

State of Minnesota
County of Carver

District Court
1st Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. FE-17-50907
Court File No. 10-CR-17-1130

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LEAH VICTORIA PETERSON DOB: 07/16/1992

720 6th Avenue Southeast Apartment 6
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

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: Aid and Abet Murder - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 and 2

Minnesota Statute: 609.195(b), with reference to: 609.195(b), 609.05.1

Maximum Sentence: 25 years prison and/or \$40,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/07/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17000199

Charge Description: On or about 1/7/2017, within the County of Carver, State of Minnesota, Defendant aided and abetted another who, without intent to cause death, proximately caused the death of a human being by, directly or indirectly, unlawfully selling, giving away, bartering, delivering, exchanging, distributing, or administering a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

On January 7, 2017, around 6:00 a.m. Chaska Police were dispatched to a medical emergency at 107 Waters Edge Drive, Chaska, Carver County, Minnesota. Police located an unresponsive male, John Michael Hall (D.O.B. 1/8/1990), who was not breathing. Attempts to resuscitate Hall were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead at 6:47 a.m..

Hall and K.K. (D.O.B. 10/29/1987), lived together in a first floor apartment at 107 Waters Edge Drive in Chaska. Hall's roommate, K.K., found Hall on the floor of their residence on the morning of January 7, 2017. Hall was unresponsive with blood and discharge coming from his mouth. K.K. then called police. K.K. told police that he and Hall met in 2015 while in drug treatment together. He stated that they had stayed in the night before and watched a movie. He stated that at 2:17 a.m. Hall texted him that he was outside in the parking lot waiting for a drug deal and if he was not inside in thirty minutes he should come looking for him. K.K. stated that he fell asleep until he found Hall unresponsive the next day.

Through their investigation, police learned that the above named Defendant, Leah Victoria Peterson, (D.O.B. 7/16/1992) and Hall had been texting and calling each other on the night of January 6, 2017, and into the early morning hours of January 7, 2017, to arrange a drug deal where Hall would purchase heroin from the Defendant. The Defendant initiated contact with Hall and began the communication. The following text communication occurred between the Defendant and the decedent, John Hall:

January 6, 2017, beginning at 11:32 p.m.

Defendant to Hall: "Hey what's up?" (11:32 p.m.)

Hall to Defendant: "Hey brother man, what's goin on?"

Defendant to Hall: "It's Leah. This is actually my phone he just used it. I'm doing good why about you?"

Hall to Defendant: "Oh I see, right on... I'm good, got me a little purple bud I'm just smoking watching a movie"

Defendant to Hall: "But I got seriously fire Asian if you know anyone looking" (11:40 p.m.)

Hall to Defendant: "Boy?" *[Note that "Boy" is slang for heroin]

Defendant to Hall "Yes"

Hall to Defendant: "Oooo, I'd love some but no cash, would u wanna trade for some bud, I got 30 bucks on a target gift card too"

Hall to Defendant: "Could u do something for any of that?"

Hall to Defendant: "No?"

Defendant to Hall "I gotta check on sec." (11:51 p.m.)

Phone records show that the Defendant and Hall had a number of phone conversations between midnight on January 6, 2017, and 2:28 a.m. on January 7, 2017. They also continued to text. For example, Hall texted the Defendant his address at 1:46 a.m.. He also texted the Defendant, "When u come in the parking lot go left at stop sign then my tan trailblazer is on the left in front of the garages, park next to me my neighbors car is in the garage for the night". At 2:04 a.m. Hall texted the Defendant asking her if she was close and she texted back, "OK and at sea up the road". At 2:21 a.m., Hall texted the Defendant, "Holy balls it's so cold, plz b close" and the Defendant texted back, "I'm about to be there". At 2:28 a.m. Hall called the Defendant's phone, which lasted 57 seconds. The phone call began and ended near a cell phone tower located on Hundertmark Road in Chaska.

Video footage at the SuperAmerica, located at 110 Hundertmark Road, Chaska, Minnesota, shows the

Defendant entering the store at 2:11 a.m. on January 7, 2017. At 2:12 a.m., the Defendant is seen purchasing an item at the SuperAmerica.

At 2:44 a.m., the Defendant's phone was used to call a 1-800 number for Target gift cards.

The Defendant told police that she and another man drove to Minneapolis in her car around 11:30 p.m. on January 6, 2017, to buy heroin. She stated that she went to Prior Lake to buy methamphetamine and then used some of the meth. After taking meth they stopped at the SuperAmerica in Chaska and then met Hall in the parking lot of his residence in Chaska. She stated that Hall got into the back seat of her car and paid with some cash and maybe a gift card and that the man she was with gave Hall heroin in return. Hall then injected the heroin into his arm while they all were inside the car. The Defendant admitted that she was concerned about the heroin because she and the other man were fairly confident that it was laced with fentanyl. She stated that she and the other man went to Uptown Pawn a couple days after the drug deal and the other man pawned a bunch of gift cards and a phone. She said she knew Hall was dead when they tried pawning the gift cards.

The Defendant stated that during the drug deal with Hall the other man had handled the "dope," traded the dope and she never touched it. The Defendant stated that she was the communicator in the deal. She also stated that she doesn't know of any other deaths from the drug sales that either she or the other man had been involved in. She admitted that she was texting back and forth with Hall. She carries Narcan with her in her car in case of overdoses.

On May 26, 2017, the Midwest Medical Examiner determined that John Michael Hall's death was caused by carfentanyl toxicity. Carfentanyl is an opioid that is 100 times more powerful than fentanyl and 10,000 times more potent than morphine. It is a general anesthetic for large animals such as elephants and was never intended for humans.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 609.49., intentional failure to appear for duly scheduled court appearances may result in additional criminal charges, and in addition to any arrest warrant that may otherwise be issued by the Court.

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, subs. 1, 2.

Complainant

Jamie Personius
Detective
2 City Hall
Chaska, MN 55318
Badge: 409

Electronically Signed:
10/31/2017 10:34 AM
Carver County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Mark Metz
Assistant Carver County
Attorney
604 E 4th Street
Chaska, MN 55318-2102
(952) 361-1400

Electronically Signed:
10/31/2017 10:17 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 604 E 4th Street, Chaska, MN 55318 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: \$
Conditions of Release:

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF CARVER
Certified to be a true and correct copy of the original on file and of record in my office
Mary P. Dalbec
Court Administrator
10.31.17 By:  Deputy

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: October 31, 2017.

Judicial Officer Eric Braaten

Electronically Signed: 10/31/2017 11:01 AM

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

COUNTY OF CARVER
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Leah Victoria Peterson

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:

FILED

OCT 31 2017

CARVER COUNTY COURTS