

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

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DATE: 7/8/2021

JCSO CASE NO. : 21-03112

I, Detective Joshua Cox, of the Jackson County, Missouri Sheriff's Office, 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 July 7th, 2021, at East Atherton Sibley Road, west of Patton Road, Sibley, MO 64088, which is inside the boundaries of Jackson County, Missouri, Black, Katie Lynn W/F 07/22/1995, [REDACTED] last known address 4700 N Main St, Independence, MO 64058, committed one or more criminal offense(s).
2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 7-7-2021 at approximately 2021 hours, Deputy Breault was dispatched to the area of East Atherton Sibley Road, west of Patton Road in regard to a shooting.

Upon arrival, Deputy Breault observed Fort Osage Fire personnel already on scene and preparing to transport the victim of a gunshot wound, who was later identified as Wheeler, Ryan A. (W/M, 10-5-1991) to Centerpoint hospital. Deputy Breault further observed a female identified as Black, Katie L. (W/F, 7-22-1995) standing next to a white in color 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe, bearing Missouri License TG4 C7X, which was parked facing east near the dead-end of East Atherton Sibley Road. It should be noted that Black was instructed to back her vehicle up due to its location preventing the ambulance from being able to leave. Black moved her vehicle backwards approximately 15 feet, towards the "road closed" sign at the dead-end of East Atherton Sibley Road

Black advised that she and Wheeler were dating and had been arguing for several hours about various things. Black stated that Wheeler suggested that they go to the river access and directed her to go to the dead-end area on East Atherton Sibley Road. Black informed Deputy Breault that she and Wheeler arrived at the area at approximately 2000 hours and continued to argue about Wheeler wanting to use Black's cell phone and her not wanting him to. Black informed Breault that after sitting in the area for approximately 20 minutes, an unknown male approached the passenger side of her vehicle where Wheeler was seated and asked if they needed any help.

Black reported that she was sitting in the driver seat of the vehicle when the male approached. Black stated that she was unsure of where the unknown male came from, but she did not see him approach from the east because her vehicle was pointed in that direction. Black stated that Wheeler informed the unknown male that they did not need any help from him and that he needed to leave. According to Black, Wheeler and the unknown male became engaged in a verbal argument, and Wheeler exited the vehicle and told the unknown male "I will crash you right here!". Black stated that Wheeler then appeared to try to push the unknown male and she exited the driver side where she had been seated and began to walk around the back of her vehicle towards Wheeler's location. Black stated that once she reached the back of her vehicle, she observed Wheeler backing up towards the rear of the vehicle as well and heard him telling her to "get back".

Black stated that she then heard what she believed to be the sound of two gun shots and observed Wheeler grab his stomach area and fall to the ground. Black stated that Wheeler was in pain and yelling, at time she looked at Wheeler's stomach area as Wheeler told her to leave it alone. Black reported that the unknown male fled on foot in an unknown direction, but she believed he probably ran to the south towards the railroad tracks. Black stated that she then placed her hands on Wheeler's stomach and found that he was bleeding; at which time she attempted to hold pressure on the wound while calling 911 at the same time. Upon the arrival of EMS

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Wheeler was transported to Centerpoint Hospital where he was examined for signs of life, and none were found. Wheeler was pronounced dead by the attending ER physician.

Sgt. Edwards and Detective Cox responded to the scene of the shooting. Sgt Edwards was advised by Deputies Breault and Brice that they had located three shell casings laying in the roadway. The location of each casing was noted and photographed in place, labeled as #1, #2, #3 by Sgt Edwards. Further examination determined that casing #1 and casing #3 were Hornady .380 caliber auto casings, #2 was an unknown brand 9mm casing. Casing #1 was approximately 24 feet north of the south shoulder of the roadway, #2 was approximately 6 feet west of #1 and in the roadway, #3 was located approximately 12 feet north of #2 in the grassy shoulder area of the roadway.

Detective Cox observed Black's vehicle, a White 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe bearing Missouri license TG4-C7X with a VIN of 1GGNEK13Z23J100882 and registered to Black sitting west of the shell casings. Due to the circumstances and the fact that Black had been transported from the area to GHQ in regard to the incident a tow was ordered for the vehicle, and an inventory was begun incidental to the vehicle being towed. While in the process of conducting the inventory, Detective Cox observed a pink in color .380 handgun in plain view in the rear compartment of the vehicle. The vehicle was then secured, and the inventory was stopped. Detective Cox also located apparent blood on the tailgate, tailgate handle, and quarter panel of the vehicle.

Detective Cox later conducted a Mirandized interview with Black at Jackson County Sheriff's Office Headquarters. During that interview Black first advised that she accidentally shot Wheeler when he walked in front of her gun, while she was practicing shooting. When confronted with the facts of the case, Black then confessed that she and Wheeler were arguing, and she initially shot at the ground to scare him. Black stated that she fired the gun at Wheeler a second time, trying to shoot past him, but ended up striking him.

Detective Cox was later contacted via telephone by Isaman, Kathryn M W/F 02/20/1987, the sister of Wheeler who had just been advised by Deputies of Wheeler's death. Isaman stated that around 7 pm on 07/07/2021, an hour before the shooting was reported, Black told her that she was angry with Wheeler over some sexual text messages he was sending other women. Isaman advised that Black told her that she was planning to shoot Wheeler in the leg later in the evening to show him that he was "fucking with the wrong woman".

/S/ Joshua Cox

Detective Joshua Cox
Jackson County, MO Sheriff's Office