

## PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

Date: 04-04-2025CRN: KC2002898

DIVISION 25

25-Apr-2025 14:26

CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MO

I, Detective Brian Cowan #5114

(Name and identify law enforcement officer, or person having information as probable cause.)

DCA

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 01-14-2025, at [REDACTED] in  
(Date) (Address)Kansas City, Jackson Missouri Kaveon C. Cottonham  
(County) (Name of Offender(s))B/M DOB: 02-08-1998 committed one or more criminal offense(s).  
(Description of Identity)

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 01-14-2025 at 1217 hours, Kansas City, Missouri Police Officers were dispatched to 8733 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Raytown, Jackson County, Missouri on a reported shooting that occurred at an address within the city limits of Kansas City, Missouri. Upon arrival, Officers observed a gray Hyundai Sonata parked in the parking lot on the west side of the gas pumps with the front passenger door open and a black male lying face down on the pavement next to it. The male was suffering from apparent trauma and was transported to an area hospital for medical treatment. Officers made contact with the driver of the vehicle [REDACTED] who identified the male as her boyfriend, Kaveon **Cottonham**, and told them the shooting occurred at [REDACTED] Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. [REDACTED] stated she gave **Cottonham** a ride to the apartments so he could pick up his ID from someone around 1200 hours. When they arrived, **Cottonham** exited the vehicle and walked out of view of [REDACTED] as she remained in the vehicle. [REDACTED] stated **Cottonham** returned to the vehicle 10-15 minutes later and told her he had been shot, not to call 911 and take him to the hospital. [REDACTED] drove to the QuikTrip located near the apartments and called 911 for help.

Officers responded to [REDACTED] and located a crime scene within the courtyard of the complex. At the scene, Officers collected shell casings, observed apparent blood and a cellphone.

Detectives attempted to interview **Cottonham** at the hospital and he refused to cooperate with the investigation.

At 1432 hours, Officers were dispatched to [REDACTED] Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri on a reported shooting. Upon arrival, they located a black male in the southeast bedroom of the apartment suffering from apparent trauma. KCFD EMS personnel pronounced the victim deceased at the scene. Officers made contact with [REDACTED] at the scene and she stated she received a call from [REDACTED] advising her that her son had been shot and she needed to check on him. [REDACTED] told Officers at the scene that Kaveon **Cottonham** killed her son.

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Investigators processed the scene and recovered shell casings, DNA swabs, latent prints and other physical evidence from inside the apartment. Additionally, there was exterior video surveillance in-use at the apartment complex which is monitored by Watchtower Security.

During a review of the video footage, the gray Hyundai Sonata is observed entering the property at 1200 hours and parks in the northwest corner of the complex. **Cottonham** exits the front passenger side of the vehicle and is observed entering [REDACTED] at 1202 hours. An unknown black male (later identified as [REDACTED]), an unknown white male (later identified as [REDACTED]) and an unknown black male meet up in the courtyard and appear to be talking before they eventually walk towards [REDACTED] and enter the building on the second floor at 1213 hours. The white male [REDACTED] and unknown black male are observed running out of the second-floor stairwell at 1215 hours, a few minutes after they had entered the building. **Cottonham** is observed exiting a few seconds later (1216 hours), walking up from the first-floor stairwell out to the courtyard and he walks across the north end of the courtyard along the apartment building until he reaches the gray Hyundai Sonata and leaves the scene. The black male [REDACTED] is the last to exit [REDACTED] at 1217 hours and he is observed walking south across the courtyard into an apartment [REDACTED].

On 01-17-2025, Detectives responded to 2316 E. Meyer Boulevard Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri (Research Medical Center) to conduct an interview with **Cottonham**. Upon contacting **Cottonham**, he was read his Miranda Rights and he invoked his Rights and requested to speak with his attorney. The interview was terminated and prior to ending our contact, a search warrant to collect an oral buccal swab was executed. The search warrant was obtained through the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Jackson County, Missouri and was signed by the Honorable Judge Abbie Rothermich.

On 01-22-2025, Detectives responded to a residence in Owensville, Missouri and made contact with [REDACTED] in regard to the investigation. [REDACTED] agreed to accompany Detectives to the Owensville, Missouri Police Department and provide a statement. During the interview, [REDACTED] stated he was in town to purchase marijuana from [REDACTED] and was given the address of where to meet by him. [REDACTED] stated he has purchased marijuana from [REDACTED] on several occasions since meeting him approximately four (4) years ago while he was working as a bouncer at Pepper Mill Lounge in Kansas City, Missouri. [REDACTED] responded to an address [REDACTED] provided by [REDACTED] and ended up following [REDACTED] into a different building ([REDACTED] into a second-floor apartment a short time after he had arrived. [REDACTED] stated when they walked into the apartment, he heard what sounded like people having sex which he described as the sound of skin slapping. [REDACTED] stated the sound was coming from the bedroom at the southeast corner of the apartment and [REDACTED] walked over to the door and opened it when he immediately stated "hey why are you beating on my brother." [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] turned and looked at him and the other male (unknown) and told them to get the fuck out of there. As [REDACTED] unlocked the door to the apartment and began to walk out with the other male, he heard what he described as fully automatic gunfire. [REDACTED] stated he took off running to his truck and the other male ran the opposite direction as him. [REDACTED] advised the gunfire had stopped by the time he was on the stairs and as he got near his truck he believed he heard one single gunshot. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] was armed with a firearm, which he described as a Glock, and he appeared to be reaching for it as he was telling them to leave the apartment. [REDACTED] stated he never observed anyone else in the apartment and he was unable to see inside the bedroom where the noises were coming from. [REDACTED] was able to positively identify [REDACTED] from the photographs he was shown during the interview.

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On 01-23-2025, a lab request was completed requesting the eleven (11) 10mm shell casings recovered from inside the bedroom of [REDACTED] Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri be compared to the three (3) 10mm shell casings recovered from [REDACTED] Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri under KC25002356 to see if they were fired from the same firearm. On 01-28-2025, I received an e-mail from Forensic Specialist [REDACTED] which indicated the eleven (11) 10mm casings from inside the apartment were all fired from one 10mm Glock [REDACTED] which was recovered from inside the bedroom at the scene. The Glock was recovered an empty 10-round magazine in the magazine well and an auto conversion device attached to the slide. The three (3) 10mm casings from [REDACTED] were all fired from the other 10mm Glock [REDACTED] which was recovered from inside the bedroom at the scene and rendered inoperable due to bullet damage. The three (3) casings recovered from [REDACTED] were fired prior to the homicide (based on video evidence) and have been determined to be unrelated.

On 03-04-2025, I received an autopsy report from the Jackson County, Missouri Medical Examiner's Office completed by [REDACTED] Forensic Pathologist on 03-04-2025. The report listed the Cause of Death: Gunshot wounds of the head and the Manner of Death: Homicide. The report noted the gunshot injuries sustained to the victim (five total) and other injuries which consisted of a red-purple contusion on the left wrist, a superficial laceration involving the left thumb, a purple contusion on the nose and a laceration involving the lower right buccal mucosa. The gunshot wound to the left temporal scalp noted dense stippling on the skin under the range of fire notation. The remaining listed gunshot injuries noted there was no soot or stippling on the skin under the range of fire notation.

On 03-10-2025, Detectives conducted an interview with [REDACTED] in regard to the homicide investigation. During the interview, [REDACTED] stated he was outside the apartment when he received a phone call from the victim asking him to come get **Cottonham** because he was there and was acting weird. [REDACTED] stated when he and the two (2) males he was with walked back to the apartment and upon entering, he walked back towards the victim's bedroom. As he got to the doorway of the bedroom, he observed **Cottonham** on top of the victim on the bed. [REDACTED] stated **Cottonham** was hitting the victim in the head with elbow strikes and the victim appeared to have been rendered unconscious. [REDACTED] further stated he attempted to pull **Cottonham** off of the victim, but he was unable to do so because he is much bigger and stronger than him. [REDACTED] stated at this time, **Cottonham** pulled a gun (10mm Glock with an extended magazine) from the victim's waistband and held it to the left side of the victim's head. [REDACTED] stated as **Cottonham** was holding the gun to the victim's head, he looked back at him and smirked just before he fired the gun into the victim's face. [REDACTED] stated after **Cottonham** shot the victim, he turned and pointed the gun in his direction, at which time he pointed his firearm at **Cottonham** and fired at him in self-defense. [REDACTED] stated **Cottonham** was struck by the gunfire and he left the scene immediately on foot. [REDACTED] attempted to render aid to the victim before leaving the apartment after realizing there was nothing he could do for him. [REDACTED] was challenged several times regarding the events of the shooting based on the physical evidence available to Detectives leading up to the interview and he remained adamant that **Cottonham** took the victim's gun and shot him in the face with it.

On 03-11-2025, I contacted Chief Criminalist Supervisor [REDACTED] to discuss additional firearms testing of the bullets/fragments recovered from the victim/scene to the two (2) firearms recovered from the scene. Supervisor [REDACTED] completed the necessary request for testing and while doing so, she discovered a note in Lab Report #9 which indicated a 10mm Auto cartridge case (Item 33) was located in the chamber of the damaged 10mm Glock

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(Item 10) when they were examining the firearm. The cartridge case was not tested because it was removed directly from the chamber of the 10mm Glock. This information was obtained after conducting an in-custody interview with [REDACTED]

On 04-03-2025, I received an e-mail from Forensic Specialist [REDACTED] in regard to the testing of the bullets/fragments recovered from the victim/scene to the two (2) firearms recovered from the scene. Forensic Specialist [REDACTED] advised the testing was inconclusive to both Glock 10mm pistols (item 9 and item 10). Forensic Specialist [REDACTED] indicated the test fired bullets from item 10 (damaged 10mm Glock) had similar areas to those on item 47 (bullet from victim's head), however due to the damage to the bullet an identification opinion could not be rendered. The test fired bullets from item 9 (Glock 10mm fired by [REDACTED]) did not have detail present for indexing which was similar to item 12 (bullet from on top of bed) which had no detail in the polygonal rifling.

An arrest warrant for **Cottonham** is being sought based on the nature of the offense and the direct relationship to the person(s) involved in the investigation.

Printed Name Detective Brian Cowan #5114 Signature /s/Detective Brian Cowan #5114

25-Apr-2025 2:26 pm

The Court finds probable cause and directs the issuance of a warrant this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

**SIGNED BY JUDGE**

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

Judge

Circuit Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of Missouri.