

FILED

MAR -1 2021

Ravalli County, MT
Justice of the Peace
By _____
Clerk

1 RAVALLI COUNTY ATTORNEY
Bill Fulbright, County Attorney
2 Ravalli County Courthouse
205 Bedford Street, Suite C
3 Hamilton, Montana 59840-2853
(406) 375-6750
4 Attorneys for Plaintiff

5 **IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RAVALLI COUNTY, STATE OF MONTANA**

6 STATE OF MONTANA,) Cause No.: CR 21- <u>54</u>
)
7 Plaintiff,) Dept. No.: <u>1</u> 2
)
8 vs.) FELONY COMPLAINT
)
9 JAMIE MICHAEL CONWAY,)
)
10 Defendant)

11 Bill Fulbright, Ravalli County Attorney, for the State of Montana, accuses JAMIE
12 MICHAEL CONWAY of committing the following crimes in Ravalli County, Montana:


13 CHARGE 1 – DELIBERATE HOMICIDE, a Felony, in violation of § 45-5-102, M.C.A.:

14 On or about February 26, 2021, Defendant JAMIE MICHEL CONWAY purposely or
15 knowingly caused the death of another human being, Peter Vanvallis, in violation of the above
16 statute.

17 CHARGE 2 – ASSAULT WITH A WEAPON, a Felony, in violation of § 45-5-213, M.C.A.:

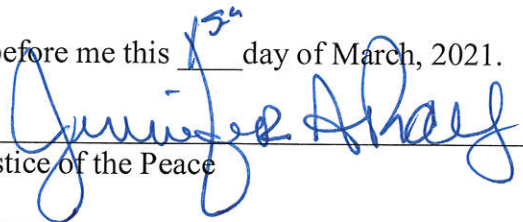
18 On or about February 26, 2021, Defendant JAMIE MICHEL CONWAY purposely or
19 knowingly caused reasonable apprehension of serious bodily injury in Brekkan Greene by use
20 of a handgun, in violation of the above statute.

21 DATED: March 1, 2021.



Bill Fulbright, Ravalli County Attorney

24 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me this 1st day of March, 2021.



Justice of the Peace

1 RAVALLI COUNTY ATTORNEY
2 Bill Fulbright, County Attorney
3 Ravalli County Courthouse
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6 **IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RAVALLI COUNTY, STATE OF MONTANA**

7 STATE OF MONTANA,)
8 Plaintiff,)
9 vs.)
10 JAMIE MICHAEL CONWAY,)
11 Defendant)

Cause No.: CR 21-54
Dept. No. 1/2

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

12 STATE OF MONTANA)
13 : ss
14 County of Ravalli)

15 Bill Fulbright, being first duly sworn, hereby states:

16 I am the Ravalli County Attorney, for the State of Montana, and have reviewed an
17 investigation conducted by Hamilton Police Detective Bob Liercke. The State of Montana
18 now seeks to charge Defendant with the criminal offenses set forth in the *Felony Complaint*
19 filed contemporaneously herewith. The facts which support the charging of the offenses are as
20 follows:

21 The investigation determined that

- 22 • Defendant is a 43-year-old male resident of Ravalli County, Montana,
- 23 • the deceased victim, Peter Vanvallis, was a 52-year-old male resident of
24 Hamilton, Montana, and

- 1 • victim Brekkan Green is a 27-year-old female resident of Hamilton, Ravalli
2 County, Montana, at whose home the below events took place.

3 The investigation further determined that on February 26, 2021, at approximately 10:17
4 p.m., Ms. Greene called the Ravalli County 911 Center to report that there had been a gunshot
5 in her house and she believed a male was dead. Prior to speaking with the dispatcher, Ms.
6 Greene was heard on the phone line yelling, “Go, go, go!” Responding HPD officers
7 determined that Ms. Greene and the deceased victim, Peter Vanvallis, were the only
8 individuals remaining in the residence. Mr. Vanvallis was located lying on the floor inside the
9 residence, blocking the front door in a closed position.

10 Detective Liercke conducted an interview of Ms. Greene who reported that earlier in
11 the evening her male friend, Jason Skaw, had been at her residence, after which Mr. Vanvallis
12 arrived with Brittany Lewis, a female friend. At some point thereafter, Defendant arrived,
13 although Ms. Greene did not know how Defendant arrived at her home.

14 Ms. Greene reported that approximately a week prior to that evening Mr. Vanvallis’
15 residence had been burglarized. Ms. Greene said that earlier in the week another female,
16 Lindsay Jacobson, had been at Ms. Greene’s home when Ms. Greene observed on Ms.
17 Jacobson’s phone a Facebook Messenger conversation between Jacobson and Defendant. In
18 that conversation it appeared that Defendant and Jacobson were talking about being the
19 suspects in the Vanvallis burglary, and spoke disparagingly of Mr. Vanvallis. Mr. Greene
20 reported that she shared this information with Mr. Vanvallis.

21 Ms. Greene reported that shortly before the 911 call, while she and Ms. Lewis were in
22 her bedroom, Defendant and Mr. Vanvallis began arguing in the living room. Mr. Greene
23 went into the living room area briefly, saw Defendant sitting on the couch, with Mr. Vanvallis
24 standing approximately three (3) feet in front of Defendant while they were arguing. After
25

1 returning to the bedroom, Ms. Greene could hear the argument continuing for some time, when
2 she suddenly heard a single gunshot. Ms. Greene reported that she immediately ran into the
3 living room, encountered Jason Skaw running out of the residence though the back door, and
4 saw Mr. Vanvallis leaning against the wall by the front door. Ms. Greene reported that Mr.
5 Vanvallis saw Ms. Greene, called her by name, slid down the wall, and fell to the floor. Ms.
6 Greene reported that she saw Defendant hunched over, pointing his gun at Vanvallis. When
7 Ms. Greene went to Mr. Vanvallis, she looked at Defendant to discover that Defendant was
8 pointing the handgun directly at Ms. Greene's face. Defendant made an announcement similar
9 to, "Is anybody else going to do anything stupid?" Ms. Greene reported that she thought
10 Defendant was going to shoot her at that time, and does not know why he did not shoot. Ms.
11 Greene reported that Defendant backed away until he reached the kitchen, and was doing
12 something with his gun, although she wasn't sure if he was inserting or removing a magazine
13 or something different.

14 Detective Liercke interviewed Jason Skaw. Mr. Skaw reported that he had been in the
15 home when Defendant and Mr. Vanvallis had started arguing, that it wasn't a physical
16 altercation, but Mr. Vanvallis was standing above Defendant when Mr. Skaw heard one
17 gunshot and saw that Mr. Vanvallis had been shot. Mr. Skaw confirmed that Mr. Vanvallis did
18 not have any weapons visible when he was shot. Mr. Skaw reported that he "got scared" and
19 ran out the back of the residence, leaving in Ms. Greene's vehicle, by himself. It was
20 determined that, in fact, Mr. Skaw had an active arrest warrant for violations of his probation
21 status.

22 Detective Liercke participated in executing a search warrant on Ms. Greene's
23 residence. A .40 caliber spent casing was located on a couch cushion, on the couch on which
24 Defendant was reportedly sitting during the shooting. Detective Liercke also observed a bullet
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1 hole in the trim on the interior of the front door, behind which was recovered a single bullet
2 lodged in the sheetrock. The angle of the hole in the door trim was determined to be a steep
3 upward angle, indicating the bullet was fired from a much lower position, consistent with
4 being fired from a seated position on the couch. Det. Liercke also located an unspent .40
5 caliber live round in the kitchen of the home, consistent with the location Ms. Greene reported
6 observing Defendant doing something with his handgun.

7 Outside of the residence, multiple shoe prints and tracks in the fresh snow were
8 examined. After accounting for all of the other individuals, HPD officers found and followed
9 shoe prints that lead from the back of the residence into an alley on the east side of the home.
10 As the prints continued northbound in the alley, the distance from one print to the next made it
11 apparent that the person who left the shoe prints was running. When the assistance of the
12 Ravalli County Sheriff's Office canine, the prints were tracked northbound to a residence at
13 328 Adirondac Avenue. The tracks lead to an area outside of that home where the tracks
14 revealed the person got onto a bicycle and rode away. The bicycle tracks entered the asphalt
15 road and were unable to be followed further.

16 An inspection of Mr. Vanvallis' body determined that he had through and through
17 gunshot wounds in his left hand and his torso. The medical examiner determined that the torso
18 wound was from the left side of the decedent's torso through his right upper back, and opined
19 that "it is possible that a single bullet caused both wounds," as the victim "could have extended
20 his [left] hand toward the gun." The wound evidence suggests that Mr. Vanvallis was not
21 facing Defendant when shot, but instead was facing sideways to Defendant, who on the couch
22 to Mr. Vanvallis' left.

23 On February 28, 2021, Defendant made arrangements with Ravalli County Sheriff
24 Steve Holton to be brought to the police department by Sheriff Holton. When Defendant
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1 surrendered to Sheriff Holton, Defendant turned over to the Sheriff a .40 caliber Glock semi-
2 automatic handgun. After receiving a *Miranda* warning, Defendant participated in an
3 interview with Detective Liercke. Defendant reported that he was at Ms. Greene's house the
4 night of the shooting with the other individuals identified above, and that he regularly open-
5 carries his .40 caliber Glock handgun for self-protection. Defendant further reported that Mr.
6 Vanvallis was arguing with him about something for which Vanvallis was "blaming"
7 Defendant, but Defendant claimed that he "wasn't paying much attention," and that Mr.
8 Vanvallis stood up and "pulled a gun" on Defendant. Again, Defendant claimed he "didn't
9 think much of it" because Mr. Vanvallis was his friend. Defendant then claimed that he first
10 thought Mr. Vanvallis was going to "butt stroke" him with the gun, but that Vanvallis then
11 pointed the gun at Defendant. Defendant admitted that he then pulled his gun from his holster
12 and shot Mr. Vanvallis once. During the search of Ms. Greene's home and Mr. Vanvallis'
13 body, no handgun or other weapon was found.

14 Defendant claimed that he was then afraid of what everyone else in the house was
15 going to do to him, that they were "yelling" at him, but he refused to give up his gun for his
16 own safety. Defendant reported that his handgun jammed, and that he cleared the jam while he
17 was in the kitchen, consistent with the location where the live .40 caliber round was located in
18 the search.

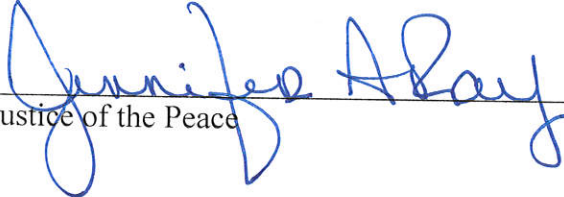
19 Defendant further reported that he "thought someone" would call 911, and admitted
20 that he left the residence through the back door, went into the adjacent alley, and walked
21 northbound. Defendant claimed that he did not run, but walked to Adirondac Avenue, and
22 then to the Town Pump North, further north on 1st Street, after which he then walked to
23 Corvallis where he "found a place to sleep." Defendant denied getting onto a bicycle, but,
24
25

1 when confronted with the evidence of foot prints of an individual running, admitted that he did
2 run until he was far enough away from the residence that he "felt safe."

3 DATED: March 1, 2021.

4 
5 Bill Fulbright, Ravalli County Attorney

6 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN before me this 15th day of March, 2021.

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8 Justice of the Peace

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