

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT #4 FOR CLARK COUNTY
STATE OF INDIANA

FILED
SEP 15 2014
Barbara Hines
CLERK of the CLARK COUNTY COURTS

STATE OF INDIANA

VS.

CASE #: 10C04-1409-MR-001

JOSEPH ALBERT OBERHANSLEY

DOB: 3/29/81

INFORMATION

COUNT I: MURDER (IC 35-42-1-1)

COUNT II: ABUSE OF A CORPSE (LEVEL 6 FELONY) (IC 35-45-11-2)

COUNT III: RESIDENTIAL ENTRY (LEVEL 6 FELONY) (IC 35-43-2-1.5)

COUNT I: MURDER IC 35-42-1-1

On September 11, 2014 in Clark County, State of Indiana, Joseph Albert Oberhansley did knowingly or intentionally kill Tammy Blanton by stabbing and/or slashing her with a knife.

**COUNT II: ABUSE OF A CORPSE (LEVEL 6 FELONY)
IC 35-45-11-2**

On September 11, 2014 in Clark County, State of Indiana, Joseph Albert Oberhansley did knowingly or intentionally mutilate the corpse of Tammy Blanton, and did so by removing parts of her skull and brain, by removing her heart, and/or by removing part of her lung.

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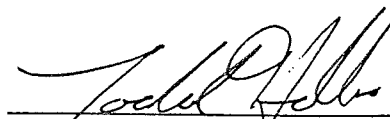
INFORMATION

COUNT III: RESIDENTIAL ENTRY (LEVEL 6 FELONY) (IC 35-43-2-1.5)

On September 11, 2014 in Clark County, State of Indiana, Joseph Albert Oberhansley did break and enter the dwelling of Tammy Blanton, located at 329 Locust Street in Jeffersonville.


All of which is contrary to the statute(s) in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

I AFFIRM, UNDER PENALTIES FOR PERJURY, THAT THE FOREGOING REPRESENTATIONS ARE TRUE.



Detective Todd Hollis
Jeffersonville Police Department

Reviewed and Approved:



Steven D. Stewart
Prosecuting Attorney
State of Indiana
4th Judicial Circuit
Attorney #: 2049-103

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PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT

Detective Todd Hollis affirms that he believes and has good cause to believe that on the 11th day of September, 2014, in the County of Clark in the State of Indiana, Joseph Albert Oberhansley committed the offenses contained in the Information, and my belief is based upon the following facts and information constituting probable cause as set forth below:

On September 11, 2014, at 2:52AM, The Jeffersonville Police Department received a call from a woman who identified herself as Tammy Jo Blanton. Blanton called from her home at 329 Locust Street. She stated she was inside her home and her ex-boyfriend was outside her home trying to gain entry and refusing to leave. Officers Brandon McGhee, Glenn Jackson, and Kevin Anderson responded to the residence and located Joseph A Oberhansley outside the home. He claimed to live at the address and that his key would not work. He presented officers with an identification that listed another address in Jeffersonville. He expressed agitation with not being able to get into the home and repeatedly complained that police always side with women. Officer Anderson spoke with Blanton inside the home. Blanton told Officer Anderson that she had ended the relationship with Oberhansley and she had the locks on the house changed. She requested that officers ask Oberhansley to leave the property.

Based on the officer's concern for Blanton's safety, they instructed Oberhansley to leave the home and seek a civil process concerning any dispute he was having with Blanton. Oberhansley complained about being told to leave but complied with the officer's instructions and officers watched as he got into a 2002 white Chevrolet Blazer and drove away. The officers maintained a presence for several minutes and checked the surrounding area when they left, they did not see Oberhansley or his vehicle.

In a statement taken later that day by Detective Mark Dobson, Brenda Self, identified herself as Oberhansley's mother, told Detective Dobson the following. She was at her home and had been asleep when she was awakened by Oberhansley whom had come into her bedroom at approximately 3:30AM. Oberhansley was upset over his relationship with Blanton and he complained that Blanton had changed the locks at the residence at 329 Locust Street. Oberhansley was also upset over his job and financial situation. When Oberhansley went outside to his vehicle, she followed and sat with him in the vehicle for several minutes to speak with him further. After their conversation, Oberhansley left in his vehicle, alone.

In a statement taken later that day by Detective Sam Moss, Sabrina Hall, a friend and co-worker of Blanton's, became concerned about Blanton after she failed to show at work at 9:00AM. She had been told by another friend and co-worker that Blanton had been having trouble with her ex-

boyfriend, Joseph Oberhansley at her home the night before. Another co-worker called Blanton's mobile phone. The phone was answered by a male subject that identified himself as Blanton's brother, Jason. The male said Blanton was not at home because she had gone to take care of her sick father at his home and stayed there overnight. Hall did not believe that the man answering Blanton's phone was her brother. Hall then called Jeffersonville Police and requested a welfare check by officers at Blanton's home at approximately 9:59AM.

Jeffersonville Police Officers were dispatched to 329 Locust Street to check the welfare of Tammy Jo Blanton and arrived at approximately 10:04AM. The first officers on the scene included Major Mark Lovan, Captain Mike Pavey, and Officer Connie Viers. Captain Pavey observed a black Ford Explorer in the driveway and he contacted radio dispatch and provided the license plate number. Radio Dispatch advised him that BMV records showed the vehicle registered to Tammy Jo Blanton at that address. While Captain Pavey and Officer Viers knocked at the front door, Major Lovan went to the back of the residence. Major Lovan observed signs of forced entry to the rear door. Officers made contact with a male subject at the front door (Joseph Oberhansley). He identified himself as Joe but said he did not have identification. He told officers that Blanton was not at home and he did not know her whereabouts. Major Lovan joined Captain Pavey and Officer Viers at the front door where they asked Oberhansley to step out of the home. The officers observed what appeared to be a fresh injury to Oberhansley's right hand, including a cut across the knuckles. As they continued to question Oberhansley they noted he was slow and deceptive in answering questions, claiming ownership of the black Ford Explorer in the driveway. Officer Toby Deaton arrived on scene and based on what the officers had observed they instructed him to place his hands on the wall for the purpose of a pat down for weapons. Oberhansley did not initially comply with the officers and stepped further away from the wall. Officer Deaton grabbed Oberhansley by the wrist when he observed Oberhansley reach toward his back pocket. The officers were able to take physical control of Oberhansley and they searched him for weapons. Officer Deaton located a folding knife in Oberhansley's back pocket. The blade was extended and the knife had a "knuckled" grip adorned with small spikes over each knuckle. The knife had blood and hair on it. Oberhansley was handcuffed and detained. At that time Officer Viers entered the home to check on the welfare of Blanton. Upon entering, Officer Viers called out Blanton's name as she walked from room to room. She observed what appeared to be blood on several surfaces and from inside the home she confirmed the back door had been breached. Upon entering the bathroom she found a large amount of blood on the floor and the tub surround, a large fabric covering was draped over the bathtub. Officer Viers returned to the other officers and reported her findings. Captain Pavey led Officer Viers and other officers into the home to secure it. Captain Pavey went into the bathroom and pulled back the covering and discovered a deceased white female in the bathtub. The front of the victim's skull appeared to have been crushed and brain tissue appeared scattered around the bathtub. The Officers secured the residence and contacted the detective division.

Detectives Brian Mitchell, Mark Dobson, Isaac Parker, Sam Moss, and I responded to 329 Locust Street. Detectives Mitchell and Dobson took control of the scene. Joseph Oberhansley was transported from the scene to the Jeffersonville Police Detective Office for questioning. A search warrant for the residence at 329 Locust Street was executed by Jeffersonville Police Detectives. Detective Mitchell and Dobson conducted a search of the home and documented the scene. Inside the home they confirmed the back door had been breached and the door to the bathroom had also been damaged by what appeared to be a forced entry. Inside the bathroom, the body of the victim Tammy Jo Blanton was found inside the bathtub and covered by a vinyl camping tent. The Detectives were assisted by Deputy Coroner Donald Growe. While inspecting the injuries to Blanton's body, they discovered numerous injuries to her head, face, neck, and chest. Many of the injuries were deep cuts and her neck showed a full thickness cut spanning almost the entire front area. A large section of the front of her skull was removed. A large portion of the victim's brain

was missing. Several cuts to her chest created a large opening. Deputy Coroner Growe noted that the victim's heart was not inside her chest. Some of the brain missing from the victim was found in the bathtub along with a section of her removed skull. More brain tissue was found in a trash can inside the home. A plate with what appeared to be skull bone and blood was found in the kitchen. A skillet and a pair of tongs with blood on the handles were found on top of the stove. The cooking surface of the skillet was blacked with a void in the middle where the cooked material had been removed.

While searching the home, detectives also located several trash bags in the front bedroom that contained Joseph Oberhansley's personal belongings, stacked together on top of a bed. During the investigation, I spoke with John Wolf, who identified himself as a friend of Blanton's. Wolf had been in phone contact with Blanton between 8:00PM and 9:00PM on September 10. Wolf and Blanton discussed the problems she was having with Oberhansley. Wolf advised Blanton to gather Oberhansley's property together so it could be placed outside for him to retrieve.

Officer Greg Siefried assisting in the investigation located the 2002 white Chevrolet Blazer registered to Joseph Oberhansley parked on the street in the 200 block of Wall Street. Two blocks away from the scene on Locust Street.

Simultaneous to the search of the home at 329 Locust Street, Detective Parker and Moss interviewed Oberhansley at the Jeffersonville Police Detective Office. Oberhansley was advised of his rights and he affirmed he understood his rights. When Oberhansley was first confronted about Blanton's death and the condition of her body, he stated he was unaware of it. Detective Parker continued to question Oberhansley about Blanton's death. He confessed that he had broken into the back door of the home and also broke into the bathroom where Blanton had locked herself inside. He struck Blanton several times with a knife, causing her death. He also admitted to mutilating her body, using a jigsaw to cut open her skull, remove a portion of her brain and eating it raw. He further admitted to cooking a section of her brain and eating it. A bloodied electric jigsaw and jigsaw blade were located and collected from scene by detectives.

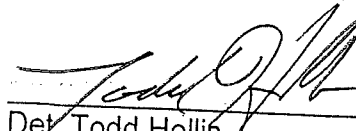
After Oberhansley was transported to Clark County Jail, Detective Parker and I met with him in his cell and asked him what had happened to Blanton's heart. Oberhansley stated he had removed her heart and ate it, along with a part of one of her lungs.

On September 12, 2014, I and other Jeffersonville Police Detectives attended the autopsy of Tammy Jo Blanton at the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office in Louisville. The medical examiner's preliminary findings were that Blanton's cause of death was multiple blunt sharp force traumas to the head, neck and torso. The medical examiner also confirmed that the majority of the heart and a part of the lungs had been cut away from her body. A large section of the brain was also missing from Blanton's body.

Based upon the above described facts and circumstances, I believe probable cause existed for the arrest of Joseph Albert Oberhansley for the multiple offenses contained in the Information.

I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that the foregoing representations are true.

Date: September 15, 2014


Det. Todd Hollis
Jeffersonville Police Department