

State of Minnesota
County of DakotaDistrict Court
1st Judicial DistrictProsecutor File No. CA-2024-01563
Court File No. 19HA-CR-24-1464

State of Minnesota,

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff,

Order of Detention

vs.

JOSEPHINE ANN POWERS DOB: 02/10/19993102 Keating Court
Burnsville, MN 55337

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I**Charge: Murder in the 2nd Degree (With Intent) (Not Premeditated)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.11.5

Maximum Sentence: 3-40 Years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/09/2024

Control #(ICR#): 24003463

Charge Description: On or about July 9, 2024, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, JOSEPHINE ANN POWERS, did cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation and at the time of offense, the Defendant or an accomplice did use or possess a firearm.

On July 18, 2024, officers of the Burnsville Police Department were dispatched to a residence in Burnsville, Dakota County, Minnesota, concerning a report of a homicide that occurred approximately ten days prior at the residence. Josephine Ann Powers, DOB: 2/10/1999 (Powers) was the reporting party. Officers interviewed the owner of the residence (Witness 1) who reported the following facts.

Witness 1 lives in the residence with his adult daughter, Powers. Witness 1 had recently returned home from a 2-week vacation. Upon arriving home, he observed splatters of what he believed to be brown paint throughout the house. On July 16, 2024, while at home from work on a lunch break, Witness 1 observed a tall, white male in his house wearing a "hazmat" suit. The man was cleaning up the brown paint and removing portions of carpet from the basement floor. The male left the residence and drove away in a white Ford Ranger pickup with the pieces of carpet in the bed of the truck. On July 18, 2024, Witness 1 woke up to the odor of bleach and ammonia in the house. He went to work, and when he returned home, he was met by a friend of Powers (Witness 2). Witness 2 advised Witness 1 that Powers told Witness 2 Michael Robert Ricco, age 70 (Victim) had been shot and killed in Witness 1's house while he was on vacation. While in the residence, the officers detected a strong odor of bleach and observed what appeared to be recently patched bullet holes in the hallway.

Officers interviewed Powers, who claimed the Victim had been shot and killed in the residence on or about July 9, 2024, by a male subsequently referred to herein as Witness 4. Powers provided the following details. A male she identified as "Chris" assisted in moving the body from the residence. She identified Chris as an older, tall white male with dark brown and gray hair. Powers reported Chris kept his belongings in Minneapolis in a shed with tarps outside of it. She provided police with an address and said the Victim's body was concealed in a large gray box shaped container with tarps and a pallet on top.

Officers obtained search warrants for Witness 1's house in Burnsville and the address provided for Chris in Minneapolis. The search warrants for Witness 1's house were executed on 7/18/24 and 7/20/24. In Witness 1's house, evidence officers found presumptive indicators for blood in the garage, downstairs hallway, downstairs bedroom, and the stairs from the garage to the basement. They also found what appeared to be a bullet hole in the basement bedroom.

The search warrant in Minneapolis was executed on 7/19/2024. When officers executed the search warrant at the Minneapolis address, a man matching Powers' description of Chris, Christopher Michael Hawkins, DOB 5-18-1976 (Hawkins) was located. The address location had a shed with tarps, similar to what Powers described in her statement. Officers found a large, grey container with what appeared to be human remains inside. An autopsy was conducted of the remains, and they were identified as those of the Victim. The cause of death was determined to be a single gun shot wound to the head and the manner of death was determined homicide.

Officers took a *Mirandized* statement from Hawkins during which he stated the following. Hawkins advised that a few days prior he was asked by Powers and a man he knows as "Mike" to move a package from a Burnsville address in exchange for a truck. He does not know Mike's real name. Upon his arrival at the Burnsville house, he saw blood throughout the downstairs area of the home, and he saw something wrapped up in garbage bags and rugs which he believed to be the body of the Victim. He wrapped an additional tarp around the object and loaded it into a pickup. He also helped Powers clean up the blood.

Hawkins also reported the following regarding the homicide. Powers told him a guy was f**king with her and she could not take it anymore, so she shot him. Powers told him she shot the guy with a pistol that had been given to her by a friend who was present when the shooting happened. Powers told him her buddy took the pistol from her after the shooting. Powers then proceeded to show Hawkins the patched bullet holes in the wall as well as the blood throughout the home. Powers eventually showed Hawkins the body located at the bottom of the stairs going out to the garage. The body was already wrapped in tarps and carpet. Powers assisted with the clean-up and told Hawkins she patched the holes in the wall.

Witness 4 was located and provided the following information. Powers picked him up in a white truck and then went to her house in Burnsville the morning of July 9, 2024. When they arrived, the Victim was present along with another male named Mike. Witness 4 fell asleep and when he woke up both Victim and Mike were gone. Victim then returned to the residence. Victim and Powers began to argue. Witness 4 was in the hallway outside of Powers' bedroom but could see and hear Victim and Powers arguing. Powers began to throw things at Victim. Powers grabbed a black handgun and shot Victim. Victim fell onto a couch and was unconscious. Powers freaked out and ran around the house. Powers began to clean-up the blood. Powers and Witness 4 eventually left the house and went to Witness 4's residence in Minneapolis. Witness 4 denied assisting with the cleaning at Powers' residence and he denied assisting

in the moving of the Victim's body.

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Natalie Sandifer
Detective
100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337-3867
Badge: 45169

Electronically Signed:
07/24/2024 11:37 AM
Dakota County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Amy Schaffer
Assistant Dakota County
Attorney
1560 Hwy 55
Hastings, MN 55033-2392
(651) 438-4438

Electronically Signed:
07/24/2024 11:23 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

☐ **SUMMONS**

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

☐ **WARRANT**

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

☐ *Execute in MN Only*
☐ *Execute Nationwide*
☐ *Execute in Border States*
☒ **ORDER OF DETENTION**

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: July 24, 2024.

Judicial Officer

Timothy J. McManus
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 07/24/2024 11:55 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

COUNTY OF DAKOTA
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Josephine Ann Powers

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE

I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of Detention upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: