

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
AT INDEPENDENCE**

POLICE NO. :	21-013693
PROSECUTOR NO. :	095463290
OCN:	QO005146

STATE OF MISSOURI,

PLAINTIFF,)

VS.

STEVEN T. DECKER

328 S Kentucky Ave

Independence, MO 64053

DOB: 08/30/1994

Race/Sex: W/M

DEFENDANT.)

COMPLAINT
WARRANT REQUESTED

Count I. Murder 2nd Degree - Felony Murder - During Perpetration/Attempted Perpetration/Flight From Perpetration Of A Felony, A Person Dies (565.021-003Y20200999.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.021, RSMo, committed the **class A felony of murder in the second degree**, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about March 8, 2021, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, Thomas Galvan was killed by being shot as a result of the perpetration of the class A felony of Robbery in the First Degree under Section 570.023, RSMo committed by the defendant on or about March 8, 2021, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri.

An individual convicted and sentenced for this offense shall not be eligible for parole until eighty-five percent of the sentence is served.

The range of punishment for a class A felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than ten (10) years and not to exceed thirty (30) years, or life imprisonment.

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Count II. Armed Criminal Action (571.015-001Y20205299.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the **felony of armed criminal action**, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about March 8, 2021, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of Murder in the First Degree charged in Count I, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of Murder in the First Degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a deadly weapon.

The range of punishment for the offense of Armed Criminal Action in violation of section 571.015.1, RSMo. is imprisonment by the department of corrections for a term of not less than three years and not to exceed fifteen years, unless the person is unlawfully possessing a firearm, in which case the term of imprisonment shall be for a term of not less than five years. No person convicted under this subsection shall be eligible for parole, probation, conditional release, or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a period of three calendar years.

Count III. Robbery - 1st Degree (570.023-001Y20201204.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 570.023, RSMo, committed the **class A felony of robbery in the first degree**, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about March 8, 2021, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant either acting alone or in concert with another, forcibly stole a phone in the possession of [REDACTED], and in the course thereof the defendant was armed with a deadly weapon.

The range of punishment for a class A felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than ten (10) years and not to exceed thirty (30) years, or life imprisonment.

Count IV. Armed Criminal Action (571.015-001Y20205299.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the **felony of armed criminal action**, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about March 8, 2021, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of Robbery in the First Degree charged in Count III, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of Robbery in the First Degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a deadly weapon.

The range of punishment for the offense of Armed Criminal Action in violation of section 571.015.1, RSMo. is imprisonment by the department of corrections for a term of not

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less than three years and not to exceed fifteen years, unless the person is unlawfully possessing a firearm, in which case the term of imprisonment shall be for a term of not less than five years. No person convicted under this subsection shall be eligible for parole, probation, conditional release, or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a period of three calendar years. assistance, or aid of a dangerous instrument or deadly weapon.

Count V. Robbery - 1st Degree (570.023-001Y20201204.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 570.023, RSMo, committed the **class A felony of robbery in the first degree**, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about March 8, 2021, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant acting alone or in concert with another, forcibly stole Shoes in the possession of Thomas Galvan, and in the course thereof the defendant was armed with a deadly weapon.

The range of punishment for a class A felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than ten (10) years and not to exceed thirty (30) years, or life imprisonment.

Count VI. Armed Criminal Action (571.015-001Y20205299.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the **felony of armed criminal action**, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about March 8, 2021, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of Robbery in the First Degree charged in Count V, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of Robbery in the First Degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a deadly weapon.

The range of punishment for the offense of Armed Criminal Action in violation of section 571.015.1, RSMo. is imprisonment by the department of corrections for a term of not less than three years and not to exceed fifteen years, unless the person is unlawfully possessing a firearm, in which case the term of imprisonment shall be for a term of not less than five years. No person convicted under this subsection shall be eligible for parole, probation, conditional release, or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a period of three calendar years.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the statement(s) of facts filed contemporaneously herewith, made a part hereof, and submitted as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause.

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Wherefore, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

JEAN PETERS BAKER

Prosecuting Attorney
Jackson County, Missouri
by,

/s/ Michael J. Hunt

Michael J. Hunt (#34818)
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
321 W. Lexington
Independence, MO 64050
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WITNESSES:

1. DET Christopher Burris, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050
2. PO Tanner Cox,
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. PO Brian Hanrahan, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050
6. CIV Kelly Pope, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050
7. DET Steven Schmidli, 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 3/9/2021

Report #: 2021-13693

I, Christopher Burris, a Detective with the Independence, Missouri, Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that on 3/8/2021, at approximately 0420 hours, Steven T. Decker, (Race- White, Sex- Male, DOB- 08/30/1994, Address-328 South Kentucky Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64053, [REDACTED], committed one or more criminal offenses in Jackson County, Missouri.

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 03/08/2021 at 0427 hours, Independence Police Officers were dispatched to room # 124 of the Executive Inn and Suites, 15014 East U.S. 40 Highway, Independence, Jackson County, Missouri reference to a shooting. Upon arrival, officers responded to room 124. The door to 124 was partially cracked. When Officer Brian Hanrahan started to push on the door, he observed a large amount of apparent blood inside the doorway and what appeared to be a body lying behind the door. [REDACTED] was standing next to the bed inside the room. Officers entered the room, conducted a safety sweep and removed [REDACTED]. The victim, later identified as Tomas Galvan, was transported to an area hospital where he was subsequently pronounced deceased.

Officers and investigators spoke with [REDACTED] who reported Galvan had arrived at her room 124 around 2200 hours on 03/07/2021 to hangout for her birthday. [REDACTED] said at some point Galvan called two males; both possibly named Tyler, to give him a ride back home. [REDACTED] described them both as skinny white males. [REDACTED] advised one had shoulder length reddish brown hair and the other had short brown hair. [REDACTED] said both males arrived around about 0300 hours. [REDACTED] reported Galvan argued with the males about them stealing an air compressor from him and [REDACTED] said she left with one of the male subjects, the male with the shoulder length reddish brown hair and went to Quik Trip at Lee's Summit Road and U.S. 40 Highway. [REDACTED] said they bought drinks and cigarettes and returned to room 124.

[REDACTED] reported that one of the males realized he recognized Galvan as a person that robbed a female friend of his in the past. [REDACTED] stated both males drew handguns and pointed at her and Galvan. [REDACTED] said they told Galvan to "drop his pockets" and take off his shoes. [REDACTED] stated the male with short brown hair then shot Galvan in the head as he tried to grab for the gun. [REDACTED] advised both parties grabbed Galvan's property, as well as her cell phone and driver's license and ran out of the room. [REDACTED] stated the male with the brown hair came back into the room and wiped his hands off on her cardigan sweater and he left with the item. Both subjects left the area in a silver car with damage to the front end. [REDACTED] asked the female in front of room 121 to call 911 and went back into room 124 to wait for police. [REDACTED] also stated Galvan summoned the males over to complete a drug transaction.

Detective Burris observed surveillance video that was recovered by crime scene investigators from Executive Inn that revealed the suspects were driving and riding in a 2009 Subaru Impreza bearing Missouri license ED9U4V. Detective Burris had Intelligence Unit personnel publish a bulletin for law enforcement with the surveillance images. KCPD Detective Darin Lee responded to the bulletin and said the car had been towed and impounded by KCPD on 12/10/2020. The car belonged to Steven Tyler Decker who lived at 328 South Kentucky Avenue, Independence, Missouri. Decker's physical appearance provided to Detective Burris was consistent as he was a skinny male and had shoulder length reddish brown hair.

[REDACTED] was shown a photographic line-up with Decker in it. After reviewing the line-up [REDACTED] stated she believed one of the males was Decker, however she was not sure enough to make a positive identification. At about 1412 hours, Detective Burris received information that Decker picked his six year old son up from school. According to school staff, Decker was either crying or had been crying and staff overheard him say that

he was going to prison for 25 years.

On 03/8/2021 around 1430 hours, Detective Pagel and Detective Breshears drove around the area of 328 South Kentucky Avenue to see if they could locate the suspect vehicle at the residence. While driving past 328 South Kentucky Avenue, both detectives observed Decker exit the house from the front door and walk into the front yard. Detective Pagel and Detective Breshears left the area and called other units to advise of Decker's whereabouts. After leaving the area, Officer Robert Ogle drove by and stopped his marked patrol car and identified another male subject that was standing in the front yard named Tyler D. Wertenberger. Wertenberger told Officer Ogle he had just helped Decker pick up Decker's juvenile son from school and gave them a ride home.

Detective Burris responded to the area and called Decker's cellular phone. Detective Burris told Decker that he needed to speak to him about this case. Decker sounded upset and said he did not mean for this to happen and he was only giving someone a ride. Decker began to cry and wanted his attorney. Detective Burris assured Decker if he exited he would facilitate contact with his attorney. Due to the nature and for officer safety, Detective Burris asked if Decker was armed and he advised he was. Detective Burris told him to put the gun away and come out with his hands up. Decker told Detective Burris that he was putting the gun on the refrigerator in the kitchen. Decker subsequently exited the house alone and was arrested without incident.

An interview was attempted at Police Headquarters with Decker's attorney present. After being read his Miranda rights, Decker advised that on the advice of counsel wanted to invoke his 5th amendment right.

A search warrant was applied for and obtained through the 16th Judicial Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri authorizing the search and seizure of firearms, ammunition, cellular phones and trace evidence from 328 South Kentucky Avenue. The search warrant was executed and a .22 caliber revolver was located atop the refrigerator in the kitchen, in addition to ammunition and cellular phones.

Detective Christopher Burris # 1401

/S/ Christopher Burris

Print Name

Signature