



PRESS RELEASE

March 29, 2018

**CARVER COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CHARGES
NORTH MINNEAPOLIS MAN WITH HOMICIDE FOR
THE OVERDOSE DEATH OF A 19-YEAR OLD WATERTOWN WOMAN**

Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced that on March 28, 2018, his office charged Deon Lee Hillard, age 29, of Minneapolis, with one count of third degree murder for Hillard's role in the overdose death of O.R.Z., a nineteen year-old female and a resident of Watertown.

The criminal complaint filed by the County Attorney's Office alleges that O.R.Z.'s family members found her dead in her bedroom on March 23, 2018. It appeared that she died of an accidental drug overdose. Investigators searched O.R.Z.'s phone and Facebook accounts and learned that she had arranged to buy controlled substances from Hillard the day before.

Carver County deputies arrested Hillard and he eventually admitted selling heroin to O.R.Z. on March 22, 2018. Investigators believe that O.R.Z. administered the substance in the early morning hours of March 23, 2018, and subsequently died of an overdose.

Hillard appeared before the Honorable Kevin Eide, Judge of Carver County District Court, on March 29, 2018. Judge Eide set unconditional bail at \$500,000 and conditional bail at \$200,000. The next court hearing is scheduled for April 11, 2018.

A certified copy of the public complaint is attached hereto

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State of Minnesota
County of Carver

District Court
1st Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. FE-18-51553
Court File No. 10-CR-18-270

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

DEON LEE HILLARD DOB: 06/15/1988

1523 Morgan Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55412

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 - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 and 2

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


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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/23/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18008572

Charge Description: On or about 3/23/2018, within the County of Carver, State of Minnesota, defendant, 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.

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
3/28/18 By  Deputy

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

At 5:55 p.m. on March 23, 2018, a Watertown resident called 911 to report a possible overdose death at his home in Watertown, Carver County, Minnesota. Deputies arrived at the residence and found the lifeless body of an adult woman, O.R.Z., age 19.

O.R.Z. appeared to have been dead for several hours. Her body was face down on her bed. Deputies found evidence of recent intravenous drug use nearby. An uncapped syringe was on a dresser close to O.R.Z.'s body. Deputies found a syringe cap under O.R.Z.'s body. Two plastic baggie fragments were also discovered near O.R.Z.'s body, consistent with the packaging of illegal controlled substances. Both baggie fragments contained a powdery residue. A knotted phone charging cord was near O.R.Z. that appeared to be a makeshift tourniquet. Stuck to O.R.Z.'s right arm was a cotton Q-tip.

Deputies located O.R.Z.'s wallet on the bed. Inside were three closed plastic bindles that each contained a white powder resembling heroin or possibly fentanyl. The white powder in the bindles looked similar to the residue on the baggie fragments described above. A deputy field tested the contents of one of the bindles from O.R.Z.'s purse and received a positive reading for fentanyl, an illegal Schedule II controlled substance.

In their investigation, deputies learned that O.R.Z. was battling drug addiction and that she was in recovery at the time of her death. O.R.Z. had no immediate health problems and she did not seem suicidal. Investigators had preliminary discussions with the Medical Examiner's Office regarding cause of death. Based upon the evidence at hand, a lead detective believed that O.R.Z.'s death was consistent with a fentanyl overdose.

Deputies examined O.R.Z.'s cellphone and Facebook account in the days leading up to her death. They found several communications with a contact listed as "Deon Hillard" in which O.R.Z. appeared to arrange for purchases of controlled substances. In their investigation, deputies determined that the contact name "Deon Hillard," and the phone number associated with that name, belong to Deon Lee Hillard, DOB 06/15/1988, the defendant herein.

Deputies put together a timeline of events from the afternoon of March 22, 2018, until the 911 call on March 23, 2018. At 2:08 p.m. on March 22, 2018, O.R.Z. sent a Facebook message to Deon Hillard and asked, "Can I grab 5 40's." Law enforcement officers know that "5 40's" can mean five 40-dollar quantities of controlled substances. After asking for "5 40's," O.R.Z. called the phone number associated with Deon Hillard. O.R.Z. then received a Facebook message of "Yea" from Deon Hillard. O.R.Z. messaged Deon Hillard, "Ok 20 minutes." O.R.Z.'s phone log revealed that she then called Deon Hillard for nine seconds, at 2:26 p.m. Through further investigation, deputies learned that O.R.Z. was in North Minneapolis around 2:30 p.m., at a location near defendant's residence. According to a witness, O.R.Z. rode to the location in North Minneapolis and then exited the vehicle alone for about 10 minutes.

Investigators determined that O.R.Z. returned to her home in Watertown around 4:30 p.m. on March 22, 2018, after being in North Minneapolis. O.R.Z. appeared to be happy and acted normally during the drive back to Watertown.

Deputies saw in O.R.Z.'s phone that she sent a Facebook message to a friend at 5:18 p.m. on March 22, 2018, and stated, "I jus od and some how woke up my head is ringing." The friend responded, "Where at." O.R.Z. replied, "At my moms." O.R.Z. then sent the same friend a message saying, "Get. Ride here I just

bought 200 dollar worth." The friend asked, "Damn from who?" O.R.Z. responded, "Deon."

Family members were in their home with O.R.Z. from 4:30 p.m. on March 22, 2018, until they discovered O.R.Z. dead on March 23, 2018. They did not see anything particularly unusual in O.R.Z.'s behavior during this time. At midnight on March 22, 2018, a family member recalled telling O.R.Z. that she was going to bed. O.R.Z. said that she would stay up longer. A different family member heard O.R.Z. speaking on her phone around 1:30 a.m. on March 23, 2018. No one saw O.R.Z. again until approximately 5:40 p.m. on March 23, 2018, when a family member found her body in her bedroom.

Deputies learned that defendant was previously convicted of a controlled substance felony in 2015 for selling heroin, court file 27-CR-15-28727. On March 26, 2018, deputies located defendant and arrested him. Defendant agreed to speak to investigators in a Miranda interview and admitted that he sold controlled substances in North Minneapolis. He identified his Facebook account name as "Deon Hillard." Defendant admitted that he knew O.R.Z. and that he sold controlled substances to her in the past but that the substances were fake drugs. Deputies questioned defendant further. Defendant eventually admitted that he sold four bindles of a substance to O.R.Z on March 22, 2018. Both he and O.R.Z. believed that the substance was heroin. Heroin is an illegal Schedule II controlled substance.

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, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Alexander R Bujalski
Deputy
606 E 4th Street
Chaska, MN 55318
Badge: 869

Electronically Signed:
03/28/2018 01:53 PM
Carver County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

David Hunt
604 E 4th Street
Chaska, MN 55318-2102
(952) 361-1400

Electronically Signed:
03/28/2018 12:41 PM

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:

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: March 28, 2018.

Judicial Officer Kevin Eide
Judge

Electronically Signed: 03/28/2018 03:44 PM

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

**COUNTY OF CARVER
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Deon Lee Hillard

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: Deon Lee Hillard
DOB: 06/15/1988
Address: 1523 Morgan Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Alias Names/DOB:

SID: MN15JA4133

Height:

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Gender: MALE

Race:

Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes

Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: Yes

Driver's License #:

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	3/23/2018	609.195(b) Murder - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 & 2	Felony	H3C02	N	MN0100000	18008572
	Penalty	3/23/2018	609.195(b) Murder - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 & 2	Felony	H3C02	N	MN0100000	18008572