

OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

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February 28, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Murder charges filed in fatal beating

The Anoka County Attorney's Office has charged John Joseph Hare, 42, with one count of second-degree intentional murder. A warrant was issued for Hare, who was arrested after fleeing to Nevada.

The charges, filed Feb. 24, stem from the death of David Charles Nelson, 62, who was found fatally beaten in his Coon Rapids home Feb. 23.

Initial medical examiner findings indicate Nelson was dead for at least 24 hours when his body was found. A witness told law enforcement she saw Nelson alive but badly injured on Feb. 20 and that Hare was present and covered with blood.

Hare's first court appearance has not yet been scheduled. Extradition efforts are pending.

The criminal complaint is attached for reference.

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

Feb 25 2022 1:29 PM

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2022-00390
Court File No. 02-CR-22-1107

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN JOSEPH HARE DOB: 01/18/1980

1154 101st Avenue NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Warrant

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: 609.11.4

Maximum Sentence: 0-40 Years Imprisonment.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/21/2022 to 02/21/2022

Control #(ICR#): 22039149

Charge Description: On or about February 21, 2022, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JOHN JOSEPH HARE, did cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

At approximately 10:30AM on February 23, 2022, officers from the Coon Rapids Police Department and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a suspicious death which had occurred at a residence located at 10150 Wintergreen Street NW, in the City of Coon Rapids, within Anoka County.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with family members of David Nelson (DOB 1-18-1960) who advised that they hadn't heard from Nelson for a considerable length of time and went to his residence at the above address to check on him. Family reported that immediately upon entering the residence, they observed Nelson laying on the floor, that he appeared to be deceased, and that there was a significant amount of blood around his body.

Officers then entered the residence and located Nelson, who was in fact deceased. Officers noted that he had significant head trauma, a number of lacerations on his body, and his throat had been deeply slashed. Officers also noted a significant amount of blood spatter in numerous areas of the home. Preliminary information from the Medical Examiner's Office was that Nelson had been deceased for at least 24 hours.

In addition, officers recovered two cell phones in the area adjacent to the body. It was determined that one of the phones belonged to victim Nelson, and the other phone was registered to an individual named JOHN JOSEPH HARE (DOB 1-18-1980), the defendant. Officers also located a bloody hammer in the area near Nelson's body.

Further investigation revealed that the defendant's phone had received a strange text message from HLC, a female acquaintance of the defendant, which appeared to reference Nelson's death. In addition, officers spoke with AJL (an adult female, fully identified in the reports) who is the mother of defendant's child. She advised that at approximately 3:00pm on Monday, February 21, 2022, she had picked the defendant up in the area near Nelson's home, and that the defendant was distraught, and made several statements to her appearing to be commenting on a death.

Officers executed a search warrant on the defendant's home, which is just a few houses down on the same street. Crime Scene Unit detectives recovered wet, freshly washed clothes that smelled strongly of bleach. CSU personnel also located drops of blood in the snow leading to the exterior door of defendant's residence, as well as blood smear on a light switch adjacent to the door.

Officers were able to locate HLC and conducted an interview with her. HLC reported that she was a past girlfriend of the defendant. HLC advised that at approximately 10:12 PM on Sunday, February 20, 2022, she was contacted by the defendant, who stated that he needed her help at the Nelson residence. HLC told officers that just before 11PM that night she arrived at the Nelson residence. She stated that she saw Nelson lying on the floor, covered in blood, but still alive. She reported that the defendant was standing nearby, was shirtless, wearing jeans and boots, and that the defendant's arms, hands, face and chest were covered in blood. HLC was also able to very accurately describe individual elements of the crime scene, with great specificity, without prompting from officers.

HLC stated that the defendant made a comment about Nelson trying to commit suicide, and that Nelson himself then stated, "No I didn't, you kicked my ass." HLC reported that she got Nelson a glass of water, then fled the residence, describing that she was fearful of what the defendant may do to her.

It was discovered that the defendant had another cell phone that he had been using since the Summer of 2021. Officers obtained a search warrant to locate that phone, and the phone was determined to be active in the area of Nye County, Nevada. The defendant was known to have significant ties to that area, including a brother who still resides there.

As the defendant has now fled this jurisdiction, a warrant is being requested to apprehend the defendant, and to enable his return to Minnesota to appear in Anoka County District Court.

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

Joseph Price
Deputy
13301 Hanson Boulevard NW
Andover, MN 55304
Badge: 330

Electronically Signed:
02/24/2022 09:08 PM
Anoka County, MN

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) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:
02/24/2022 09:06 PM

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: Body Only

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: _____, _____.

Judicial Officer <judge name>

Nancy Logering
Logering, Nancy (Anoka
Judge)
2022.02.24 21:25:53 -06'00'

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

**COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

John Joseph Hare

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant
upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: