

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

Date: 4/09/2025

FILED	
DIVISION 1	
16-Apr-2025 17:26	
KC24082504	
CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MO	
BY	DCA

I, Detective Aaron M. Fisher #5179, Kansas City Missouri Police Department
(Name and identify law enforcement officer, or person having information as probable cause.)

knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

I have probable cause to believe that on 11-02-2024, at [REDACTED] in
(Date) (Address)

Kansas City, Jackson County Missouri John R. Thibeaux & John R. Thibeaux II
(County) (Name of Offender(s))

[REDACTED] committed one or more criminal offense(s).
(Description of Identity)

**Involuntary Manslaughter – 1st Degree, and
Assault – 2nd Degree**

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 11-02-2024, at approximately 2150 hours, officers of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department (KCPD) were dispatched to [REDACTED], Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri on a reported “Animal Bite or Attack” incident. Officers responded and located a male just outside the fence surrounding [REDACTED] one house to the west of [REDACTED] who was being attacked by numerous dogs and required immediate medical assistance.

Officers immediately utilized their vehicle sirens and air-horns, scaring the dogs away and halting the attack. The dogs fled from the male victim (later identified as [REDACTED]) and scurried towards the yard of [REDACTED], Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri, where the dogs re-appeared behind the chain-link fence surrounding the [REDACTED] residence. Officers observed multiple holes, large enough for the dogs to pass through, in the fencing at that time.

[REDACTED] (victim) was transported to [REDACTED] via ambulance. He was admitted and received medical treatment for over one hundred lacerations and puncture wounds inflicted during the attack. [REDACTED] ultimately went into septic shock and died in the hospital on 11-06-2024. An autopsy was performed by the Jackson County Medical Examiner’s Office, and [REDACTED] cause of death was determined to be “complications of bite injuries due to mauling by dogs.”

Surviving victim and reporting party, [REDACTED], contacted officers on scene. [REDACTED] stated that she had been inside her residence, located at [REDACTED], when she heard noises outside. After hearing a “whining” sound, she looked outside and saw someone ([REDACTED]) on the ground being attacked by dogs. [REDACTED] recognized those dogs and stated that they belonged to her neighbor, who resides at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] also recognized [REDACTED] because she and her husband are friends with him, and [REDACTED] was planning to visit their house [REDACTED] that night. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] for help as the dogs continued to attack. [REDACTED] then exited her residence, armed with a golf club, and began screaming at the dogs in an attempt to stop the

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attack. One of the dogs then bit her thigh, causing a deep laceration, and she retreated to her residence until officers arrived. She was then transported to [REDACTED] for medical treatment and received several stitches and antibiotics.

After the victims were transported to the hospital, officers on scene were attempting to capture the dogs involved in the mauling. A short time later, John Thibeaux "Senior" (later identified as John R. Thibeaux, [REDACTED]) drove slowly down the street to the residence and contacted the officers to ask what was going on. Thibeaux "Senior" initially agreed that he lived at [REDACTED] and when told that his dogs had attacked the neighbors, he asked, "the puppies?" Thibeaux "Senior" then recanted his statement, saying he didn't reside at the address, and that the dogs are not his. Eventually, "Senior" stated the house and dogs belong to his son, John Thibeaux "Junior" (later identified as John R. Thibeaux II, [REDACTED]) but that "Junior" was out of town that night. "Senior" then contacted "Junior" by phone and relayed that "Junior" advised only one dog belongs to him, and the rest are "strays."

Officers obtained a search warrant for the fenced yard of [REDACTED] but authorities were only able to capture one of the dogs in the yard that night due to their aggression.

On 11-03-2024, around 8 a.m., Kansas City Pet Project (KCPP) officials returned to [REDACTED] to attempt to seize the remaining dogs; however, the dogs were no longer visible in the yard. Thibeaux "Junior" was home and allowed a KCPP investigator to walk through his residence. The investigator did not find any of the dogs involved in the mauling, but did find around 9 puppies that were a few months old in wire kennels in a back bedroom. "Junior" claimed the dogs involved in the attack the night prior were not his and were all "strays," except the one tied to the porch, who was not involved in the attack.

Over the weekend of 11-08-2024, several dogs matching the description of the dogs involved in the attack were located roughly 2 miles from [REDACTED] in a relatively obscure area. The dogs were reported by passers-by who alerted KCPP that dogs that appeared to be dumped were roaming that area. One person unsuccessfully attempted to get the dogs into their vehicle. The dogs were subsequently captured and impounded.

Surveillance video of the attack was recovered from [REDACTED]. The video shows that prior to the attack, several of the dogs were still behind the fence surrounding [REDACTED]. One of the dogs, which [REDACTED] also states belongs to the residence, was outside of the fence and began attacking [REDACTED] as he rode his bicycle on the street in front of the residence [REDACTED]. This initial attack caused [REDACTED] to fall into the grass as he veered off the street, attempting to get away from the dog. Once [REDACTED] fell to the ground, numerous other dogs are seen exiting the yard of [REDACTED] by crawling underneath an unsecured chain-link fence. This resulted in numerous other dogs joining the attack and dragging [REDACTED] to the fence line.

Subsequent investigation revealed the fence around [REDACTED] to be improperly installed, with no bottom rail or bottom tension wire to restrict how far the bottom of a fence can be displaced. The lack of these components, coupled with the fence's installation on the downward face of a hill, resulted in the fence being ineffectual at containing or restricting the dogs' exit from the yard under the fence. Further, the video surveillance shows the dogs were familiar with exiting the yard in this manner, as they immediately used this route to exit the yard and join the attack.

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Detectives later interviewed [REDACTED] who again stated the dogs reside at [REDACTED] and belonged to her neighbor, whom she believed was breeding them for profit. She further stated the dogs regularly entered and exited the yard whenever they wanted. She also detailed prior encounters with the dogs, such as having to protect her son from them while taking him to school and having to use bear mace and other weapons, such as the golf club she kept by the door, to scare the dogs away. She stated that in October of 2024, about a week and a half before the 11-02-2024 incident, her cat was attacked by the dogs and one of the [REDACTED] occupants came outside and the dogs scattered, allowing her cat to escape. She identified John Thibeaux Jr. as the caretaker and owner of the dogs and also as the owner and occupant of [REDACTED]

Detectives subsequently interviewed other residents in the neighborhood, including:

[REDACTED], who stated that the dogs would be outside the fence at least once every week, with the dogs being outside of the fence several different days in other weeks. He stated he knows the dogs reside at [REDACTED] due to seeing the dogs unrestrained in the neighborhood on some days, and behind the fence at that location on other days, but they sometimes roamed every day for a week at a time. [REDACTED] had observed the dogs return to [REDACTED] and sit at the gate after they were tired of roaming the neighborhood. [REDACTED] stated that he once witnessed an older black male calling the dogs back to the yard and they listened to him. [REDACTED] also stated that the dogs had eaten at least two of his chickens over the past few months and that he had to carry a metal pole outside due to the dogs' aggression and that he feared for the safety of his family who lived with him. He further stated that the residents at [REDACTED] a younger black male and older black male, "kind of replace" the dogs every once in a while, and that when the puppies grow into adult-looking dogs, more puppies appear. On 1-18-2025, [REDACTED] stated that he had not seen the roaming dogs since the 11-02-2024 incident.

[REDACTED], who stated she has lived at her residence for approximately 25 years and that she could not count the number of times the dogs from [REDACTED] had been out over the past year because it happened so frequently. She stated that on 11-02-2024, she was driving to her residence when she saw two of the dogs roaming free and trying to enter a neighbor's yard. [REDACTED] stated that the dogs always try to attack her small dog and that she is afraid to go outside because of the aggressive behavior from the roaming dogs. [REDACTED] further stated that she had observed numerous holes in the fence of [REDACTED], which were never addressed or repaired until after 11-02-2024. She noted that when the dogs "get bored" they return to [REDACTED]. She stated she had not seen the dogs roaming since 11-02-2024.

[REDACTED], who stated that she first met the dogs from [REDACTED] when they were roaming around as puppies and they were "sweethearts" but over the summer of 2024, they became aggressive. She knew the dogs belonged to [REDACTED] because she saw them run back to that address after they entered her yard and attacked her dog. [REDACTED] stated the dogs would be out of the fence for up to three days a week, and that there was a "gaping hole" in the fence they escaped from. She stated that the dogs are out so regularly that her children aren't allowed to play outside except for on the front porch, where she can see the dogs coming and hustle the children inside before they get close. She stated her children were scared of the dogs and that she had to carry a stick or bat outside since the summer of 2024 in order to chase off the dogs. She had not seen the dogs since the 11-02-2024 incident.

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██████████ who stated she drives by ██████████ every day, and that the dogs who lived there became a concern starting in March or April of 2024. She believed that her neighbor, "Jay" (later identified as John Thibeaux "Senior"), was the owner of the residence and his son (John Thibeaux "Junior") lived there too. She observed the dogs to be outside of the fence on multiple occasions, so she exchanged contact information with "Senior" and texted him every time she saw the dogs roaming loose. Additionally, ██████████ was bit twice by the dogs within a roughly two-week span in early September of 2024. ██████████ provided screenshots showing that when she texted Thibeaux "Senior" regarding the second time the dogs bit her in September, he responded that the dogs were "Junior's thing," that the dog who bit ██████████ had been "evil" with him recently too, and she should just "let the dogs go next time." She never saw either of the Thibeaux parties take corrective action regarding their frequent escapes from the yard, and she also directly observed lack of care for the dogs, whom she believed were being bred at the residence.

The Jackson County Recorder of deeds recorded a Missouri Warranty Deed on ██████████ in which the ██████████ City, Missouri property was granted to "John R. Thibeaux II."

Records from the ██████████ revealed that Thibeaux "Junior" received medical care for a dog bite on 09-03-2024 at a ██████████ and received sutures. A later search of Thibeaux "Junior's" cell phone revealed texts from "Junior" stating that he had a 21-day recovery and that he was bit trying to break up a fight between his dogs, and that he owned 7 dogs at his house.

Photos of injured dogs were also recovered in "Junior's" phone, along with extensive social media posts advertising the sale of puppies for \$200 each at various points in 2024. Some of the dogs featured in photos and videos on "Junior's" phone appear consistent with the dogs who were involved in the attack. Further, his phone data showed that on 11-03-2024, "Junior" was texting with someone about the attack the night prior and he claimed that the police or animal control seized all his dogs but one that night. The texts further reveal that when the person "Junior" was texting with suggested the victims of the attack must have done something to provoke the attack, "Junior" disagreed and responded that the dogs "all go off on one another's energy. One fight tha all do." He also admitted that he was not out of town the night prior but told that to the police because he did not want to give them a reason to take him to jail.

On 12-29-2024, ██████████ was destroyed by a house fire. The dog that was tied to the porch on the night of the fatal attack, and according to witnesses was regularly tied to the porch, had been tied to a vehicle farther away from the house hours before the fire. The dog was removed from the scene by responding authorities during the fire. Thibeaux "Junior" then reclaimed that dog from KCPP and a KCPD detective observed him to immediately return to the destroyed residence and tie the dog to the front porch. At that time, a KCPD detective recovered a flyer, in a trash bin on the street in front of ██████████, advertising the sale of puppies for \$200 and listing "Junior's" phone number as the point of contact.

I request arrest warrants be issued for John R. Thibeaux "Senior" and John R. Thibeaux II "Junior", the latter of whom has a previous U UW conviction from 2017 (revoked from a 2012 SIS) and was found guilty of another U UW offense in 2015. Further, I request a bond associated with each of these warrants due to the community danger presented by both Thibeaux's reckless behavior by failing to secure the yard of ██████████

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despite knowledge that the dogs under their care were not controlled or confined in such a way to protect both the dogs and the public, including their neighbors, despite direct, first-hand knowledge that the dogs had a history of causing serious physical injury and harm to humans.

Printed Name Det. Aaron M. Fisher #5179 Signature /s/ Det. Aaron M. Fisher #5179

The Court finds probable cause and directs the issuance of a warrant this 16th day of April, 2025.

SIGNED BY JUDGE

*This is a redacted public document. The original
unredacted document bears the Judge's signature.*

Judge

Circuit Court of Jackson County, State of Missouri.