

MCPO

5303 0912 MCOTHI

STATE OF INDIANA

B09-12973

VS

MICHAEL JAMES GRIFFIN

PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT

I, DETECTIVE DECKARD, OF THE BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, BEING DULY SWORN UPON MY OATH, STATE THAT ON OR ABOUT THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2009, MICHAEL J. GRIFFIN COMMITTED A CRIMINAL OFFENSE. SUCH BELIEF IS BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING:

MICHAEL JAMES GRIFFIN  
5937 E. STATE ROAD 45  
BLOOMINGTON INDIANA 47408  
DOB: 01/04/1984 SSN: [REDACTED] OLN: [REDACTED]  
WHITE MALE HT: 6' WT: 220  
HAIR: BROWN EYES: BLUE

CHARGE: MURDER, A FELONY

SUMMARY: ON 12/28/2009, OFFICERS WERE ASKED TO RESPOND TO 904 S. MADISON WHERE UPON ARRIVAL AT THAT RESIDENCE IT WAS DETERMINED THAT AN INDIVIDUAL, LATER TO BE IDENTIFIED AS A DON C. BELTON, WAS LYING FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR AND DECEASED. THE INDIVIDUAL HAD BEEN STABBED MULTIPLE TIMES IN THE BACK AND SIDE AREA AND POSSIBLY MORE AS AN AUTOPSY HAS YET TO BE PERFORMED. IT WAS NOTICED THAT NO USUAL ITEMS THAT WOULD BE TAKEN IN A ROBBERY OR BURGLARY HAD BEEN TAKEN AND WITH THE MULTIPLE STAB WOUNDS THROUGH THE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF OFFICERS LED US TO BELIEVE THIS TO BE A CRIME OF ANGER OR PASSION:

THE SCENE WAS PROCESSED, A SEARCH WARRANT WAS OBTAINED FROM JUDGE K. TODD, AND ITEMS WERE REMOVED FROM THE RESIDENCE. PARTICULARLY TWO ITEMS TO NOTE INCLUDE A JOURNAL KEPT BY THE DECEDENT DON C. BELTON IN WHICH HE WRITES IN THE WEEK PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS, 2009, THAT HE IS VERY HAPPY THAT AN INDIVIDUAL BY THE NAME OF MICHAEL HAS COME INTO HIS LIFE. ADDITIONALLY AN ITEM TAKEN AS EVIDENCE FROM THE SCENE INCLUDES A 4 X 6 CARD THAT HAD BEEN LYING BY THE COMPUTER KEYBOARD WHICH PROVIDED A PHONE NUMBER, AN E-MAIL, AND DIRECTIONS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL BY THE NAME OF GRIFFIN AND THAT LIVED IN THE 5900 BLOCK OF E. STATE ROAD 45. THIS WAS NOTED AS IT SEEMED TO BE NO OTHER NOTES AROUND THE COMPUTER OR THE HOUSE WITH SUCH DETAIL AS TO NAME, E-MAIL, PHONE NUMBER, AND DIRECTIONS TO A LOCATION.

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT FOUND IN THE RESIDENCE WAS AN ITINERARY AND INFORMATION FROM THE COMPLAINANT WHO HAD FOUND MR. BELTON DECEASED ON THIS PARTICULAR MORNING, WAS THAT MR. BELTON WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE AT 8:00 A.M. FOR A TRIP TO HONOLULU AND THAT THIS ITINERARY WAS CONFIRMED NOT ONLY BY THE STATEMENT OF THE COLLEAGUE WHO HAD FOUND MR. BELTON DECEASED BUT ALSO BY AN ITINERARY LYING ON AN END TABLE NEAR THE COUCH. ALSO NEAR THE COUCH WAS A CELL PHONE AND THIS CELL PHONE WHILE OFFICERS WERE AT THE RESIDENCE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE TEXT MESSAGES AND PHONE CALLS.

UPON RETURNING TO THE BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH THE EVIDENCE, I WAS NOTIFIED THAT AN OFFICER DONNY HAMILTON WITH THE BATESVILLE INDIANA POLICE DEPARTMENT HAD AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEATH OF DON BELTON AT 904 S. MADISON. UPON CONTACTING OFFICER HAMILTON HE ADVISED THAT HE HAD A FEMALE BY THE NAME OF [REDACTED] AT HIS POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO STATED THAT SHE FELT THAT HER BOYFRIEND A MICHAEL GRIFFIN WAS INVOLVED IN THE DEATH OF DON BELTON.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED AT THIS POINT THAT AS NOTED BEFORE THERE WAS A JOURNAL ENTRY THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN THE PERSONAL JOURNAL OF DON BELTON WHERE HE WROTE OF HIS HAPPINESS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL BY THE NAME OF MICHAEL HAD COME INTO HIS LIFE. ADDITIONALLY IT IS ALSO CORROBORATED WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR RESIDENCE IN THE 5900 BLOCK OF E. STATE ROAD 45 ON A NOTE FOUND BY THE COMPUTER KEYBOARD WITH AN E-MAIL AND NAME AND PHONE NUMBER.

THE INFORMATION WAS TAKEN FROM THE FEMALE IN REGARDS TO WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT AT THAT TIME SHE TALKED ABOUT MR. BELTON BEING STABBED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT INFORMATION HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE MEDIA IN REGARDS TO THE BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT WORKING A STABBING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TOWN AND ALSO HAD BEEN REPORTED BY CHANNEL 13 TELEVISION NEWS; HOWEVER, THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY [REDACTED] TO OFFICER HAMILTON AND THEN RELAYED TO THE BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN OBTAINED BY HER KNOWING THE FACT THAT SHE WAS IN BATESVILLE, INDIANA, AND MOST LIKELY DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE HERALD TIMES ON-LINE, BUT ALSO IN THE TIMING OF HER ARRIVAL AT THE BATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT VERSUS THE INFORMATION BEING RELEASED THROUGH EITHER INTERNET OR TELEVISION MEDIA WOULD HAVE PLACED [REDACTED] ALREADY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BATESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT WHILE THIS INFORMATION WAS BEING PUT OUT THROUGH THE MEDIA.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM [REDACTED], INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE SCENE, AND ALSO AS RELAYED VIA OFFICER HAMILTON WAS THEN TAKEN AND A SEARCH WARRANT WAS OBTAINED FOR 5937 E. STATE ROAD 45. THIS SEARCH WARRANT WAS EVENTUALLY EXECUTED WITH THE HELP OF THE CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

AND THE BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT NEGOTIATORS. MR. GRIFFIN WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.


MR. GRIFFIN WAS THEN BROUGHT TO THE BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE WAS READ HIS MIRANDA, HIS STATEMENT WAS VIDEO TAPED AND WILL BE ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE.

DURING THIS INTERVIEW IN WHICH MR. GRIFFIN ELECTED TO WAIVE HIS RIGHTS, HE EVENTUALLY CONFESSED THAT ON YESTERDAY'S DATE 12/27/2009 HE WENT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH MR. DON BELTON AND THAT THE CONVERSATION THEN TURNED INTO A SCUFFLE AT WHICH TIME MR. GRIFFIN STATES HE TOOK DON BELTON'S LIFE BY STABBING HIM MULTIPLE TIMES. HE STATES THAT HE TOOK A KNIFE, CALLED A "PEACE KEEPER" THAT HE HAD PURCHASED PRIOR TO GOING TO IRAQ WHILE IN THE MARINE CORPS, WITH HIM AND THAT THIS WAS THE RESULT OF MR. BELTON SEXUALLY ASSAULTING HIM TWO TIMES ON THE EVENING OF CHRISTMAS. MR. GRIFFIN STATES THAT WHEN HE WENT TO CONFRONT MR. BELTON ABOUT THE TWO SEXUAL ASSAULTS, HE FELT THAT MR. BELTON WAS NOT IN ANY WAY FORGIVING AND THAT HE DID NOT SHOW OR EXPRESS ANY TYPE OF FEELING THAT WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE WAS A MISTAKE. AT THIS TIME THEY THEN GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT WHICH TURNED PHYSICAL. AT WHICH TIME MR. GRIFFIN WITHDREW THE "PEACE KEEPER" KNIFE FROM ITS SCABBARD, WHICH WAS TUCKED INTO HIS BELT. HE THEN STABBED MR. BELTON SEVERAL TIMES IN THE SIDE AND IN THE BACK AND THEN STATED THAT HE STABBED HIM UNTIL HE QUIT MOVING. HE THEN STATED THAT HE LEFT THE RESIDENCE, WENT TO HIS VEHICLE (WHICH IS ACTUALLY HIS GIRLFRIEND'S VEHICLE, A WHITE DODGE PICKUP TRUCK). HE THEN CHANGED CLOTHES OUT OF THE BLOODY CLOTHES THAT HE WAS IN TO INCLUDE A RED HOODIE, BLUE JEANS, A BELT, AND COLUMBIA TENNIS SHOES. AFTER REMOVING THESE ITEMS AND PLACING THEM IN A WHITE TRASH BAG IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK (HE DID HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES WITH HIM), HE THEN WENT ABOUT AND RAN SEVERAL ERRANDS BEFORE HE EVENTUALLY DISCARDED THE BLOODY CLOTHING INTO A DUMPSTER SOMEWHERE IN THE AREA OF PETE ELLIS AND LONGVIEW HERE IN BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA. OFFICERS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO RETRIEVE THIS TRASH BAG; HOWEVER, IT DOES APPEAR THAT THE TRASH PICKUP HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE AND THE ITEMS ARE NOT IN THE DUMPSTER. MR. GRIFFIN THEN RETURNED HOME WHERE HE STATED THAT HE TOLD HIS GIRLFRIEND [REDACTED] WHAT HE HAD DONE. THIS INFORMATION WAS CORROBORATED BY THE STATEMENT PROVIDED BY [REDACTED] PRIOR TO THIS INTERVIEW WITH MR. GRIFFIN.

MR. GRIFFIN HAS BEEN REMANDED TO THE MONROE COUNTY JAIL ON THE CHARGE OF A FELONY MURDER.

THESE EVENTS OCCURRED IN BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA.

I swear and affirm under penalties of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and accurate.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Police Officer

Date: 12/29/09