

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

Date: _____

CRN: KC21013631

I, Det. Christopher Smith #4672

(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 03-01-2021, at Anderson & Norton in
(Date) (Address)

Kansas City, Jackson Missouri Earl L. Dunn III B/M
(County) (Name of Offender(s))

5'6"/ 165 lbs, BLK/BRO committed one or more criminal offense(s).
(Description of Identity)

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 03-01-2021 at approximately 1701 Hours, Officers of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department were dispatched to the area of Anderson Ave and Norton Ave in regard to an injury accident. En-Route officers received several updates including the call being upgraded to a shooting. Upon arrival officers observed KCFD working to extinguish a vehicle which was on fire. KCFD advised officers they had located two apparent victims within the vehicle. Officers observed several spent shell casings west of the accident on the street and apparent gunshot damage to the vehicle. 1020 Homicide Squad responded to investigate.

Detectives determined the victims within the vehicle, a 4 Door grey 2001 Lincoln Town car bearing CA license plate of [REDACTED], were suffering from apparent gunshot trauma as well as apparent fire damage to their bodies. The Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office has ruled this investigation as a Homicide. Three cellular devices were located when detectives executed a search warrant to process the Lincoln Town car's interior and exterior. The devices appeared to have apparent water and fire damage upon being located. These cellular devices were submitted to HARCFL for further processing.

Detectives were provided information advising that a light colored vehicle had crashed into a tree near the address of [REDACTED], Kansas City, Jackson County, MO. Officers observed the front bumper associated to the Lincoln Town car bearing the same California license plate number as the Lincoln Town car described above. Detectives obtained a Ring video recording depicting the Lincoln Town car as it crashes into a tree near [REDACTED] Ave. Detectives then observed two black males quickly approach the Lincoln Town car and interact with the occupants of the vehicle for a short period of time before running away in the direction from which they first appeared on video. Shortly after the two males leave camera view, the Lincoln Town car backs up and proceeds slowly off camera. Shortly after the time of the events depicted on the Ring video, KCPD received calls regarding the Lincoln Town car crashing into a tree and catching fire near the intersection of Norton Road and Anderson Avenue.

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Family was located and provided a number for the passenger victim (victim #1) in the vehicle. They stated this is the number they contacted the victim on. The number was confirmed to be the victim's when detectives contacted his employer, who advised this number is what they had on file for him. A subsequent court order was applied for and executed for the victim's cellular number. This cellphone was not located at the crime scene or in possession of the victim.

Detectives discovered surveillance cameras at various locations between the first scene at Thompson & Askew and the final scene at Anderson & Norton. The videos show a maroon/dark red SUV with specific articulable body damage unique to that vehicle in the area of Thompson & Askew both before and after the initial crash of the Lincoln Town car into the tree as described above. One of the videos shows the Lincoln Town car traveling northbound on Monroe with the maroon/dark red SUV following it. Another video shows the same maroon/dark red SUV traveling towards Anderson & Mersington westbound. The Lincoln Town car is then observed traveling eastbound at a high rate of speed. Anderson & Mersington is the intersection where multiple spent .40 caliber shell casings were discovered. The Lincoln Town car continues eastbound out of camera view, where it collides with a second tree. Video shows the maroon/dark red SUV turn northbound on Askew from Anderson and continue northbound out of camera view.

The maroon/dark red SUV is observed on multiple video sources as having a damaged front bumper with the white underlying impact resistant bumper foam visible on the left (driver's side) of the front license plate. The vehicle is observed to be missing the exterior door handle on the left front door, and has a significant dent on the left rear quarter panel just below the rear cargo window frame.

Detectives and analysts conducted a search for this SUV vehicle in area city owned traffic cameras. This vehicle was observed on 03-01-2021 at approximately 1530 hours near the intersection of Admiral Blvd & Virginia on a police vehicle's In-Car camera. It is also observed at the intersection of Independence Ave. & Prospect at approximately 1701 hours traveling westbound away from the scene. At the time the vehicle was captured on video at Admiral & Virginia, the police vehicle was also equipped with a License Plate Reader camera. The license plate affixed to the SUV was a Missouri License Plate of [REDACTED].

A computer inquiry of this license plate revealed it to be registered to a Maroon/ Dark Red 2005 Mitsubishi Outlander four door Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), VIN [REDACTED]. The registered owner of the vehicle was identified as [REDACTED] with an associated address of [REDACTED], Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri 64128. Additional computer inquiries show **Vontez Howard B/M** [REDACTED] as having been issued a traffic citation on 02-12-2021 while occupying the Mitsubishi Outlander. [REDACTED] was interviewed and stated on the date and time of the homicide she and Howard were at home on Agnes and did not leave that location. Freeman also stated the Mitsubishi was at home with her and she possesses the only key to the vehicle.

On 03-04-2021 detectives located the vehicle at [REDACTED], Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri 64132 and began conducting surveillance on the vehicle. The vehicle was parked behind the residence, out of public view. On 03-09-2021 detectives observed a tow truck arrive at [REDACTED]. A male subject (**identified as Vontez Howard B/M, 11-11-1996**) was observed moving the Mitsubishi from the backyard to the street. At the time the vehicle was loaded onto the tow truck it did not have any license plates affixed to the vehicle. Once the tow truck

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left the address and was out of view, officers conducted a traffic stop on the tow truck and seized the Mitsubishi. The tow driver stated the vehicle was being towed to an automobile repair location due to a recent vehicular accident and the tow was authorized by an insurance company. Detectives contacted the repair facility and obtained a written Consent to Search allowing us to take possession of the vehicle. The vehicle was determined to have all the same damage located while reviewing the aforementioned cameras in the area of the homicide. The vehicle was subsequently towed to the municipal tow lot Vehicle Processing Facility (VPF) located at [REDACTED], Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri 64120 and a search warrant execution was completed on the vehicle in regard to this investigation.

On March 5, 2021, Det. Decker with the Kansas City Missouri Police Department's Illegal Firearms Squad obtained a phone order for cellular phone [REDACTED], which is a cellular number that was issued by Sprint/T-Mobile. This cellular phone was being utilized by **Vontez Howard B/M** [REDACTED]. The phone order requested historical records from February 1, 2021 through the date of the order. After receiving the records, Det. Decker analyzed them and the records were from February 1, 2021 to March 5, 2021.

A review of the phone records between February 1, 2021 to March 5, 2021 shows that HOWARD's phone communicated with telephone number [REDACTED] thirty-one (31) times between February 12, 2021 and March 1, 2021. Ten (10) of those contacts were incoming calls to [REDACTED] and twenty-one of those contacts were outgoing calls from [REDACTED]. On March 1, 2021 which is the date of the homicide, HOWARD received two incoming phone calls from [REDACTED]. The first one was at 1612 hours and the second was at 1627 hours. Detectives received the cellular data in regard to the original court order for the passenger victim and isolated the date of the homicide. Detectives observed contact with the [REDACTED] and the victim's device associated to the homicide date 03-01-2021. I observed the first communication (notated as 43 events) to be 03-01-2021 at 7:10 AM and the last to be 03-01-2021 at 04:53 PM. The Lincoln Town car is observed crashing the first time at 1655 hours (4:55 PM), no additional communication is observed between the numbers after this. A complete review of the communication with the victim reveals from 01-31-2021 through March 3, 2021 the first time the [REDACTED] telephone number communicates with the victim is February 08, 2021 at 4:52 PM.

On 05-27-2021 at approximately 1417 Hours, Detectives received the cellular data associated to the cell number [REDACTED] after a court order/ search warrant was approved and served to T-Mobile/ Metro PCS/ Sprint PCS in regard. A review of the subscriber data provided by T-Mobile/ Metro PCS/ Sprint PCS revealed the cellular number subscriber as Earl Dunn with an associated address of [REDACTED] Kansas City, MO 64126. It revealed the cellular number to be closed as of 03-01-2021 (date of the homicide). The activation date for this number shows 11-15-2020. A search of NICHE Police Report Writing System revealed **Earl L Dunn III B/M**, [REDACTED] to have provided the aforementioned address on at least one report in the system. A search of the provided information associated to Dunn III utilizing Department of Revenue also revealed his most current address for his Missouri Identification to be [REDACTED].

A court order was completed in regard to the two victims and information was recovered with cell tower and cellular usage details for each. Isolating the date of the homicide detectives observed the listed number for Dunn III to be in contact with victim #1 utilizing [REDACTED] beginning on 02-28-2021 at 4:52 PM (1652 hours) through 03-01-2021 at 4:53 PM (1653 hours). No contact between the two was observed prior to this going as far back as 02-01-2021 in victim #1's cellular data. Further review of Dunn's cellphone records revealed

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forty three (43) outgoing text messages to [REDACTED] There was no indication that victim #2 (KLB) was ever in contact with either Howard or Dunn at any time.

On 06-07-2021 the reporting detective received a Lab analysis report from the Kansas City Police Crime Laboratory with DNA results from items recovered from the interior of the Maroon/ Dark Red 2005 Mitsubishi Outlander four door Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) when it was processed under a search warrant. A DNA profile was developed from a swab taken from a plastic mouthpiece on a cigar butt. This DNA profile was matched through CODIS to **Earl L Dunn III B/M** [REDACTED]

Detectives used a preliminary cellular mapping tool identified as Geo Time Glimpse to review the location data of Vontez Howard's, **Earl Dunn III's** and victim #1's cellphone records previously obtained via court order. Using this mapping tool, detectives discovered all three cellphones appear to be in the area of the crime scene during the same time period utilizing the geographic cell towers provided by the cellular phone companies. After the incident occurred, all three cellphones appeared to travel from the area of the crime scene to an area in Kansas City, Kansas. The victim's cellphone does not leave that area, however Howard's and **Dunn's** cellphones appear to travel back to the Kansas City, Missouri area separately.

Detectives then learned of **Dunn's** involvement in an ongoing investigation being conducted by an outside agency. The case agent stated on the date of the homicide (03-01-2021) a surveillance operation was being conducted at area locations frequented by Dunn and his associates. The case agent provided the reporting detective with a copy of the surveillance video. I then conducted a review of the video and noted at approximately 4:28pm a maroon/ dark red SUV readily identifiable as a Mitsubishi Outlander with the same distinct damage to the left rear quarter panel as the suspect vehicle observed on multiple cameras in and around the crime scene arrives as it backs into a driveway. A black male subject wearing a red stocking cap, red jacket, blue jeans, dark shoes, and a black t-shirt with white lettering is observed walking from the residence down the driveway and enters the right rear passenger door of the Mitsubishi. The case agent advised he had conducted an extensive investigation (spanning multiple consecutive months) into **Dunn**, and the investigation was initiated based on **Dunn's** known involvement in other violent crimes. The case agent immediately recognized the individual captured via surveillance platforms as **Dunn**. **Dunn's** clothing at the time he enters the Mitsubishi is consistent with the clothing observed on one of the males at the scene of the first crash site (Thompson & Askew). This activity is approximately 27 minutes prior to the first crash and interaction with the victim's.

Printed Name /s/ Det. Christopher Smith #4672 Signature _____

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

Judge

Circuit Court of _____ County, State of Missouri.