont Ave, Grandview, Jackson County, Missouri, Stephen D Elijah (b/m04-04-1981) [REDACTED] committed one or more criminal offenses.

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 9-29-14 at about 0247 hours, Officer Allen and Officer Jones were dispatched to 12003 Belmont Ave, Grandview, Jackson County Missouri, in regard to a residential structure fire. Officers were given information that there were still people trapped inside the residence.

Upon arrival to the residence Officer's observed the residence to be fully engulfed in flames with visible fire coming through broken out windows of the structure. Officer's encountered a black male, subject, later identified as Stephen D. Elijah 4-4-81, to be in the front of the structure with a garden hose attempting to put out the fire. As they approached Elijah he advised that his infant child, identified as SE (juvenile) b/f 07-23-13, was on the back deck deceased and there was another female in the basement of the structure. Officer Allen located the infant child on the back deck near the back door of the residence. Officer Allen retrieved the child and responded back to the front of the residence to get the child away from the fire. Officer Allen and Officer Jones both advised that while they were performing CPR on the child Elijah stated to them "my baby is dead; she doesn't have a heart beat." Officer's performed CPR on the child until paramedics arrived and took over and transported the child to the hospital where the child was pronounced deceased. Officer Allen advised that when he spoke with Elijah he made the statement "she is always starting fires in the fireplace." Officer's advised that Elijah appeared to have burns to his body and he was transported by medics to the hospital for his injuries.

Kansas City Firemen advised that they made entry into the structure through the front door and began a search of the structure. Both parties advised that they went down the stairs located to the west of the front door. They advised that they began feeling around the walls and located a bar area towards the rear of the basement. They advised they crawled back behind the bar area and located a victim that was deceased, later identified as Anika M Hobley b/f 6-8-77. They stayed with the female until the rest of the residence was cleared.

Detective Kendrick's investigation revealed that there were five occupants inside the residence when the fire subsequently started; there were three children and two adults. Two of the children were able to

escape the fire by jumping out of an upstairs window. The deceased infant child was in the living room inside of a playpen when the fire started. The living room is located on the second floor of the structure. Hobley was located on the lowest level of the structure, which is a finished basement. The children ran to a neighbor's residence, the occupant of that residence described the children knocking on her door saying their house was on fire. The witness observed Elijah to be in the front yard of 12003 Belmont Ave, naked attempting to put out the fire with a garden hose.

The Missouri State Fire Marshall's were called in to assist in working the crime scene. Detective Kendrick received the following findings from Adam Crouch, Missouri State Fire Marshall Investigator: All accidental causes were eliminated for the fire to originate in the area of origin. The area of origin is the basement of the house; beginning at the base of the stairs extending north near the center of the room at floor level. No accidental areas were found for the fire to originate at the area of origin. Evidence was recovered in the area of origin to include an unknown chemical and the remains of a melted red in color container used to hold an accelerant that had an odor consistent with an accelerant were detected in the area and samples were taken from the area.

Detective Kendrick's investigation revealed that Elijah was interviewed numerous times in regard to this incident and during the course of the interviews Elijah gave numerous accounts to how the fire was caused in his residence. Elijah ultimately stated that he was the only person inside the residence who started the fire that caused the deaths of the two victims. Elijah advised that he had a gas can and gasoline was how the fire was ignited. Elijah advised that he was not truthful in regard to Hobley being the "babysitter", and advised that she was not at the residence to babysit his child. The Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office stated that the cause of death for both victims is from smoke inhalation and thermal injury.

A criminal history check of Elijah shows that he has had numerous traffic citations and city warrants but not any State level criminal history.

Grandview Report # 14-4394


DETECTIVE

THE COURT FINDS PROBABLE CAUSE.

JUDGE

DATE