

OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tony Palumbo, County Attorney



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Dec. 2, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Murder charges filed in death of 95-year-old Anoka man

The Anoka County Attorney's Office has filed charges in this week's homicide case involving a 95-year-old Anoka man.

Isaiah Montrell Thomas, 27, of Anoka, is charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

At Thomas' first court appearance in Anoka County District Court Friday morning, Judge Kristin Larson set bail at \$2 million and scheduled the next hearing for Dec. 15.

"This is an offense where everyone is outraged and frustrated at the senseless killing of an elderly gentleman," said Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo. "The killer showed no mercy to the victim. The state will show no mercy to the killer."

The Anoka County Attorney's Office will hold a joint press conference with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and the Anoka Police Department at 1:30 p.m. today at the sheriff's office headquarters, located at 13301 Hanson Blvd NW, Andover.

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2016-02074
Court File No. 02-CR-16-7809

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ISAIAH MONTRELL THOMAS DOB: 09/26/1989

801 East River Road
Anoka, MN 55303

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

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)

Maximum Sentence: 0-40 Years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/25/2016 to 11/27/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16269213

Charge Description: On or about November 25-27, 2016, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, ISAIAH MONTRELL THOMAS, did cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation.

COUNT II

Charge: Murder in the Second Degree (While Committing a Felony)

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.2(1)

Maximum Sentence: 0-40 Years and/or

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/25/2016 to 11/27/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16269213

Charge Description: On or about November 25-27, 2016, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, ISAIAH MONTRELL THOMAS, did cause the death of a human being, without intent to effect the death of any person, while committing or attempting to commit a felony offense other than criminal sexual conduct in the first or second degree with force or violence or a drive-by shooting, to wit: burglary.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

At approximately 10:47 AM on November 28, 2016, officers from the Anoka Police Department and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an elderly male found dead in his home located in the 1200 block of 5th Avenue, in the City of Anoka, within Anoka County.

Upon arrival at the above address, officers located the deceased male in his bedroom, and subsequently identified him as AJL (an adult male with a date of birth of 7-11-1921, fully identified in the reports.) AJL had been living alone at the residence since his wife's death approximately 10 years ago. It was determined that family members had dropped AJL off at his home at the above address on Thanksgiving evening, Thursday, November 24, 2016, and they had discovered his body while dropping off groceries for him on November 28, 2016.

It appeared that AJL had been beaten to death, as officers observed he had severe injuries to his head and face, and noted that there was a significant amount of blood spatter throughout the room. A post-mortem examination was conducted by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office, which classified the manner of death as homicide, with the cause of death being blunt force trauma from multiple blows primarily to AJL's head, face, and neck. The medical examiner preliminarily indicated that AJL had been deceased for at least one day, and more likely two days.

The Anoka County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit processed the home, which included collecting clothing, bedding, multiple swabbings to examine for potential DNA, and fingerprints. CSU personnel located a latent fingerprint on a small wooden box. Forensic analysis of the print, and a comparison of law enforcement databases determined that the print belonged to ISIAH MONTRELL THOMAS (DOB 9-26-1989), the defendant. It should be noted that at the time of the writing of this complaint, no evidence has been discovered which would establish or even suggest that more than one person entered the residence and/or killed AJL.

Further investigation revealed that the defendant intermittently resided at an apartment building located at 801 East River Road, in the City of Anoka. It should be noted that the apartment is less than 1/5th of a mile from AJL's residence.

Detectives then learned that the defendant pawned a small mantle clock at Excel Pawn in Maplewood, MN on November 27, 2016. Officers recovered the clock, which was positively identified by family members as having been taken from AJL's residence. Family members also reported that in addition to the mantle clock and several other items, two pocket watches had been stolen from the residence.

On November 30, 2016, officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in which the defendant was a passenger. The defendant was then taken into custody. Upon a search incident to arrest, officers located a gold pocket watch on the defendant's person.

Efforts were then undertaken to identify associates known to the defendant in order to establish a timeline of his whereabouts during the time frame in question. On December 1, 2016, officers spoke with an individual hereinafter referred to as Witness A (fully identified in the reports). Witness A told officers that on Saturday, November 26, 2016, he was contacted by the defendant, who asked Witness A for a ride. Witness A stated that he was directed to pick up the defendant in the area of 5th Avenue and Street Street in the City of Anoka. This location is less than 1 block North of AJL's home. Witness A reported that the defendant asked him to open the trunk, and the defendant then placed several items into Witness A's trunk. Witness A stated that he dropped the defendant off and did not see him for the remainder of the day. However, Witness A reported that he was then contacted the next day, Sunday, November 27, 2016, by the defendant, who wanted to retrieve items he had left in Witness A's trunk. Witness A advised that he then met with the defendant at a location in Fridley. Witness A told officers that the defendant then stated "shit, man, I fucked up," then continued, "that old man... you'll see it (on the news)." Witness A reported that the defendant told him he planned to flee to California.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

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

Gabriel Lee
Detective
275 Harrison St
Anoka, MN 55303
Badge: 312

Electronically Signed:
12/02/2016 09:41 AM
Anoka County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Wade A. Kish
Assistant County Attorney
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-2265
(763) 323-5550

Electronically Signed:
12/02/2016 09:35 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 on _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM before the above-named court at 325 E Main Street, Anoka, MN 55303 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: December 2, 2016.

Judicial Officer

Kristin Larson

Physically Signed: 12/02/2016 12:00 AM

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

**COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Isaiah Montrell Thomas

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: