

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

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I, Graham Murphy, #443, with St. Peters Police Department a law enforcement agency, state that the facts contained herein are true to my best knowledge and belief and that any false statements made are punishable by law.

I have probable cause to believe that:

1: On or about 01/08/2024 (date of crime) in St. Charles County, Missouri, _____ (name of suspect), did the following:

Murder 2nd (F) 565.021

Armed Criminal Action (F) 571.015

Tampering with physical evidence (F) 575.100

Abandonment of a corpse (F) 194.425

On 01/08/2024, St. Peters Police were contacted by legal counsel representing a witness wishing to report a possible homicide wherein the suspect, Pierce, had shot and killed victim 1 in a residence in St. Charles County shared by the witness and Pierce.

During interview, the witness stated that in the early afternoon hours of 01/08/2024, he had left the residence located in St. Charles County to assist a friend with her business in St. Louis City. The witness stated when he left the residence, there were three individuals at the residence, Pierce, victim 1, and a juvenile. The witness continued that he received several calls while in route to St. Louis City from Pierce, complaining about victim 1 asking for unknown belongings and other erratic behavior. The witness stated that he attempted to calm the situation over the phone, by speaking to both of them; ultimately telling Pierce to collect items of value, including a firearm which was kept in a cabinet above the microwave in the kitchen, and store them in his room.

The witness continued, that minutes later he received another call from Pierce wherein Pierce informed the witness he had shot and killed victim 1. The witness asked what happened, and Pierce informed him that victim 1 had forced his way into the bedroom where Pierce and the juvenile had distanced themselves from victim 1 in. Once inside victim 1 attempted to strike Pierce with a punch but missed, a struggle then ensued over the firearm which was left in the open in the bedroom. The witness stated that Pierce informed him during the struggle, victim 1 was shot. The witness stated that Pierce informed him that the victim was shot 3-4 times but did not go down so Pierce continued to shoot the victim. The witness reported that Pierce

informed him that he shot victim 1 fourteen (14) times.

After being informed of the shooting, the witness informed Pierce to contact the police, which Pierce stated he would not do. The witness then informed Pierce that he was going to contact his lawyer to find out what to do.

The witness and his legal counsel contacted the St. Peters Police to report the possible homicide.

Upon speaking to the witness police began their investigation, which included surveillance of the residence for any suspicious behavior. During the hours of surveillance prior to contact with the occupants of the residence, there was no activity other than a "Door Dash" delivery of food to the residence.

Based on the information provided by the witness, police contacted the St. Charles County SWAT unit who arrived on scene. The St. Charles County SWAT Unit announced their presence over loudspeaker, and ordered out the occupants of the home. A short time later, the occupants, Pierce and a juvenile, exited the home and were taken into custody.

Pierce was transported to the SWAT Command Center by St. Peters Police Officer Kitrel. There Pierce was contacted by Sgt. Gleeson who was hoping to obtain verbal consent to search the residence.

Immediately upon Sgt. Gleeson opening the vehicle door to contact Pierce, Pierce stated "Dog, I shoulda fucking called the cops myself, I shoulda called the cops myself, bro...I am, I am dumb as fuck."

As Pierce was in police custody, he was verbally read his rights per Miranda by Sgt. Gleeson, which verbally stated he understood and agreed to speak to Sgt. Gleeson. Sgt. Gleeson asked Pierce if there was a deceased victim in the home, which Pierce answered, "Yeah".

Based on the above reported information by the witness and Pierce, a search warrant was applied for and granted to enter and search the residence.

A search of the residence by St. Charles County SWAT, utilizing a drone, located a rolled-up air mattress that had been tied tightly and wrapped with a piece of an electrical cord inside of an upstairs bedroom closet. It was later discovered that victim 1's corpse had been placed inside of the air mattress with a white plastic garbage bag secured around his head with an electrical cord which was cut from nearby lamp. No other individuals were located inside the home.

Pierce was subsequently interviewed by Det. Barish and Sgt. Bargaen at the St. Peters Police station. Pierce, who was again read his rights per Miranda, waived, and agreed to speak to police. During the interview Pierce stated that victim 1 had forced his way into his upstairs bedroom and a physical altercation took place. Pierce stated that the victim was attempting to strike him, when Pierce observed the victim look at the firearm, which had been left in the open on a bedside table, and appear to move towards it. Pierce stated he grabbed the firearm first and began to fire before victim 1 was able to get to the firearm. Pierce stated the first shot hit victim 1 in the abdomen and he did not go down. Pierce stated that he continued to fire, fourteen 14 times until the gun was empty, and victim 1 did not fall to the ground until the last shot was fired. Pierce stated that the victim never touched the firearm. Pierce also stated that he and the juvenile had then attempted to clean the scene using towels and dish soap on the carpet. Pierce stated that he and the juvenile concealed victim 1 in the air mattress and moved him into a different bedroom located upstairs, and into the closet.

St. Peters Crime Scene investigators responded and processed the scene. During their investigation, police were able to recover the firearm used during the commission of the homicide as well as thirteen (13) shell casings from the bedroom, ten (10) of which were placed in a trashcan located in the bedroom where the shooting occurred. Police also located twelve (12) rounds from the same bedroom. Of note, two (2) which were in the bottom of the same trashcan as the shell casings, and three (3) were located under the carpet padding, one (1) of which was lodged in the subfloor, when a large bloodstain in carpet was removed for evidence seizure. An additional round was recovered from the victim's body during autopsy.

Preliminary autopsy results showed approximately fifteen (15) gunshot wounds to the victim's abdomen, hand, and face.

2. DRUG CASES ONLY: The lab report confirmed the substance to be:

 N/A(substance(s)type),and weighed _N/A_ (if applicable),

3. I have reasonable grounds to believe that the defendant will not appear upon the summons or is a danger to the crime victim, the community or any other person because:

 _The suspect is a danger to the community because he knowingly shot the victim several times and attempted to hide his actions by concealing the corpse.

NOTE: IN ORDER FOR A JUDGE TO ISSUE A WARRANT ON A MISDEMEANOR CHARGE THE INFORMATION IN SECTION THREE MUST BE

