

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

United States of America
v.
JAMES TIMOTHY NORMAN

Case No. 4:20 MJ 187 DDN

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of March 14, 2016 in the county of City of St. Louis in the
Eastern District of Missouri, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

18 U.S.C. 1958

CT. 1 - Conspiracy to Use Interstate Commerce Facilities in Commission of
Murder-for-Hire, resulting in death

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

☐ Continued on the attached sheet.



Complainant's signature

Christopher Faber, Special Agent, FBI

Printed name and title

Sworn, to, attested to, and affirmed before me via reliable electronic means pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 4.1 and 4.1.

Date: 08/11/2020

/s/ David D. Noce

Judge's signature

City and state: St. Louis, Missouri

Honorable David D. Noce, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

SUPPRESSED COMPLAINT AFFIDAVIT

1. I, Christopher Faber, am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and have been since 2009. I am currently assigned to the St. Louis, Missouri Division of the FBI's Violent Crime Task Force, where I investigate violent crimes, to include homicides. I am familiar with and have used normal methods of investigation, including, but not limited to, visual surveillance, questioning of witnesses, search and arrest warrants, informants, pen registers, precision location information, confidential sources, undercover agents, and court-authorized wire interceptions. The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, my training and experience, and information obtained from other members of the investigative team and witnesses.
2. The information contained in this Affidavit is submitted for the sole purpose of demonstrating that probable cause exists for the issuance of a Criminal Complaint. It does not contain all of the information known to me and/or other law enforcement officers who, like myself, are actively involved in this investigation. Rather, it contains only those facts that I believe are necessary to establish the requisite probable cause for the requested Complaint.
3. As outlined herein, there exists probable cause to believe that James Timothy NORMAN conspired with Terica Ellis and/or others known and unknown to investigators at this time to use a facility of interstate commerce, namely, a cellular telephone, to commit a murder-for-hire in exchange for United States currency, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1958.
4. In October 2014, James Timothy NORMAN, attempted to obtain a \$250,000.00 life insurance policy on his 18 year-old nephew Andre Montgomery ("Montgomery"), for which NORMAN was the sole beneficiary, through Americo Insurance Company. Two weeks later, NORMAN attempted to obtain a second life insurance policy on Montgomery in the amount of

\$200,000.00, in addition to an accidental death rider in the amount of \$250,000.00, through Foresters Insurance. This Foresters policy issued, listing NORMAN as the sole beneficiary, and NORMAN paid the monthly premiums directly from his checking account. In March of 2015, NORMAN attempted to obtain a replacement policy on Montgomery in the amount of \$249,999.00, but the application was denied. The applications for all of these policies contained numerous false statements regarding Montgomery's income, occupation, and family history.

5. On March 14, 2016, at approximately 8:02pm, Montgomery was killed by gunfire at 3964 Natural Bridge Avenue, which is located in the City of St. Louis, within the Eastern District of Missouri.
6. On March 10, 2016, Montgomery received an email message from tericaellis@gmail.com advising him that "I'm on my way in town." A search of the tericaellis@gmail.com account indicated that this email address belongs to Terica Ellis ("Ellis"), an exotic dancer residing in Memphis, TN. On March 13, 2016, the day before the Montgomery's murder, NORMAN flew from Los Angeles, CA, where he primarily resided, to St. Louis, and arrived in St. Louis at 12:12 a.m. on the morning of March 14, 2016. On or about March 13, 2016, Ellis posted on her Instagram account, with the username "Alexusdagreat," that she was in St. Louis and would return to Memphis on March 14, 2016.
7. Shortly after 1 p.m. on March 14, 2016, in the area of the Chase Park Plaza, two temporary phone numbers subsequently identified as belonging to Ellis and NORMAN became active in the same geographic location as numbers identified as belonging to NORMAN.¹

¹ NORMAN identified [REDACTED]-0081 (hereinafter "NORMAN phone #2") and [REDACTED]-6102 (hereinafter "NORMAN phone #3") on the life insurance documentation and in US Bank records. NORMAN phone #2 and NORMAN phone #3 were consistently co-located with NORMAN phone #1 during March 14-15, 2016.

8. The first temporary phone activated near the Chase Park Plaza had number (314) 609-4415 (Ellis phone #1) and the second phone had number (314) 607-8132 (NORMAN phone #1). Both Ellis phone #1 and NORMAN phone #1 were activated the day of Montgomery's homicide, and deactivated the day after his homicide. These phones communicated consistently throughout the day of the homicide, and both were deactivated and ceased activity on March 15, 2016, the day after the homicide.
9. Montgomery's cellular telephone was located in close proximity to his body and was forensically examined following the murder. Witnesses at the scene of the homicide indicated that Montgomery went outside to meet someone after receiving a telephone call, and was shot and killed shortly thereafter. The forensic examination of Montgomery's phone, and subsequent investigation, revealed that the two people he spoke to within the 10 minutes prior to his death were his friend, K.T., and Terica Ellis, using Ellis phone #1. As further described herein, the location information associated with Ellis phone #1 put the phone in the vicinity of the murder at the time the murder occurred.
10. A review of toll records and text communications to Montgomery's phone revealed that Montgomery texted Ellis phone #1 the address of the house where he was ultimately murdered at 7:07pm on March 14, 2016. At 7:07 p.m., less than an hour before Montgomery's homicide, Ellis also placed a phone call to NORMAN phone #3. Investigators believe this was for the purpose of sharing Montgomery's location with NORMAN.
11. Using Ellis phone #1, Ellis was communicating with NORMAN (on NORMAN phone #1) in the time surrounding Montgomery's murder. Despite being at the scene of Montgomery's murder at 8:02 p.m., Ellis's first phone call was not to the police, but rather to NORMAN at

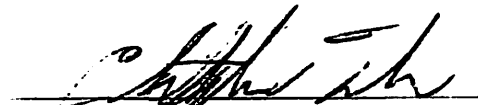
8:03 p.m., at which time her phone location data showed she was driving in a direction consistent with her returning to her home in Memphis, TN.

12. Between March 15, 2016 and March 17, 2016, Ellis deposited over \$9,000 in cash into multiple bank accounts, including a savings account she opened the day after the homicide. Prior to the homicide, Ellis's checking account had a negative balance.
13. On March 21, 2016, after Montgomery's murder, a man identifying himself as NORMAN, and using a phone number known to belong to NORMAN, called Foresters in an attempt to collect on the life insurance policy NORMAN had obtained on Montgomery in October of 2014. Despite several additional efforts to collect on the policy since Montgomery's murder, Foresters has yet to pay out on the policy due to NORMAN's failure to provide several requested documents.
14. On March 22, 2016, Ellis flew from Memphis, TN to Los Angeles, CA with her mother, S.D., and Ellis's daughter. Location data obtained from S.D.'s cellular telephone shows that on at least one occasion, she was in the same location as NORMAN phone #2 and NORMAN phone #3. Ellis and her family returned to Memphis, TN on March 28, 2016.
15. On April 30, 2016, NORMAN sent Ellis \$700.00 in U.S. Currency via Western Union.

16. Based on the foregoing, your Affiant asserts there is probable cause to believe that James Timothy NORMAN used a cellular telephone, a facility of interstate commerce, traveled interstate, and conspired with Terica Ellis and others to affect the murder of Andre Montgomery in exchange for sums of U.S. Currency, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1958.

I state under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

8/11/2020
DATE


CHRISTOPHER FABER
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Sworn to, attested to, or affirmed before me via reliable electronic means pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 4.1 and 41 this 11th day of August, 2020.

/s/ David D. Noce
DAVID D. NOCE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Eastern District of Missouri