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THE STATE OF TEXAS
VS
JOSEPH JAMES PAPPAS
5003 STILLBROOKE
HOUSTON, TX 77035

02957967

SPN
DOB W M 02/09/1956
DATE PREPARED 8/2/2018

D A LOG NUMBER 2464372
CJIS TRACKING NO
BY ACH DA NO 2275023
AGENCY HPD
O/R NO 092246318
ARREST DATE TO BE

NCIC CODE 0903 20
FELONY CHARGE MURDER

RELATED CASES

CAUSE NO
HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO
FIRST SETTING DATE

1600148
185

BAIL TO BE SET AT MAGISTRATION
PRIOR CAUSE NO
CHARGE SEQ NUM 1

IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Before me, the undersigned Assistant District Attorney of Harris County, Texas, this day appeared the undersigned affiant, who under oath says that he has good reason to believe and does believe that in Harris County, Texas, **JOSEPH JAMES PAPPAS**, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about **July 20, 2018**, did then and there unlawfully, intentionally and knowingly cause the death of Mark Hausknecht by shooting him with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm

FILED
Chris Daniel
District Clerk

AUG 02 2018

Time: 1:35
Harris County, Texas
By JA
Deputy

Probable Cause

I, M Miller, am employed as a peace officer with the Houston Police Department I do solemnly swear that I have reason to believe and do believe that Joseph James Pappas, a white male with a date of birth of February 9, 1965, did in Harris County Texas, on or about July 20, 2018, intentionally and knowingly commit the Felony offense of Murder

MY BELIEF IS BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING FACTS

Affiant, Michael J Miller, hereafter referred to as Affiant is a certified peace officer currently employed by the homicide division of the Houston Police Department. Affiant was dispatched to a shooting call being documented under HPD case number 922463-18 on July 20, 2018 Upon arrival, Affiant observed that the location of the shooting was 6600 Main, Houston, Harris County, Texas-also known in the area as the "Texas Medical Center " Affiant learned that the shooting victim, later identified as Dr Mark Hausknecht-had been transported to Ben Taub Hospital where he died Affiant observed a yellow in color bicycle laying on the ground near where Dr Hausknecht had been shot

Affiant spoke with Dr Anna Lopez, a medical examiner employed by the Harris County Institute of Forensic Science Affiant learned that Dr Lopez had conducted an autopsy on Dr Hausknecht and her findings were that the cause of death was a gunshot wound and the manner of death was a homicide

Affiant began speaking with the doctors at Ben Taub who informed Affiant that they recognized the decedent as Dr Hausknecht Affiant spoke with Dr Hausknecht's wife, who identified herself as Georgia Hsieh Hsieh informed affiant that her husband was on his way to work when he was killed, and that he rode his bike every morning and always took the same route While on scene, affiant observed two shell casings on the ground near the location where Dr Hausknecht had been shot Affiant observed these shell casings to be consistent with 22 caliber

Affiant worked with other members of the Houston Police Department to collect video surveillance from the areas around the 6600 block of Main Affiant observed a recording from a Metro bus that captured the following on July 20, 2018

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Dr Mark Hausknecht was riding his bike along Main Street on his way to work Affiant observed on the video that an unknown male riding a bicycle began following Dr Mark Hausknecht at the 6800 block of Main Street Affiant observed the suspect followed Dr Mark Hausknecht for approximately 25 miles before he appears to shoot him Affiant observed that the unknown male did not stop and rode his bike away from the scene

Affiant has been a peace officer for 25 years and with the homicide department for 21 years Affiant believes, based on training and experience, that Dr Mark Hausknecht was targeted Specifically, affiant bases this belief on the fact that the suspect appeared to have been waiting for Dr Hausknecht to ride past his position before immediately following Dr Hausknecht, as well as the deliberate manner in which the suspect shoots Dr Hausknecht without provocation and flees the scene

On July 31, 2018, Affiant was informed that the Houston Police Department had received a tip in regard to affiant's investigation into the death of Dr Hausknecht Affiant followed up on the tip and contacted the source of the tip, namely, [REDACTED] who affiant deemed to be credible and reliable Along with [REDACTED], affiant also met with [REDACTED], who affiant also deemed to be credible and reliable Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stated that they were concerned that their neighbor, a person they know by name and sight as "Joey" Joseph Pappas was the person who appeared in the video surveillance that had been released to media concerning the death of Dr Hausknecht [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] advised that Joseph Pappas lived at 5003 Stillbrooke, Houston, TX 70035 Both women stated to affiant that Joey is known to ride his bicycle frequently and usually rides with a "full" backpack in manner similar to the suspect captured on video surveillance that had been released by the media Affiant researched 5003 Stillbrooke, Houston, TX, and found that it was the registered address of Joseph Pappas, who affiant identified as Joseph James Pappas, a white male with a date of birth of February 9, 1956

On July 31, 2018, Affiant also became aware of a male who had threatened to kill himself Affiant spoke with [REDACTED] who affiant deemed reliable and credible, who stated that she knows Joey Pappas as a very old family friend She stated that she is visiting from Georgia and had contacted Joey to see if they could get together [REDACTED] stated that she received a text message from him stating he was going to kill himself Affiant also learned from [REDACTED] mother [REDACTED] who Affiant deemed reliable and credible, that she recently received a package from Joseph "Joey" Pappas which contained the title to Joey's vehicle as well as a deed to Joey's residence that appeared to have been filed with the Harris County District Clerk's Office [REDACTED] told your affiant that she had spoken to Joey after receiving the package and that he had told her that he had a terminal illness [REDACTED] told your affiant that she became concerned for the welfare of Joey and drove over to his residence which is located at 5003 Stillbrooke, Houston, TX 77035 [REDACTED] stated to your affiant that she attempted to get the police to accompany her on a welfare check but learned they had shown up without her and had already left [REDACTED] advised that she had made entry into Joey's residence and conducted a brief search of the residence to make sure that Joey was okay At the time affiant was speaking to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] indicated that she was still attempting to get police out to do a welfare check on Joey Pappas Based on the foregoing, on July 31, 2018, affiant, along with other officers with the Houston Police Department conducted a welfare check and made entry into the residence located at 5003 Stillbrooke, Houston, TX 77035, to ascertain the condition of Joseph Pappas Once inside the residence, affiant and the additional officers conducted a search of the residence for the homeowner, Joseph Pappas Affiant and additional officers were unable to locate Mr Pappas and exited the residence However, while inside the residence, affiant made the following observations, all of which occurred in plain view of affiant and other officers as a search of the residence was conducted for Mr Pappas

-immediately inside the front door of the residence, affiant observed a large piece of metal, positioned in such a way that it appears it was intended to be used to buttress the front door against any attempt to force entry into the residence Affiant observed that the front door was equipped with a standard bolt lock, as is customary for security purposes

-in the main living area of the residence, affiant observed a solitary piece of furniture, namely, a chair, that was located directly in front of the window that faced the front of the residence, positioned in such a way that the occupier of the chair could look out directly in front of the house

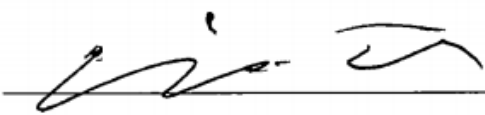
-in the kitchen, affiant observed what purported to be the "Last Will and Testament" of Joseph Pappas

-in the garage, affiant observed a vehicle, namely a Crown Vic black in color, with TX license plate number GJT 0451. As affiant peered into the vehicle, affiant could see that the backseat of the vehicle had been removed, creating a large space consisting of the trunk space and the back seat passenger space. Affiant observed that this space was adequate to conceal a bicycle. Also, in the garage, affiant observed three boxes of 22 caliber ammunition. Affiant knows that two-22 caliber shell casings were recovered from the scene of the shooting of Dr. Hausknecht on July 20, 2018.

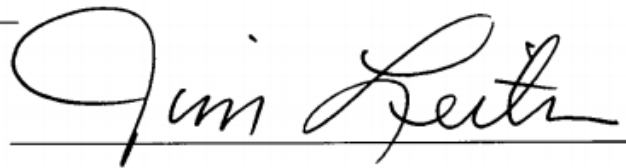
-In the office, affiant found a printed sheet of paper. Believing the printed text may be related to the threat of suicide by Mr. Pappas, affiant reviewed the letter. Affiant found that the text appeared to be a draft of a proposed police report. Affiant's belief is based on a "sticky note" that was attached to front on the document, upon which was written "HPD theft". The text of the printed paper referenced the theft of a bicycle, namely, a 10-speed Schwinn, that had been stolen within the date range of July 19th through July 25th. During affiant's search of the house, no bicycle was observed. Affiant knows that the shooting previously described herein took place on July 20, 2018. Affiant researched the complainant's name through the HPD database and found that Mr. Pappas never filed an online theft report concerning a stolen bicycle. Affiant also knows from training and experience, that individuals involved in offenses during which vehicles are used commonly report those vehicles having been stolen at a time before the occurrence of the offenses in attempt to distance themselves from association with the vehicles in case the vehicles are identified by witnesses to the crime. Additionally, affiant was provided a photograph by [REDACTED]. Per [REDACTED], Joseph Pappas had sent her said picture of a bicycle on July 23, 2018 (pictured below right). Affiant observed that several characteristics of the bicycle in this photograph were consistent with those of the bicycle being ridden by the suspect who was determined by video surveillance to have shot and killed Dr. Hausknecht (pictured below bottom left). Specifically, both bikes are silver or gray in color, both have curved handlebars, both appear to have a low-positioned seat, and both appear to have a blue bag/item attached to the back of the seat.

AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on August 02, 2018



AFFIANT



ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Bar No. 12187900

COMPLAINT