

GO # 18-572455

AB #

DEFENDANT			
Last Name Johnson	First Name Tahlil	Middle	DOB 5/31/95
Arrested with			
Location of Arrest Denver Police Headquarters		Arrest Date 8/24/18	Arrest Time 11:41

OFFICER MAKING STATEMENT			
Last Name Lopez	First Name Aaron	Middle	Serial No. 95062

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION FOR ORIGINAL PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENTS AND ALL AFFIDAVITS FOR ARREST WARRANT**  
 I am a police officer for the City and County of Denver, Colorado, and have knowledge regarding the arrest/incident of the above named party for the below listed offense, which offense occurred on or about the date of 8/22/18 at 8  am  pm at or near the location of \_\_\_\_\_ in the City and County of Denver, State of Colorado.

VIOLATION(S)	DESCRIPTION
CRS 18-3-202	Murder in the First Degree
CRS 18-4-102	First Degree Arson

Statement of Probable Cause       Affidavit for Arrest Warrant

On Wednesday, August 22, 2018, at approximately 7:47 a.m. the Denver Combined Communications Center received a 911 call from someone stating that there was smoke coming from a lower level apartment in building AA at 10700 E. Dartmouth Avenue in the city and County of Denver. Denver Fire Department personnel responded and located the source of the fire in Apartment AA110. Upon entering the apartment through the west side sliding glass door, Fire Department personnel observed heavy smoke coming from the apartment and a male party lying on his back on a mattress on the floor of the living room area. The body of the victim, an apparent male of unknown age or race, had been set on fire and had suffered severe burns over most of his body. The victim was pronounced deceased at 8:02 a.m. by Denver Health Medical Center Doctor Kevin McVaney. The victim was later identified as Seth Mosee (10/29/65).

Detective Lopez responded to the location where he was able to view the inside of the apartment from the sliding glass door. Detective Lopez observed a deceased party on the ground who had been burned during the fire. The fire was centralized on the blowup mattress which the deceased party was laying on. Detective Lopez observed blood on a couch inside the location along with blood spatter on a wall near the deceased. Detective Lopez also observed a bottle of Charcoal Master lighter fluid in a red and white bottle on the ground near the deceased. A search warrant was obtained for the location and the scene was processed by members of the Denver Police Crime Laboratory.

During the processing of the scene Arson Investigator Jonathan Riggerbach from the Denver Fire Department responded to the scene. Investigator Riggerbach was able to examine the scene and he preliminarily determined the fire was suspicious, and it was consistent with an intentionally set fire with the lighter fluid having been used during the setting of the fire.

During the processing of the scene Detective Lopez requested that officers search the surrounding area for the victim's vehicle which was determined to be a Mazda bearing Colorado plate # [REDACTED]. At approximately 12:17 pm officers located the vehicle at 11100 E. Dartmouth Ave which was only a few blocks from the scene. Detective Lopez responded to the location and upon arrival the officers were speaking with [REDACTED] and a male who was later identified as Tahlil Johnson

(05/31/95). Detective Lopez was advised that the parties had walked up and said the vehicle belonged to their friend Seth. Detective Lopez spoke with both parties who advised that Seth had left the car at the location the night before. Both parties eluded to the fact that a male named [REDACTED] had been upset with Seth and that he may have done something to Seth. Both parties agreed to go to Denver Police Headquarters after they showed the officer where [REDACTED] lived.

Detective Lopez spoke with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had arrived at her residence sometime around 8:00 am and that they had ash on them. [REDACTED] advised they told her they had been woken up by a fire inside an apartment complex nearby and that the police had questioned them about the fire. [REDACTED] also advised that [REDACTED] name was Tahlil Johnson which was not the name he had given the officers. Detective Lopez had Johnson arrested for false information. It was later determined that Johnson had a probation violation warrant.

Detective Lopez conducted an audio and video recorded interview with [REDACTED] and Tahlil Johnson at Denver Police Headquarters. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] After the interview [REDACTED] was released and Johnson was turned over to the Denver Sheriff's Department related to his warrant.

On August 23, 2018 Forensic Pathologist Dr. Frank conducted an autopsy on the victim. Dr. Frank later advised Detective Johnson that the victim died from blunt force trauma injuries to the head and sharp force injuries to the neck. The victim had a skull fracture and the left side of his face was fractured.

On August 23, 2018, Detective Lopez began searching stores near the homicide for Charcoal Master lighter fluid in a red and white bottle. Detective Lopez found this item for sale at a convenient store 10890 E. Dartmouth which was about 100 yards from the crime scene.

On August 24, 2018, Detective Lopez was allowed to access the video at the convenient store. Detective Lopez observed Tahlil Johnson enter the store and purchase the Charcoal Master lighter fluid at 7:24 am on August 22, 2018 which was approximately 30 minutes before the fire was reported.


On August 24, 2018, Detective Lopez made contact with [REDACTED] and she agreed to come with Detective Lopez to Denver Police Headquarters. Detective Lopez conducted an audio and video recorded interview with [REDACTED]. During the interview [REDACTED] admitted she had lied the previous day about the homicide. [REDACTED] advised on August 21, 2018 (the day before the fire) the victim told Johnson and [REDACTED] they could no longer stay with him. Johnson became upset and began fighting with the victim. During the fight the victim was punched several times by Johnson. After the initial fight there was a second altercation where Johnson kicked the victim in the head numerous times as he was laying on a futon couch. Johnson told [REDACTED] he had killed the victim and that they could now stay in the apartment.

After the second altercation Johnson took the victim's television from the apartment to a pawn shop in the Parker area and pawned the television for \$200. Johnson and [REDACTED] then went to a Family Dollar store where they purchased cleaning supplies to clean up the blood in the apartment.

Detective Lopez was able to view parts of the surveillance video from this location and identified [REDACTED] and Johnson inside the store purchasing these items. When they returned to the victim's apartment the victim was on an air mattress covered by a blanket. Johnson cleaned up some of the food and later determined he had to dispose of the body.

Johnson and [REDACTED] slept in the victim's room the night of the homicide and then in the morning Johnson told [REDACTED] he was going to set the apartment on fire. Johnson walked to a nearby store, purchased the lighter fluid and then returned to the apartment. Johnson went inside the location and set a fire using a cigarette as [REDACTED] waited outside. Johnson returned to the car and told [REDACTED] it was not working so he retrieved some paper from the car and went back inside. Johnson then came back outside he had ash on his shoes and told her the fire had been started. Johnson came up with a lie to tell [REDACTED] and put cigarette ash on himself and [REDACTED] to make the fire story seem more believable.

On August 24, 2018 after [REDACTED] interview Detective Lopez had Johnson brought to the Homicide Unit and he arranged for Johnson to see [REDACTED], but he did not allow him to speak with her. Detective Lopez conducted an audio and video recorded interview with Johnson. [REDACTED]



I affirm this information to be true and correct

al 95062

Signature of Affiant

Subscribed under oath before me on

Date

Time

Judge or Notary Public

My commission expires

**ARREST WARRANT**

To all Sheriffs, Peace Officers and Police Officers with the said State:

ADULT—You are hereby commanded to arrest the defendant named above and bring them without unnecessary delay before a Judge of the County Court to be dealt with according to law.

JUVENILE—You are hereby commanded to arrest the defendant named above, summons into court, process and release said defendant to appear before the court.

Bail fixed at \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Judge

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Judge

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I executed the above warrant on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ by taking \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of person arrested) into custody and placing said person in the \_\_\_\_\_ Jail for safekeeping until further order of the court. Signature of Arresting Officer \_\_\_\_\_