

State of Minnesota  
County of Hennepin

District Court  
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 19A01788  
Court File No. 27-CR-19-3847

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**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**RICHIE LEE VESSEL DOB: 02/21/1972**

320 2ND AVE SE  
#401  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Order of Detention

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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: 609.11.5(a), 609.19.1, 609.11.9

Maximum Sentence: 40 YEARS

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/09/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19039256

Charge Description: That on or about 2/9/2019, in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, RICHIE LEE VESSEL caused the death of E.M., a human being, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation, while using a firearm.

Minimum Sentence: 3 YEARS

**COUNT II**

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

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.11.5(a), 609.19.1, 609.11.9

Maximum Sentence: 40 YEARS

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/09/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19039256

Charge Description: That on or about 2/9/2019, in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, RICHIE LEE VESSEL caused the death of J.A., a human being, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation, while using a firearm.

Minimum Sentence: 3 YEARS

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Complainant, a licensed peace officer with the Minneapolis Police Department, has investigated the facts and circumstances of this offense and believes the following establishes probable cause:

On February 9, 2019, at approximately 10:30 p.m., officers with the Minneapolis Police Department received a report of a shooting at an apartment complex at 320 Second Avenue Southeast in the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Responding officers went to an apartment on the fourth floor of the apartment complex and located two females, E.M. and J.A., who were later pronounced deceased at the scene. Both E.M. and J.A. suffered from an apparent gunshot wound. Responding officers located E.M. inside of the apartment near the apartment door. A .40 caliber discharged cartridge casing was located near E.M. J.A. was located inside of the apartment in the kitchen area. A .40 caliber discharged cartridge casing was located near J.A.

Through investigation, officers learned that RICHIE LEE VESSEL, Defendant hereinafter, lived across the hall from E.M. Investigators learned that Defendant had previously shown another resident a handgun and previously threatened to kill another resident. Defendant was questioned at his apartment on February 9, 2019, and claimed not to have heard anything related to the shooting. Officers spoke with multiple residents who reported hearing a male and female voices arguing and then multiple gunshots.

Witness A, an individual identified in police reports, stated that he heard loud music and arguing. Witness A stated that he heard gunshots and went into the hallway. Witness A did not hear anyone running down the hall, get in the elevator, or go down the stairs.

A search warrant was executed at Defendant's apartment. Inside of Defendant's apartment officers located blood like substance from walls, the front door light switch, and clothing within Defendant's apartment.

Officers searched a trash dumpster from the apartment complex. While removing trash bags from the dumpster, an officer saw a handgun fall out of a white trash bag. The handgun was identified as a .40 caliber Smith & Wesson. Inside of the trash bag, officers located a mailing and a prescription pill bottle with Defendant's name, as well as a gun magazine with a live ammunition round partially hanging out.

The autopsy of E.M. revealed a gunshot wound to the upper right breast area. The external examination of J.A. revealed a gunshot wound to the lower portion of her face.

Defendant is in custody.

## 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**

Scott A Olson  
Sergeant  
350 S 5th St  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1389  
Badge: 5315

Electronically Signed:  
02/14/2019 11:09 AM  
Hennepin County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Dan Allard  
300 S 6th St  
Minneapolis, MN 55487  
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:  
02/14/2019 11:06 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: No Contact with Witnesses; No Contact with Address

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: February 14, 2019.

**Judicial Officer**

Luis Bartolomei  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 02/14/2019 11:12 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.

**RICHIE LEE VESSEL**

Defendant

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

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

## DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

**Name:** RICHIE LEE VESSEL  
**DOB:** 02/21/1972  
**Address:** 320 2ND AVE SE  
#401  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

**Alias Names/DOB:**

**SID:** MN05047473

**Height:**

**Weight:**

**Eye Color:**

**Hair Color:**

**Gender:** MALE

**Race:** White

**Fingerprints Required per Statute:** Yes

**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:** Yes

**Driver's License #:**

**SILS Person ID #:** 857243

**SILS Tracking No.** 3083127

**Alcohol Concentration:**

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

<b>Cnt Nbr</b>	<b>Statute Type</b>	<b>Offense Date(s)</b>	<b>Statute Nbrs and Descriptions</b>	<b>Offense Level</b>	<b>MOC</b>	<b>GOC</b>	<b>Controlling Agencies</b>	<b>Case Numbers</b>
1	Charge	2/9/2019	609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated	Felony	H2012		MN0271100	19039256
	Modifier	2/9/2019	609.11.9 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment - Applicable Offenses	No-Level	H2012		MN0271100	19039256
	Penalty	2/9/2019	609.19.1 Murder - 2nd Degree	Felony	H2012		MN0271100	19039256
	Penalty	2/9/2019	609.11.5(a) Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm Use or Possession	Felony	H2012		MN0271100	19039256
2	Charge	2/9/2019	609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated	Felony	H2012		MN0271100	19039256
	Modifier	2/9/2019	609.11.9 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment - Applicable Offenses	No-Level	H2012		MN0271100	19039256
	Penalty	2/9/2019	609.19.1 Murder - 2nd Degree	Felony	H2012		MN0271100	19039256
	Penalty	2/9/2019	609.11.5(a) Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm Use or Possession	Felony	H2012		MN0271100	19039256