

APPLICATION FOR ARREST WARRANT AND SEALED AFFIDAVIT



County/District Court

City and County of Denver, Colorado/ THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Case Number: 20-751182

Date of Offense: December 29, 2020

Location of Offense: 1700 South Java Way

Defendant: Benjamin David Satterthwaite, dob: 07/29/1992

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

WHEREAS the Denver Police Department, Homicide Unit is investigating the above-referenced suspect for the crime of MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, C.R.S. 18-3-102, a Class One Felony.

AND WHEREAS the Court has examined the attached affidavit and has satisfied itself that there is probable cause to believe that the above named offense(s) has been committed by the above named person

AND WHEREAS the Affiant, Denver Police Homicide Detective Adam Golden, 06157, has requested an ARREST WARRANT and SEALED AFFIDAVIT be issued for the above named person, (Defendant's name), so this investigation can continue and so that the witnesses mentioned in this warrant can be protected from any type of early reprisals.

Pursuant to Rule 41 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, the Affiant listed herein has requested and received approval to have this Affidavit sealed from public release of the information herein contained due to the media coverage of this case, to assure that this case is not compromised, that witnesses mentioned in this warrant can be protected from any type of early reprisals, so that this investigation can continue.

You are hereby commanded to take the person of the defendant and bring him without unnecessary delay before a Judge of the County or District Court.

Bail fixed at \$ At first appearance [Signature of Judge]

Date January 5, 2021 [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

**APPLICATION FOR SEALED AFFIDAVIT AND THE ARREST WARRANT  
FOR THE PERSON(S) OF:**



**Benjamin David Satterthwaite, dob: 07/29/1992, a white male 5'6" in height, 160 pounds in weight, with blonde hair, and blue eyes, assigned Colorado Personal Identification Number [REDACTED], Social Security Number [REDACTED], Colorado State Identification Number [REDACTED], Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Number [REDACTED], with a last known address of [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED], Denver, Colorado 80236**

**MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, C.R.S. 18-3-102, a Class One Felony**

I, Detective Adam Golden, 06157, the Affiant, state under oath that the facts known to the Affiant which establish probable cause to believe that a criminal offense was committed, and that the offense was committed by the above named person(s), are the following:

**Initial Investigation:**

On Tuesday, December 29, 2020, at 7:18 a.m., the Denver Emergency Communications Center received a 911 call from Denver Parks and Recreation Employees. Employees [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were plowing the sidewalk along Sanderson Gulch in the 1700 block of South Java Way. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] observed a black suitcase and purple suitcase near the sidewalk. [REDACTED] opened the purple suitcase and observed a human foot. [REDACTED] then called 911. Denver Police Department officers were dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival of DPD officers, the crime scene was secured and the DPD Homicide Unit was notified.

**Follow-Up Investigation:**

On Tuesday, December 29, 2020, at 7:40 a.m., Your Affiant, Homicide Detective Adam Golden, was contacted via telephone by Homicide Unit Sergeant Brock Ellerman. Your Affiant was notified of the aforementioned situation and assigned as the primary detective. Detective Eric Bueno was assigned as the secondary detective. Your Affiant and Detective Bueno responded to the scene and arrived at approximately 8:00 a.m. Criminalist Supervisor (CRS) Dan Fox, Criminalist Lauren Munoz, and Denver Office of the Medical Examiner, Investigator Sharon Teller arrived on scene shortly after.

Your Affiant observed the purple suitcase contained a baggage claim sticker consistent with being placed after a recent flight. Your Affiant observed the following number on top of the sticker: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The bottom of the sticker, underneath the barcode, contained the name "Satterthwait" and "Den."

The purple suitcase was opened and a human foot and leg were observed inside. The black suitcase was opened and what appeared to be a human torso was inside this suitcase. Based on this information, the unknown male was pronounced deceased at 8:59 a.m. by Forensic Pathologist, Doctor James Caruso. The purple suitcase and black suitcase were transported to the Denver Office of the Medical Examiner located at 500 North Quivas Street. It was decided to further process the suitcases at DOME in the interest of preserving evidence on the following day. The luggage handles were later swabbed for possible cellular material.

**Surveillance Video Recovered:**

On Tuesday, December 29, 2020, while processing the scene, Detective Eric Bueno contacted [REDACTED] at 1 [REDACTED] South Java Way. Lanzi allowed Detective Bueno to review her Wyze surveillance video which is motion activated. On December 28, 2020, at 7:41 p.m., a truck travelled southbound in the 1700 block of South Java Way. The truck was followed by a second vehicle which stopped just outside the view of the camera to the north of the address.

At 7:51 p.m., another truck is observed travelling southbound in the 1700 block of Java Court. When the camera is activated, the two suitcases are observed on the sidewalk near the Sanderson Gulch sidewalk.

Your Affiant contacted [REDACTED], dob: [REDACTED], at [REDACTED] South Java Way [REDACTED] advised she has surveillance cameras that capture the 1700 block of Java Way. [REDACTED] advised Your Affiant that DPD personnel could extract her surveillance video. Forensic Imaging Unit, Duane Pearson responded to the scene, extracted the video, and later provided it to Your Affiant. Your Affiant reviewed the video and noted on December 28, 2020, at 7:41 a.m., a truck is observed travelling southbound in the 1700 block of South Java Way (the same truck that activated the video at [REDACTED] South Java Way). The truck is followed by a dark colored SUV that steers to the westside of the street out of camera frame (this is the area where the suitcases are recovered. At 7:51 p.m., another truck is observed travelling southbound in the 1700 block of Java Way and not stopping (the same truck that activates the camera at [REDACTED] South java Way and the suitcases are visible on this camera). Therefore, Your Affiant determined the occupant(s) of the dark colored SUV placed the suitcases on the sidewalk.

**Contact with DIA Detective David Stolley:**

On Tuesday, December 29, 2020, at 10:50 a.m., Your Affiant contacted Denver International Airport (DIA), Detective David Stolley and requested his assistance with obtaining additional information related to the baggage sticker that was observed on the purple suitcase.

At 11:22 a.m., Your Affiant received a phone call from Detective Stolley who related he contacted United Airlines staff and confirmed the suitcase sticker was associated with a United Airlines flight that landed in Denver on December 21, 2020, at 8:53 a.m. The name associated with the luggage sticker was [REDACTED]

Your Affiant conducted a query of [REDACTED] via multiple law enforcement databases. Your Affiant learned there was no report completed regarding a theft of luggage or a suitcase by [REDACTED] in the Denver metro area.

Your Affiant also conducted a query of [REDACTED] via NCIC. [REDACTED] is not currently reported as a "missing person."

Your Affiant discovered from reviewing law enforcement records in the State of Colorado, [REDACTED] named Benjamin Satterthwaite, dob: 07/29/1992. Your Affiant located a record of [REDACTED] visiting Benjamin Satterthwaite while he was in prison in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Your Affiant conducted a query of Benjamin Satterthwaite via the DPD Records Management System. Your Affiant discovered on May 18, 2020, Benjamin Satterthwaite was contacted on a traffic stop at West Florida Avenue and South Tennyson Street. This location caught the attention of Your Affiant because it is in a close geographical area to the homicide crime scene located in the 1700 block of South Java Way.

**Post-Mortem Examination of the Victim:**

On Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at 8:45 a.m., Your Affiant attended the postmortem examination of the victim at the Denver Office of the Medical Examiner (DOME) located at 500 North Quivas Street. Doctor Sterling McLaren performed the examination.

The black suitcase was opened. A torso was observed in a black trash bag. Black duct tape was wrapped around the trash bag.

The purple suitcase was opened. A right leg and left upper thigh, wrapped in black trash bags were located inside. The initial examination revealed the left upper thigh and right leg belong to the torso.

The victim's head, left arm, right arm, and lower left leg were not located. The cause of the victim's death was not immediately apparent. The dismemberment appeared to have occurred postmortem.

Your Affiant learned from attending the autopsy, the limbs/other body parts were intentionally removed from the body by some type of cutting instrument.

At the time this Affidavit was drafted, the victim has not been positively identified.

**Overdose Investigation at 2801 South Federal Boulevard, Unit 108:**

*Note: Detective Eric Bueno and the initial responding officers responded to this incident without initially knowing the connection to the above described homicide investigation.*

On Friday, January 1, 2021, at 1:09 p.m., the Denver Emergency Communications Center received a 911 call from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED], dob: [REDACTED], located his other [REDACTED] dob: [REDACTED] deceased inside an apartment located at [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] later identified as Benjamin Satterthwaite, was also in the bedroom alive, however he was unconscious and possibly suffering from a possible overdose situation. DPD officers and Denver Health paramedics were dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival of emergency services, [REDACTED] was pronounced deceased by Denver Health Paramedic Zeyala (by Doctor McVaney) at 1:18 p.m. Benjamin Satterthwaite was then transported to Swedish Medical Center in serious condition. Satterthwaite's identity was not confirmed until later.

Detective Eric Bueno happened to be at the Homicide Unit and answered the Homicide Unit Hotline and was informed of the death investigation at [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED]. Detective Bueno advised he would respond to the scene.

Upon arrival, Detective Bueno contacted District 4 Corporal Ricardo. Detective Bueno learned [REDACTED] was unable to contact [REDACTED] so he and his [REDACTED] responded to [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, [REDACTED]. There was no answer at the door so [REDACTED] contacted the [REDACTED] on scene. The [REDACTED] obtained a key to the unit and he and [REDACTED] unlocked the door. The door to the apartment was partially barricaded with furniture, however they were able to gain entry. Once inside the apartment, [REDACTED] discovered the bedroom door was locked. [REDACTED] obtained a drill and removed the lock. [REDACTED] discovered [REDACTED] on the mattress and she appeared deceased. [REDACTED] was next to her on the mattress. The [REDACTED] was still alive but it appeared he was suffering from an overdose episode. The [REDACTED] was then transported to Swedish Medical Center. Detective Bueno requested an officer attempt to identify the [REDACTED] at Swedish Medical Center with a fingerprint reader. Detective Bueno later learned the [REDACTED] was identified as Benjamin Satterthwaite. Detective Bueno was aware of Benjamin Satterthwaite's possible connection to the homicide investigation.

Detective Bueno learned the following information from [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] would regularly use Facebook to communicate. Her Facebook name was [REDACTED]

Detective Bueno entered the apartment and observed the following items of interest in the living room:

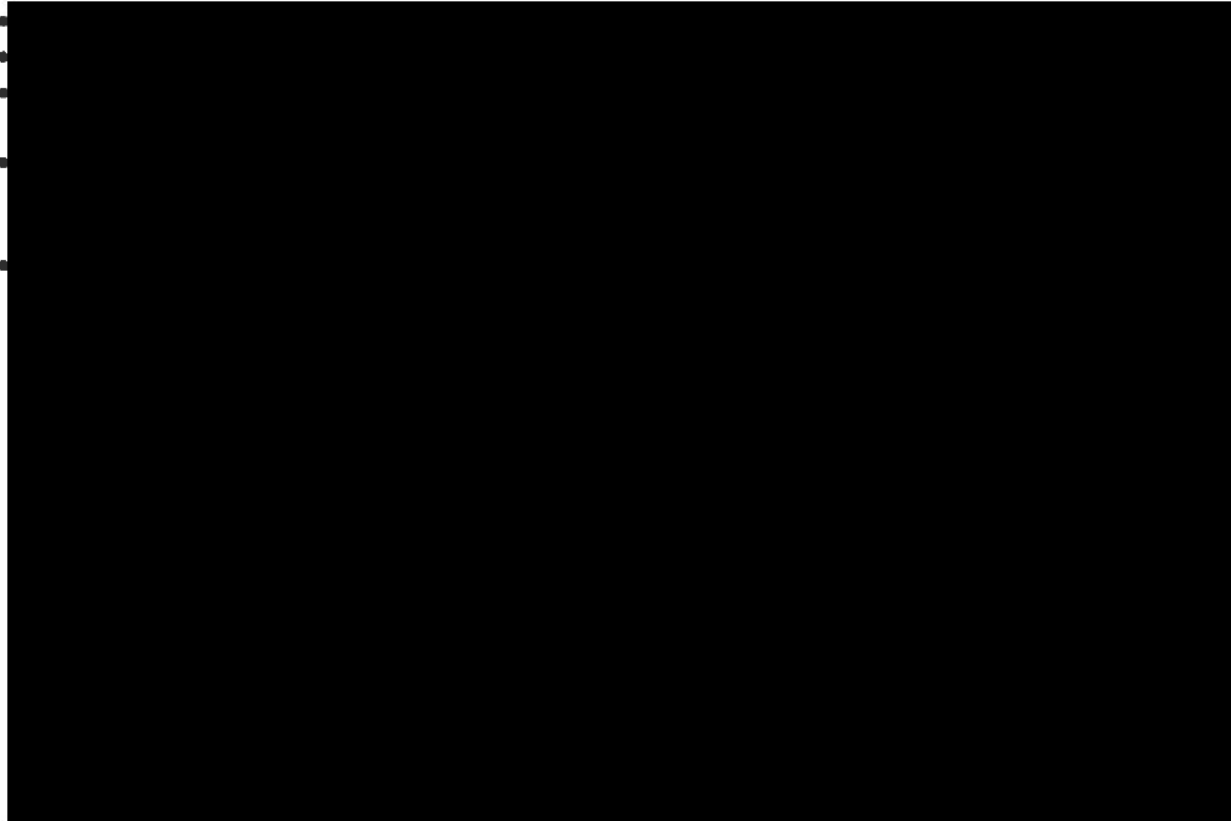
- A black suitcase that is similar in appearance to black suitcase that was recovered from the 1700 block of South Java Way
- Suspected blood on a chair and table
- Black trash bags with cushions that contain possible blood
- Mops and indications the location was recently cleaned

Detective Bueno exited the location and notified Your Affiant of what was observed. [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED] was secured for the application of a Search Warrant.

**Search Warrant Executed at [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED]:**

On Friday, January 1, 2021, Your Affiant drafted an Affidavit in Support of Search Warrant to process [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED]. At 5:23 p.m., the Search Warrant was reviewed and approved by the Honorable Judge Chelsea Malone.

At approximately 6:00 p.m., the Search Warrant was executed by Your Affiant, Detective Bueno, Criminalist Supervisor (CRS) Scott Miller, Criminalist (CR) Kylie Verderosa, and CR Allison Kennedy. Through the course of the crime scene investigation, multiple items of evidentiary value were recovered to include the following:



Your Affiant also observed a couch inside the living with multiple items. Once the items were removed, Your Affiant observed an excessive amount of blood on the right side of the couch. Your Affiant noted based on his experience as a homicide detective, this amount of blood is consistent with some type of fatal trauma occurring in this area.

The chemical "Blue Star" was also used inside the apartment. This chemical will react with blood and cleaning solutions and illuminate the areas with blood or cleaning chemicals in the dark. Your Affiant observed a reaction with this chemical concentrated in the living room, bathroom, and bathtub of the apartment.

**Contact with [REDACTED]:**

On Saturday, January 2, 2021, at 2:46 p.m., Your Affiant conducted an audio recorded phone call with [REDACTED] via telephone number [REDACTED]. Through the course of the interview, [REDACTED] related the following:

- [REDACTED] flew to Denver from Indianapolis on December 21, 2020 to visit [REDACTED] and Benjamin Satterthwaite.
- [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] Benjamin Satterthwaite has drug addiction issues and has been to prison. [REDACTED] decided he would put old clothes and shoes in his purple suitcase to give to [REDACTED]

- One either Wednesday or Thursday (December 23 or 24) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] picked up Benjamin Satterthwaite at an apartment building in Denver. [REDACTED] took Benjamin Satterthwaite to Costco to buy him food.
- When the group returned to Benjamin Satterthwaite's apartment, Benjamin Satterthwaite's [REDACTED] helped them unload the food. At this time, [REDACTED] gave Benjamin Satterthwaite the purple luggage with the clothing. At some point, Benjamin Satterthwaite stated there was another couple staying at the apartment with them, but they kicked them out of the apartment.
- [REDACTED] was supposed to meet up with Benjamin Satterthwaite on Saturday, December 26, 2020, however, Benjamin Satterthwaite never answered the phone. [REDACTED] drove to the apartment but nobody answered the door. [REDACTED] never met with Benjamin Satterthwaite on Saturday, December 26, 2020.
- On Sunday, December 27, 2020, Benjamin Satterthwaite asked [REDACTED] if he wanted to meet. [REDACTED] stated he could not meet with Benjamin because [REDACTED] was flying back to [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] stated about four months ago, he purchased a Samsung cellular phone for Benjamin Satterthwaite. [REDACTED] provided the following cellular phone number for Benjamin Satterthwaite: [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] confirmed this was the phone number his was regularly communicating with Benjamin Satterthwaite on.
- [REDACTED] provided the following cellular phone number for Benjamin Satterthwaite's [REDACTED].

#### **Joshua Lockard Identified as the Possible Victim:**

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, Your Affiant and Detective Bueno conducted additional research pertaining to Joshua Lockard because of the credit card that was recovered from [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED]. Detective Bueno located the identity of Joshua Lockard, dob: 08/05/1987. Detective Bueno obtained a Colorado driver's license photograph of Lockard. Your Affiant noted Lockard matched the general description of the victim related to this investigation.

Your Affiant located a Facebook profile belonging to [REDACTED] (Benjamin Satterthwaite's [REDACTED] who was found deceased inside [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED]. This Facebook profile was publicly accessible. Your Affiant discovered [REDACTED] was "Facebook friends" with a "Joshua Lockard." Your Affiant also located the Facebook page which was publicly accessible. Your Affiant noted the "Joshua Lockard" Facebook profile was operated by Joshua Lockard, dob: 08/05/1987, based on comparing the Colorado driver's license photograph to several of the Facebook photos. Your Affiant noted Lockard matches the portions of the homicide victim that were recovered (torso, right leg, left upper leg).

#### **Field Contact with [REDACTED]:**

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, at 9:50 a.m., Your Affiant and Detective Bueno conducted a field interview with [REDACTED]. Your Affiant showed [REDACTED] a photograph of Joshua Lockard. [REDACTED] stated that Lockard was the individual that was recently staying with [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED] Benjamin Satterthwaite at [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard. [REDACTED] added Lockard had a white female girlfriend that was also staying at the apartment.

#### **Walmart Surveillance Video Recovered:**

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., Your Affiant and Detective Bueno responded to the Walmart located at 2770 West Evan Avenue. This was based on the receipt that was recovered from [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED] when the Search Warrant was executed. The following items were purchased from this store on Sunday, December 27, 2020 at 9:35 a.m.:

- LM ntygrty (unknown item)
- Hacksaw
- 2 piece saw blades

Upon arrival at Walmart, Your Affiant and Detective Bueno contacted [REDACTED]. Your Affiant requested [REDACTED] locate surveillance video associated with the aforementioned purchase. Your

Affiant later obtained the video surveillance and learned a white male was captured on camera purchasing the saw blades and what appeared to be a mop. The following image was captured of the person that purchased the items:



It should be noted the male's appearance is consistent with Benjamin Satterthwaite, however his identity could not be confirmed because of a yellow mask over his face.

**Field Contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]**

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, at 10:45 a.m., Your Affiant and Detective Bueno responded to [REDACTED] West 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This address was identified as recently being used by Joshua Lockard.

Your Affiant contacted [REDACTED] job: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at the address. [REDACTED] is Lockard's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is Lockard's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] related the following:

- They have not spoken to Lockard for a couple of weeks. [REDACTED] spoke with Lockard on the phone when he called on December 23, 2020. [REDACTED] provided the following phone number for Lockard: [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] showed Your Affiant the caller ID on her phone which confirmed this information.
- The last time they saw Lockard in person was on Thanksgiving when [REDACTED] was putting up Christmas lights.
- Lockard was known to abuse methamphetamine and experience homelessness.
- Lockard was last known be staying in a sober living facility in the area of Lakewood. The owner of the facility is [REDACTED] and his phone number is [REDACTED].
- A couple of days ago, they received a hand written envelope in the mail. The envelope contained Lockard's ID card. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] did not know who mailed the ID.

**Field Contact with [REDACTED]:**

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, at 11:20 a.m., Your Affiant and Detective Bueno contacted [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) at [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard. Your Affiant showed [REDACTED] a photograph of Lockard. [REDACTED] confirmed that was the person that was staying in [REDACTED] apartment. [REDACTED] stayed Lockard was staying in [REDACTED] apartment with an unknown white female. An unknown Hispanic male would also occasionally stay at the apartment.

**Field Contact with [REDACTED]**

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, at 1:45 p.m., Your Affiant and Detective Bueno responded to [REDACTED] West Arkansas Place. Your Affiant discovered this location is the [REDACTED]. Your Affiant located this address after conducting research pertaining to "[REDACTED]" and cellular phone number [REDACTED] which was provided by [REDACTED]. Your Affiant contacted the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] related the following:

- [REDACTED] knew Lockard and Lockard was recently staying at the facility.

- Lockard was kicked out of the program around December 11, 2020. It was discovered Lockard messaged a female that he met at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting which was in violation of the rules.
- A couple days after Lockard was kicked out of the program, Lockard came to facility to pick up items with an unknown Hispanic male who was driving a smaller maroon colored SUV, possibly a ford.
- [REDACTED] stated the victim was working for a business that does urine analysis called [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] provided the following cellular phone number for Lockard: [REDACTED]

**Telephone Call with [REDACTED]:**

On Monday, January 4, 2021, at 11:22 a.m., Your Affiant received a phone call from [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] dob [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] related the following:

- [REDACTED] hired Lockard to work at the clinic, however he relapsed on methamphetamine so she did not want him working at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] assisted Lockard with getting a job with [REDACTED] who runs a construction company.
- The last time [REDACTED] saw Lockard was on December 26, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. Lockard asked [REDACTED] to cash a check for him because Lockard did not have an ID. [REDACTED] drove Lockard to a bank, cashed his check, and then dropped Lockard off by Alameda High School (1255 South Wadsworth Blvd). Your Affiant noted this was the last time anyone has seen the victim alive.
- [REDACTED] stated she communicated with Lockard on cellular phone number [REDACTED] on December 26, 2020.

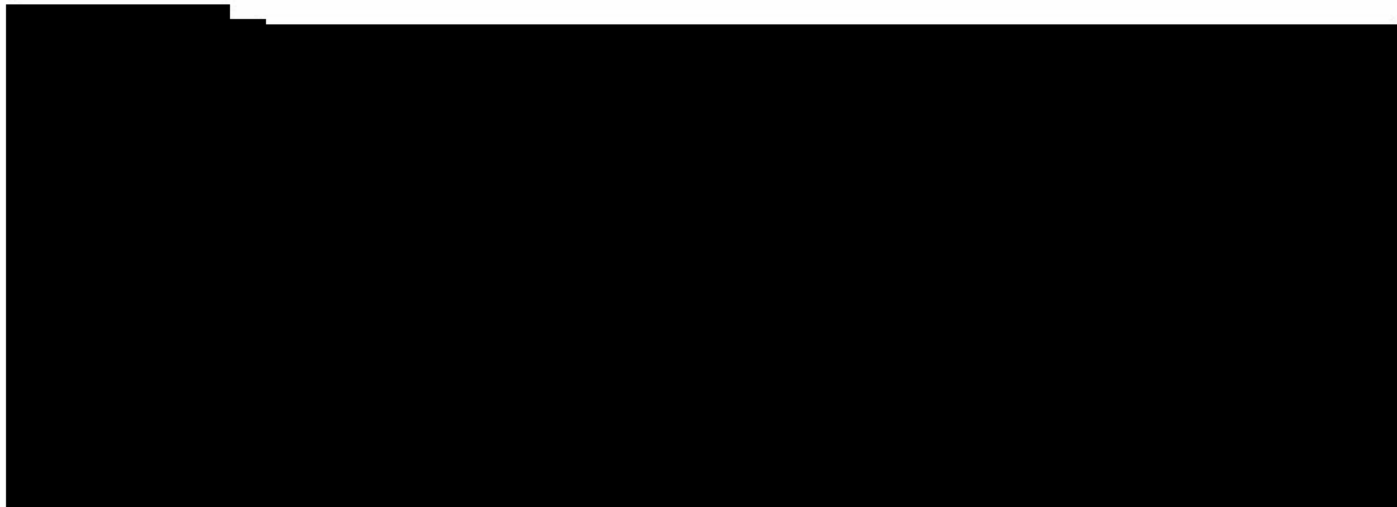
**Forensic Examination of [REDACTED] Cellular Phone:**

On Monday, January 4, 2021, Detective Bueno hand-delivered the Samsung cellular phone recovered from the mattress inside [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED] next to [REDACTED] body to Technical Electronic Support Unit (TESU) Detective John Medford to conduct a forensic cellular phone examination. Your Affiant verified this was [REDACTED] cellular phone based on [REDACTED] description of [REDACTED] phone and verifying the cellular phone number associated with the device [REDACTED]

On Tuesday, January 5, 2021, Your Affiant reviewed the forensic examination report conducted by Detective Medford. Your Affiant discovered the following communications occurred between [REDACTED] and a contact saved in the phone as "Benjamin Soulmate" on December 26, 2020:

\*Note, the last time the victim was seen alive was on Saturday, December 26, 2020 around 12:00 p.m. by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Your Affiant believes the victim was killed before Sunday, December 27, 2020 at 9:35 a.m. (based on the person Your Affiant believes is Benjamin Satterthwaite purchasing saw blades and cleaning equipment at Walmart):

<December 26, 2020>





[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

\*Your Affiant noted this message was indicative of Satterthwaite stating he killed Joshua.

[REDACTED]

Your Affiant noted a "contact photo" was saved with the "Benjamin Soulmate" contact in the phone. The photo is Benjamin Satterthwaite.

Your Affiant noted the phone number associated with the contact is [REDACTED]. This is the same phone [REDACTED] provided to Your Affiant for Benjamin Satterthwaite.

**Summary:**

Your Affiant is respectfully requesting an Arrest Warrant be approved for Benjamin Satterthwaite for CRS 18-3-102, Murder in the First Degree based on the following reasons:

- Your Affiant is actively investigating the death of the unknown male that was discovered on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, at 7:18 a.m., at 1700 South Java Way.
- Through the course of Your Affiant's investigation, Your Affiant discovered Benjamin Satterthwaite was associated with the luggage the parts of the victim were discovered inside. Your Affiant learned from Benjamin's [REDACTED], he gave the luggage to Benjamin Satterthwaite at [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED].
- On Friday, January 1, 2021, Detective Bueno responded to an overdose death investigation at [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was discovered deceased in the apartment. Her [REDACTED] Benjamin Satterthwaite was transported to Swedish Medical Center in critical condition. While Detective Bueno was on scene, he observed blood evidence and a suitcase that matched the black suitcase recovered from the 1700 block of South Java Way.
- Your Affiant applied for and received a Search Warrant to process [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED]. Through the course of the Search Warrant execution, multiple items of evidentiary value were recovered from the scene. This includes a bloody saw blade that would be consistent with how the victim's limbs were removed.
- Also located in the apartment was a bank card with the name "Joshua Lockard." Your Affiant conducted additional investigative activities related to Lockard and Your Affiant believes based on what was learned, Lockard is likely the deceased male involved in this investigation.
- Your Affiant learned from interviewing [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Joshua Lockard was previously known to be staying at [REDACTED] South Federal Boulevard, Unit [REDACTED].
- Your Affiant learned through the course of this investigation, Lockard was last known to be alive on December 26, 2020 around 12:00 p.m. Your Affiant believe the victim was killed prior to December 27, 2020 at 9:35 a.m., based on the individual who Your Affiant believes is Benjamin Satterthwaite buying saw blades and cleaning equipment at Walmart.

