

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF WARRANT

Your Affiant is a police officer employed by the Miami Gardens Police Department, Miami-Dade County, Florida. Your Affiant has been a police officer for 23 years and has been a detective in the Homicide Unit/Bureau for 8 years. Your Affiant has investigated over 50 cases.

Your Affiant now makes application for a Warrant for the arrest of Ernest Roberts, hereinafter referred to as the defendant, for First Degree Murder based upon information given and investigation done by Your Affiant/police officer Pedro Valdes the sworn testimony given to the Office of the State Attorney, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County.

Your Affiant has investigated the facts and circumstances surrounding Police Case No. 2019-009183 and states the following:

On Wednesday, May 15th, 2019, at 11:43pm, members of the Miami Gardens Police Department responded to 800 NW 203rd St, Miami Gardens, FL 33169, in reference to the report of a missing person. When units arrived, they met with Ms. Donna Blyden who wanted to report that her niece, Ms. Kameela Russell (hereinafter referred to as "the Decedent"), was missing. During their preliminary investigation patrol officers were told by Ms. Blyden that earlier that evening at approximately 6:00 pm on May 15th, 2019, she noticed the Decedent's black Audi drive into her driveway. Ms. Blyden advised that upon seeing the Decedent arrive she went to get the Decedent's minor daughter ready so that her mother could pick her up and take her to gymnastics. As she was getting the child ready to leave, Ms. Blyden noticed that the Decedent's vehicle had left the driveway. Ms. Blyden made several attempts to call and text the Decedent (at 6:11pm, 7:11pm, and 9:30pm) but the Decedent did not reply. Ms. Blyden advised that this behavior was uncharacteristic of the Decedent as she was very active in her child's recreational activities and her daughter had been scheduled to go to gymnastics class at 6:30pm on May 15th, 2019, the evening she went missing.

Subsequent investigation revealed that the Decedent was employed by Miami Norland Senior High as a teacher and that she had reported to work on Wednesday May 15th, 2019, and was recorded on video leaving work in the late afternoon. The Decedent was dressed in a black t-shirt with the lettering of "Norland Wrestling", charcoal colored joggings pants, and dark colored tennis shoes.

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Subsequent investigation revealed that the Decedent lived at 905 NE 199 St Apt 106 with her two minor daughters. On Friday, May 17th, 2019, Miami Gardens Missing Persons Detective J. Spokony followed up with Ms. Blyden regarding her earlier missing person report. Ms. Blyden confirmed that she still had no contact of any kind with the Decedent and she had not heard from her in any form and the Decedent had not been seen by anyone. Ms. Blyden also advised that since the Decedent's disappearance her two minor daughters had been staying with her. Ms. Blyden again reiterated that this was uncharacteristic for the Decedent as she would never leave her daughters without notifying someone of where she was. Ms. Blyden further advised that it was uncharacteristic of the Decedent to fail to report to work without providing notice. Detectives were able to confirm that the last time the Decedent reported to work was May 15th, 2019, the day she went missing. In addition, a detailed flyer was sent throughout Miami Gardens and the Media detailing the Decedent's disappearance and the vehicle she was last seen in. Detectives were also able to confirm that the Decedent had scheduled a prepaid trip out of State with her daughters to visit a relative and was scheduled to leave on Thursday May 16th, 2019. Investigators confirmed that she never made the trip.

Between Friday, May 17th, 2019, and Sunday, May 19th, 2019, Detective J. Spokony received several anonymous phone calls suggesting that the former Assistant Principal of Norland Senior High, Ernest Roberts, may be involved in her sudden disappearance.

In investigating this lead, it was learned that the Decedent and Ernest Roberts have known each other since they were children and he is the God Father of both of the Decedent's children. The investigation also confirmed that prior to being transferred to Linda Lentin K-8 Center about 7 months before the Decedent went missing, Ernest Roberts (hereinafter referred to as "Subject Roberts") was the Assistant Principle at Norland Senior High; the same school at which the Decedent was working at the time of her disappearance.

Investigation revealed that on Monday May 20th, 2019, Subject Roberts was scheduled to chaperon students on a preplanned school trip to Washington D.C. leaving on May 20th, 2019.

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Subsequent video and cellular phone evidence confirm that Subject Roberts entered Linda Linten K-8 Center in the early morning hours of May 20th, 2019, prior to leaving for the School trip.

On Monday, May 20th, 2019, Miami Gardens Homicide Detective S. Horne (former School Board Resource Officer) received a telephone call from an employee of Linda Linten K-8 Center about a suspicious note which was left for him by Subject Roberts. The employee, who knew Subject Roberts from working at the school and who had previously exchanged cell phone numbers, advised that he was called by Subject Roberts at 8:32am in the morning on May 20th, 2019. During that phone call Subject Roberts directed the employee to go to a specific file cabinet inside of conference room 908 at Linda Linten K-8 Center. Subject Roberts told the employee to open the third drawer of the file cabinet where he would find a hand-written note. The note read as follows:

“Do you know anyone that can chop up a car? If so or make it “disappear” take these keys. Its behind the speedway racetrack on 441 by County line. Friends are gone and need it to disappear. If not leave it + I’ll work it out later. Throw this note away!”

Along with the above note the employee also found a set of keys for an Audi. Upon reading the note and seeing the keys the employee recalled hearing that the Decedent had been reported missing. Out of concern the employee contacted the Miami Gardens Police Department. The note and the keys were impounded by Miami Garden’s Police Department.

Upon learning of the hand-written note and car keys Miami Gardens Detectives met with the employee at the Miami Gardens Police Department that same day. During that meeting Detectives obtained the following information. On May 15th, 2019, the employee received a call from Subject Roberts. In that call Subject Roberts said, “I did something crazy.” He further stated that he confronted an intruder in his mother’s house and he hit the person with a baseball bat. Subject Roberts then told the employee that he wanted to speak to him in person. When he later spoke to him in person, Subject Roberts told him that he not only hit the intruder with a baseball bat but that he killed the intruder. Subject Roberts told him that he then wrapped up the

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body in a tarp and dragged the body through the house leaving blood stains. Subject Roberts also asked the employee how to get rid of the blood stains. The employee told him that he could use Clorox but thought that he was kidding about the incident at that time.

Based upon this information, later that day a controlled call was conducted between the employee and Subject Roberts. During that call Subject Roberts acknowledges the vehicle referenced in the handwritten note.

On May 20th, 2019, Detectives responded to 441 and County Line Road as described in the handwritten note. Detectives found a Speedway Gas Station at 20901 NW 2nd Ave. Parked behind the Speedway Gas Station Detectives found a 2014 black 4Door Audi bearing FL-tag# HBQJ20 (vin# WAUDFAFCEN043496). A records check revealed that the vehicle was registered to the Decedent. The vehicle was impounded and later searched, no cell phones belonging to the Decedent were located.

Continuing their investigation that same day Detectives went to Subject Roberts' residence located at 1525 NW 203rd St, when police arrived at the residence they noticed several drops of apparent blood by the front door of the residence. During the investigation it was learned that Subject Roberts resided at 1525 NW 203rd St, however the residence was owned by his mother who lives out of state. Investigation revealed that Subject Roberts was the only person residing at the residence. Based upon all the information known at time and the observations made at the front entrance of the residence the location was secured and a search warrant was obtained.

On May 20th, 2019, a search warrant was executed at Subject Roberts' residence at 1525 NW 203rd St, Miami Gardens, FL 33169. During their search of the residence Detectives were able to locate several items with traces of blood in the master bedroom of the residence. Specifically, an Amazon box with blood splatter and bloody sandals in the master bathroom. In addition to blood Detectives also found extensive evidence of efforts to clean up the residence. The smell of bleach was prevalent throughout the residence. Inside of the master bedroom, where blood was located, there were still visible streaks of cleaning residue from efforts to clean the

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wood floors. Detectives were also able to locate a mop in the residence which had a strong smell of bleach and came back positive for the presence of blood as indicated by luminol. The search revealed no personal items identified as belonging to the Decedent including her cell phone.

On Saturday, May 25, 2019, a body was found floating in a canal on NW 207th St and NW 15th Avenue, Miami Gardens, Florida part of the Coconut Cay Community. To put this in perspective the Decedent's aunt, Ms. Blyden's, residence is located on the same road as Subject Roberts' residence, both of which are located within the same Coconut Cay Community. In addition, the location where the female body was found floating in the canal was also part of the Coconut Cay Community. It should be noted that the body was discovered 10 days after the Decedent was reported missing.

On Sunday, May 26, 2019, a post- mortem examination was conducted and the decomposed body was identified as an unknown female. It was observed that the unknown female sustained blunt force trauma to both sides of the head. The unknown female was wearing a black t-shirt with the lettering of "Norland Wrestling" and charcoal colored joggings pants. The Medical Examiner's examination found the cause of death to be blunt force trauma to the victim's head and the manner of death to be Homicide. The body was identified as the Decedent preliminarily based upon finger prints and the Decedent's distinctives tattoos. DNA evidence was obtained from the Decedent and sent to the Miami-Dade Forensic Services Bureau who had already received the blood recovered from Subject Roberts' master bedroom and bathroom. Comparisons of the DNA recovered from the Decedent's body and those recovered from Subject Roberts' master bedroom as well as DNA Standards from the Decedent's home were all a positive match to the Decedent.

During a thorough search of Subject Roberts' residence Detectives were able to locate a DVR device connected to an extensive CCTV security system with cameras throughout the exterior of the residence. A review of the Video from the DVR shows Subject Roberts arriving at the residence at 5:09pm on Wednesday May 15th, 2019, the video continues for about 39 minutes before abruptly shutting off at 5:48pm. The DVR was impounded and sent to the Secret Service Electronic Crime Task Force Office to be analyzed. On May 30th, 2019, Detectives received the

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preliminary report from the US Secret Service Miami Electronic Crimes Task Force. The report revealed that on Wednesday May 15th, 2019, at 05:48:19pm, the DVR recovered from the residence was shut off and not turned back on until Friday May 17th, 2019 at 4:50pm, eliminating any recorded video footage during the that time.

In addition, during an area canvass near Subject Roberts' home, surveillance cameras were found at a residence across the street from 1525 NW 203rd St. After reviewing the surveillance video, Subject Roberts is seen arriving alone at his residence at 5:09pm on May 15th, 2019. He is captured coming in and out of the home before the Decedent is seen driving her black Audi into the driveway of his residence at 6:03pm on that same day. The Decedent is seen parking and exiting that vehicle and she is wearing a black t-shirt, dark charcoal or black jogging pants, and dark colored tennis shoes. The Decedent is then seen walking toward the front door of Subject Roberts' home at 6:03pm. Subsequent investigation of cell phone records show Subject Roberts and the Decedent exchanging phone calls between 6:01 and 6:03 that day.

Later that evening, at 6:54pm, Subject Roberts is seen entering the Decedent's vehicle and backing the vehicle close to the front door of the residence. Once parked the trunk of the Decedent's vehicle opens and Subject Roberts is captured on surveillance footage coming in and out of the residence and toward the trunk of the Audi several times. At no time is the Decedent ever seen exiting Subject Roberts' residence. At 7:10pm Subject Roberts can be seen entering the Decedent's Audi and driving away, later video shows Subject Roberts walking back to his residence in the rain. The Decedent's Audi is not seen again until discovered by police based upon the note left by Subject Roberts on Monday May 20th, 2019, and the Decedent is not seen again until her body was discovered 10 days later in a canal located in the Coconut Cay Community.

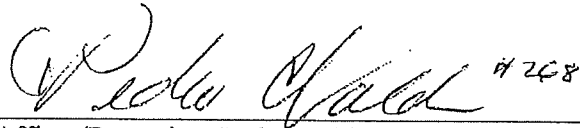
On June 10, 2019, it was verified through cellular phone records that the last person to have any telephone contact with the Decedent was Subject Roberts, he called her on May 15th, 2019, at 6:01pm. This call coincides with Ms. Blyden seeing the Decedent's black Audi pull up to her residence at about 6pm on May 15th, 2019, and then drive away. This is further corroborated by the surveillance video showing the Decedent pull into Subject Roberts'

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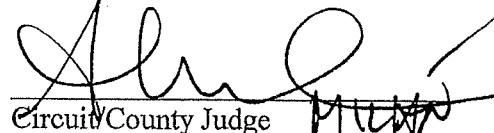
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residence then exit the car and enter the residence at 6:03pm on May 15th, 2019, the last time the Decedent is seen alive. After entering Subject Roberts' residence the Decedent is never seen again until she is found dead on May 25th, 2019. The Decedent's dead body was discovered wrapped up in tarp and she was determined to have been murdered by a fatal head injury, just as Subject Roberts had described to the school employee.

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Affiant/Detective, Pedro Valdes

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 13 day of June, 2019.


Circuit/County Judge
Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida