

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

Date: 11-29-2014

CRN: 14-85705

I, Detective Mark Slater Kansas City Missouri Police Department, Homicide Unit
(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 11-28-2014, at 12th Street and Ewing Ave in
(Date) (Address)

Kansas City, Jackson Missouri James N. Rhymer
(County) (Name of Offender(s))

W/M, DOB: 10/01/1983, SSN: [REDACTED] committed one or more criminal offense(s).
(Description of Identity)

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 11/28/14, at approximately 0249 hours, Officers of the Independence Police Department were dispatched to 548 S. Brookside Avenue, Independence, Jackson County, Missouri in regard to an aggravated assault. Independence officers advised that the calling party, who was bleeding from the head, stated that an individual possibly named "**James**" struck her in the head with a small, silver in color, semiautomatic handgun when she asked what his name was. The calling party advised that the suspect "**James**" was let in the house by her uncle, the victim. The calling party stated that James was in the company of an additional white male, who is an associate of the residents. The calling party further clarified that when James hit her in the head with the handgun she heard a loud sound like a gunshot and believed that **James** had actually shot her. Several other residents who were in the residence at the time of the incident reported hearing the gunshot and went downstairs to the location of the disturbance. The home owner instructed James to leave the residence and that she was calling the police. **James**, the victim and the other white male then left with the victim in what she believed to be a dark colored SUV.

Two witnesses from the initial incident responded to the Independence Police Department at approximately 0425 hours to the Investigations Unit and gave statements to detectives. The calling party added to her previous statement to Independence police officers, by stating that she saw a flash and heard a "gunshot," after being struck in the head and that the person she knew as **James** ordered everyone to "get down." The calling party added that as **James** hit her head with a gun he also screamed at the victim, saying "where's my shit" and "where are my fuckin' keys?" She described the suspect (**James**) as a white male, 5'7, 160 lbs., 28-35 yoa, unshaven with a sandy blond mustache or goatee and noted he appeared "healthy". She stated that the suspect was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and an unidentified type of baseball cap with blue jeans. She described the handgun as a silver semi-automatic. An additional witness added that the vehicle **James** and the victim left in was a black truck or suv.

At approximately 0813 hours, an additional witness who was with "**James**" at the original disturbance at 548 S. Brookside Avenue. The witness responded to the Investigations Unit voluntarily and provided a formal statement to Independence Detectives. The witness advised that "**David**" was dead and that he witnessed **James Rhymer** shoot and kill the victim while he was seated in the rear passenger seat of a black Chevrolet truck that

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was stationary at a stop sign, at the intersection of 12th Street and Ewing Street, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. The witness further stated that **Rhymer** pointed the gun at the victim in the backseat. The victim physically resisted **Rhymer's** efforts to shoot him. **Rhymer** intentionally fired his silver in color handgun at the victim while his hands were up. The witness stated that the victim slumped over and appeared dead.

The witness further stated that he was abducted at gun point from a Days Inn near Worlds of Fun (7100 NE Parvin Road, Kansas City, Clay County, Missouri) at approximately midnight by **James Rhymer** demanding money for a previous debt. He said **Rhymer** held a gun to his head while he was holding his two year old child.

Rhymer then drove the witness to 575 S. Glenwood Avenue, Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. **Rhymer** pointed his gun at the witness and the other resident of 575 S. Glenwood and demanded money for the debt that he was owed. **Rhymer** was given U.S. Currency by the witness and was then informed by **Rhymer** that he and the witness were going to go to 548 S. Brookside because to confront the victim about missing cars keys from a vehicle which was the site of the original disturbance.

The witness stated that **Rhymer** then drove the witness and the victim's body to a gas station where he poured gas on the body of the victim and the back seat of the truck he was driving. The witness and the victim were driven to another location where the witness was ordered to remove his clothing and shower at gunpoint. **Rhymer** then enlisted the aid of another witness for the purpose of disposing of the body in a rural area south of Kansas City Missouri.

On 11/28/2014 the witness led detectives and Sherriff's Deputies to the location of the victim's body with an apparent gunshot wound and to a separate location where a burned pickup truck was located.

Based on witness interviews **Rhymer** was located in an apartment at 3410 Pennsylvania Ave #6 Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri 64110. **Rhymer** refused to cooperate with Kansas City Missouri Police Officers and armed and barricaded himself inside his apartment, a tactical operation was initiated. **Rhymer** ultimately surrendered to officers on 11-29-2014 approximately 0145 hours without injury. **Rhymer** was arrested and transported to Kansas City Police Headquarters.

On 11-29-2014 at 1253 hours, the reporting detective made contact with **Rhymer** on the detention level of Police Headquarters for the purpose of conducting an interview in regard to the murder of the victim. **Rhymer** was escorted to the 7th floor and placed in interview room #4. **Rhymer** was advised of him Miranda Rights which he waived stating that he would speak to detectives. Shortly after the interview began however, **Rhymer** stated that he did not want to speak with detectives any longer and invoked his right to counsel. The interview was terminated and **Rhymer** was returned to the detention level without incident.

Printed Name Detective Mark Slater Signature _____

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

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Judge

Circuit Court of _____ County, State of Missouri.