

State of Minnesota
County of Hennepin

District Court
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 18A00553
Court File No. 27-CR-18-15483

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Warrant

vs.

JOSEPH PORTER DOB: 09/18/1992

203 Bridge Ave E
Delano, MN

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.19.1

Maximum Sentence: 40 YEARS

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/04/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000059

Charge Description: That on or about 1/4/2018, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, JOSEPH PORTER, caused the death of victim, a human being, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Complainant has investigated the facts and circumstances of this offense and believes the following establishes probable cause:

That on January 5, 2018, at approximately 3:16 p.m., officers were dispatched to 4101 Parklawn Avenue, #207, in Edina, Hennepin County, Minnesota, on a welfare check. Officers were familiar with this address from prior service calls and knew the resident was an identified adult female, hereafter victim. Officers also knew victim had met JOSEPH PORTER, hereafter defendant, on-line and defendant had moved up from Arkansas and began living with victim on or about October 2017. Thereafter, the above-referenced service calls ensued involving verbal disputes, allegations of domestic assault, interference with a 911 call, and violations of domestic abuse no contact orders. In December 2017, defendant was convicted of violating a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order against victim (MNCIS File No.: 27-CR-17-30533).

The present service call was initiated by victim's mother who reported she had not heard from victim in some time and was concerned. Victim's mother, who has a possessory interest in the residence, granted officers entry into victim's residence. The residence was disheveled and neither victim nor defendant were present. Thereafter, officers attempted to make contact with victim and defendant via telephone without success. Officers were able to contact defendant's mother in Arkansas who expressed concern about victim's safety, given recent conversations she had with defendant.

Officers learned defendant owned a 1995 Honda Accord and entered the license plate into law enforcement databases. Officers received information concerning three recent police contacts. The first was on January 4, 2018 at 8:44 a.m. in Lakeville, Minnesota. This incident involved defendant's license plate being entered by law enforcement but no vehicle stop ensued. The second contact was on January 4, 2018 at approximately 8:29 p.m. in Greene County, Missouri. A Missouri State Trooper stopped defendant's vehicle for expired registration and had contact with defendant. Defendant was alone in the vehicle. The trooper noted the back seat contained large suitcases and a brand new pick axe and shovel. Defendant explained he was "moving back to Arkansas from Minnesota" and "needed the tools for his job." The third contact was on January 5, 2018 at 12:59 a.m. in Evening Shade, Arkansas. An officer stopped defendant's vehicle and had contact with defendant. Defendant was alone in the vehicle. The large suitcases and tools were present in the back seat.

On January 8, 2018, an officer in Lonoke County, Arkansas came upon defendant asleep in a vehicle by a boat ramp. Defendant presented with burns to his face and indicated he was having problems with his vehicle. The vehicle was a different make and model than the vehicle referenced above. As this officer was unaware of any investigation involving defendant, this encounter ended when defendant was allowed to drive from the area. It was later learned the vehicle defendant was now driving was a stolen vehicle.

On January 9, 2018, officers were alerted to victim's cell phone pinging in the area of Cabot, Arkansas. Officers learned victim's cell phone was pawned at a Walmart in this area. Video surveillance of the transaction was obtained and officers observed defendant in the company of a man identified as defendant's estranged husband. Thereafter, law enforcement located and arrested defendant at his husband's residence. Defendant presented with burns to his face, hands and body.

Officers subsequently learned that on January 6, 2018, at approximately 9:30 p.m., the New Orleans Fire Department responded to a fire in a shipping container in a junk yard in New Orleans. After extinguishing the fire, fire personnel located a badly burned body within the shipping container. An autopsy was performed and the body was identified as that of a female. DNA testing was conducted and it was determined the body was that of victim. Defendant's 1995 Honda Accord was located a short distance

from where victim's body was recovered.

Officers took a recorded statement from defendant. Defendant admitted meeting victim via electronic means and moving to Minnesota to live with her. Defendant acknowledged their relationship was punctuated with frequent discord. Defendant admitted that on January 4, 2018, he was at victim's residence and they argued. Defendant admitted he punched victim several times, causing her bodily harm. Defendant admitted he placed victim into a choke hold and rendered her unconscious. Upon realizing victim had died, defendant admitted he placed her body inside a large suitcase and began driving. Defendant admitted he was stopped several times by law enforcement. Defendant admitted he ended up driving to the junkyard in New Orleans with the intention of burying victim's body. Defendant admitted he eventually decided to burn the body and placed her body in the shipping container, piled old tires on top, and used several gallons of gasoline. Defendant admitted he was burned in the process of lighting the gasoline.

At present, defendant is in federal custody. Accordingly, your complainant hereby requests this complaint issue by warrant rather than by summons.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Joel Moore
Detective
4801 50th Street W
Edina, MN 55424
Badge: 174

Electronically Signed:
06/19/2018 10:52 AM
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Darren Borg
300 S 6th St
Minneapolis, MN 55487
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:
06/19/2018 08:05 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM before the above-named court at 300 S Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$1,000,000.00

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: June 19, 2018.

Judicial Officer

Bruce Peterson
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 06/19/2018 10:59 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

JOSEPH PORTER

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant
upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name: JOSEPH PORTER
DOB: 09/18/1992
Address: 203 Bridge Ave E
Delano, MN

Alias Names/DOB:

SID:

Height:

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Gender: MALE

Race: White

Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes

Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: No

Driver's License #:

SILS Person ID #: 827494

SILS Tracking No. 2989260

Alcohol Concentration:

STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	1/4/2018	609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated	Felony	H2051		MN0270600	18000059
	Penalty	1/4/2018	609.19.1 Murder - 2nd Degree	Felony	H2051		MN0270600	18000059