

BRADLEY D. BILLHIMER
Ocean County Prosecutor

ANTHONY U. CARRINGTON
Chief of Detectives



MICHAEL T. NOLAN, JR.
First Assistant Prosecutor

MICHAEL WEATHERSTONE
Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
119 Hooper Avenue
P.O. Box 2191
Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2191
732-929-2027
www.OCPONJ.gov

September 19, 2025

Resident

Via OPRA machine: opra+request-80137-f529d014@requests.opramachine.com

Re: Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request
OCPO Case #19003231

Dear Resident:

This office is in receipt of your request for records under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA). Enclosed please find the documents pursuant to your request. Personal identifying information has been redacted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1, et seq. Additionally, criminal history record information has been redacted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:59-2.4.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

/s/Dina R. Khajezadeh
Dina R. Khajezadeh
Assistant Prosecutor

DRK/dk
Enclosures

COMPLAINT - WARRANT

COMPLAINT NUMBER				<i>THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY</i> <i>VS.</i> JERAY K MELTON ADDRESS: 112 ANDERSON DR SALEM CITY NJ 08079-0000	
1506	W	2019	000916		
COURT CODE	PREFIX	YEAR	SEQUENCE NO.		
BRICK TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COURT 401 CHAMBERS BRIDGE BRICK NJ 08723-0000 732-262-1226 COUNTY OF: OCEAN					
# of CHARGES 4	CO-DEFTS 1	POLICE CASE #: 57483-19		DEFENDANT INFORMATION SEX: M EYE COLOR: BROWN DOB: [REDACTED] 1991 DRIVER'S LIC. #. [REDACTED] DL STATE: NJ SOCIAL SECURITY # [REDACTED] SBI #: 582709D TELEPHONE #: [REDACTED] LIVSCAN PCN # 150603005561	
COMPLAINANT NAME: MARK BYRNE DET. 401 CHAMBERS BRDG RD ATTN WARRANTS BRICK TOWN NJ 08723					

By certification or on oath, the complainant says that to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief the named defendant on or about 09/07/2019 in **BRICK TWP**, **OCEAN** County, NJ did: **DID COMMIT THE CRIME OF MURDER WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COURT, BY KNOWINGLY OR PURPOSELY CAUSING THE DEATH OF, OR KNOWING OR PURPOSELY CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY INJURY RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF MARK RICHARD AUSTIN**

WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COURT, DID KNOWINGLY POSSESS A BASEBALL BAT DURING THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME AGAINST A PERSON UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES NOT MANIFESTLY APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH LAWFUL USE

WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COURT, DID KNOWINGLY POSSESS A BASEBALL BAT WITH THE PURPOSE TO USE IT UNLAWFULLY AGAINST MARK R AUSTIN

WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COURT, PURPOSELY DID CONSPIRE WITH ANOTHER PERSON OR PERSONS TO COMMIT THE CRIME OF MURDER BY AGREEING WITH SUCH PERSON OR PERSONS THAT THEY OR ONE OR MORE OF THEM WOULD ENGAGE IN CONDUCT THAT WOULD in violation of:

Original Charge	1) 2C:11-3A(1)	2) 2C:39-5D	3) 2C:39-4D
Amended Charge			

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Signed: **MARK BYRNE DET.** Date: **09/13/2019**

You will be notified of your Central First Appearance/CJP date to be held at the Superior Court in the county of **OCEAN** at the following address: **OCEAN SUPERIOR COURT**
100 HOOPER AVE
Date of Arrest: **09/13/2019** Appearance Date: Time: **TOMS RIVER NJ 08753-0000** Phone: **732-244-2121**

PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION AND ISSUANCE OF WARRANT

☐ Probable cause IS NOT found for the issuance of this complaint.

Signature of Court Administrator or Deputy Court Administrator Date Signature of Judge Date

☒ Probable cause IS found for the issuance of this complaint. **MICHELE EDGIN JUDICIAL OFFICER** 09/13/2019
Signature and Title of Judicial Officer Issuing Warrant Date

TO ANY PEACE OFFICER OR OTHER AUTHORIZED PERSON: PURSUANT TO THIS WARRANT YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO ARREST THE NAMED DEFENDANT AND BRING THAT PERSON FORTHWITH BEFORE THE COURT TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT.

Bail Amount Set: by: (if different from judicial officer that issued warrant)

☐ Domestic Violence - Confidential

☐ Related Traffic Tickets or Other Complaints

☒ Serious Personal Injury/ Death Involved

Special conditions of release:

- ☐ No phone, mail or other personal contact w/victim
- ☐ No possession firearms/weapons
- ☐ Other (specify):

ORIGINAL

COMPLAINT - WARRANT

COMPLAINT NUMBER

1506

W

2019

000916

STATE V.

JERAY K MELTON

COURT CODE

PREFIX

YEAR

SEQUENCE NO.

CONSTITUTE THE CRIME OF MURDER OR AN ATTEMPT OR SOLICITATION TO COMMIT THE CRIME OF MURDER

Original Charge

4) 2C:5-2A(1)
2C:11-3A(1)

Amended Charge

COMPLAINT - WARRANT

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NJ/CDR2 1/1/2017

COMPLAINT – WARRANT (Court Action)

COMPLAINT NUMBER				STATE V. JERAY K MELTON			
1506	W	2019	000916				
COURT CODE	PREFIX	YEAR	SEQUENCE NO.				
FTA Bail Information		Date Bail Set: _____		Amount Bail Set: \$ _____		by: _____	
Released on Bail (v)	R.O.R.	Committed Default	Committed w/o Bail	Place Committed: _____		☐ Bail Recog. Attached Date Referred to _____ County Prosecutor: _____	
Date of First Appearance: _____		☐ Advised of Rights by _____				Defendant Desires Counsel: ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Prosecuting Attorney Information				Defense Counsel Information			
Name: _____				Name: _____			
State	County	Municipal	Other	None	Retained	Public Def	Assigned
							Waived
							Other
Original Charge	1) 2C:11-3A(1)		2) 2C:39-5D		3) 2C:39-4D		
Amended Charge							
Waiver Ind/Jury							
Plea/Date of Plea	Plea: _____	Date: _____	Plea: _____	Date: _____	Plea: _____	Date: _____	
Adjudication (* see code)	Finding Code: _____	Date: _____	Finding Code: _____	Date: _____	Finding Code: _____	Date: _____	
Jail Term		Jail time credit	Susp. Imp		Jail time credit	Susp. Imp	
Probation Term			Susp. Imp			Susp. Imp	
Cond. Discharge Term							
Community Service							
D/L Suspension Term							
Fines/Costs	Fines: _____	Costs: _____	Fines: _____	Costs: _____	Fines: _____	Costs: _____	
VCCB/SNSF	VCCB: _____	SNSF: _____	VCCB: _____	SNSF: _____	VCCB: _____	SNSF: _____	
DEDR/Lab Fee	DEDR: _____	LAB: _____	DEDR: _____	LAB: _____	DEDR: _____	LAB: _____	
CD Fee/Drug Ed Fnd	CD: _____	DAEF: _____	CD: _____	DAEF: _____	CD: _____	DAEF: _____	
DV Surch/Other Fees	DV: _____	Other: _____	DV: _____	Other: _____	DV: _____	Other: _____	
Restitution Beneficiary: _____							
Miscellaneous Information, Adjournments, Companion Complaints, Co-Defendants, Case Notes: Related Traffic Tickets and Complaints:						* Finding Codes 1 – Guilty 2 – Not Guilty 3 – Dismissed – Other 4 – Guilty but Merged 5 – Dismissed-Rule 6 – Dismissed Lack of Prosecution 7 – Dismissed – Pros Motion/Vic Req 8 – Conditional Discharge D – Dismissed- Prosecutor Discretion M – Dismissed- Mediation P – Dismissed-Plea Agreement S – Disposed at Superior W – Dismissed-False ID	
JUDGE'S SIGNATURE _____				DATE _____			
COMPLAINT - WARRANT (Court Action)				Page 3 of 10			
				NJ/CDR2 1/1/2017			

COMPLAINT – WARRANT (Court Action)												
COMPLAINT NUMBER						STATE V. JERAY K MELTON						
1506	W	2019	000916									
COURT CODE		PREFIX	YEAR		SEQUENCE NO.							
FTA Bail Information						Date Bail Set: _____			Amount Bail Set: \$ _____ by: _____			☐ Bail Recog. Attached
Released on Bail (v)		R.O.R.	Committed Default	Committed w/o Bail	Place Committed: _____			Date Referred to County Prosecutor: _____			Defendant Desires Counsel: ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Date of First Appearance: _____				☐ Advised of Rights by _____								
Prosecuting Attorney Information						Defense Counsel Information						
Name: _____						Name: _____						
State	County	Municipal	Other			None	Retained	Public Def	Assigned	Waived	Other	
Original Charge		4) 2C:5-2A(1) 2C:11-3A(1)										
Amended Charge												
Waiver Indt/Jury												
Plea/Date of Plea		Plea: _____	Date: _____		Plea: _____	Date: _____		Plea: _____	Date: _____			
Adjudication (* see code)		Finding Code: _____	Date: _____		Finding Code: _____	Date: _____		Finding Code: _____	Date: _____			
Jail Term			Jail time credit	Susp. Imp		Jail time credit	Susp. Imp		Jail time credit	Susp. Imp		
Probation Term				Susp. Imp			Susp. Imp			Susp. Imp		
Cond. Discharge Term												
Community Service												
D/L Suspension Term												
Fines/Costs		Fines: _____	Costs: _____		Fines: _____	Costs: _____		Fines: _____	Costs: _____			
VCCB/SNSF		VCCB: _____	SNSF: _____		VCCB: _____	SNSF: _____		VCCB: _____	SNSF: _____			
DEDR/Lab Fee		DEDR: _____	LAB: _____		DEDR: _____	LAB: _____		DEDR: _____	LAB: _____			
CD Fee/Drug Ed Fnd		CD: _____	DAEF: _____		CD: _____	DAEF: _____		CD: _____	DAEF: _____			
DV Surch/Other Fees		DV: _____	Other: _____		DV: _____	Other: _____		DV: _____	Other: _____			
Restitution Beneficiary: _____												
Miscellaneous Information, Adjournments, Companion Complaints, Co-Defendants, Case Notes:								* Finding Codes 1 – Guilty 2 – Not Guilty 3 – Dismissed – Other 4 – Guilty but Merged 5 – Dismissed-Rule 6 – Dismissed Lack of Prosecution 7 – Dismissed – Pros Motion/Vic Req 8 – Conditional Discharge D – Dismissed- Prosecutor Discretion M – Dismissed- Mediation P – Dismissed-Plea Agreement S – Disposed at Superior W – Dismissed-False ID				
Related Traffic Tickets and Complaints:												
JUDGE'S SIGNATURE _____						COMPLAINT - WARRANT (Court Action)						
DATE _____						Page 4 of 10 NJ/CDR2 1/1/2017						

COMPLAINT - WARRANT

COMPLAINT NUMBER				THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	
1506	W	2019	000916	VS.	
COURT CODE	PREFIX	YEAR	SEQUENCE NO.	JERAY K MELTON	
BRICK TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COURT 401 CHAMBERS BRIDGE BRICK NJ 08723-0000 732-262-1226 COUNTY OF: OCEAN				ADDRESS: 112 ANDERSON DR SALEM CITY NJ 08079-0000	
# of CHARGES 4	CO-DEFTS 1	POLICE CASE #: 57483-19	DEFENDANT INFORMATION SEX: M EYE COLOR: BROWN DOB: [REDACTED]/1991 DRIVER'S LIC. # [REDACTED] DL STATE: NJ SOCIAL SECURITY # [REDACTED] SBI #: 582709D TELEPHONE #: [REDACTED] LIVESCAN PCN #: 150603005561		
COMPLAINANT NAME: MARK BYRNE DET.					

By certification or on oath, the complainant says that to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief the named defendant on or about 09/07/2019 in **BRICK TWP**, **OCEAN** County, NJ did: DID COMMIT THE CRIME OF MURDER WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THIS COURT, BY KNOWINGLY OR PURPOSELY CAUSING THE DEATH OF, OR KNOWING OR PURPOSELY CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY INJURY RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF MARK RICHARD AUSTIN

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in violation of:

Original Charge	1) 2C:11-3A(1)	2) 2C:39-5D	3) 2C:39-4D
Amended Charge			

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment

Signed: **MARK BYRNE DET.**

Date: 09/13/2019

You will be notified of your Central First Appearance/CJP date to be held at the Superior Court in the county of OCEAN at the following address: OCEAN SUPERIOR COURT 100 HOOPER AVE TOMS RIVER NJ 08753-0000
Date of Arrest: 09/13/2019 Appearance Date: Time: Phone: 732-244-2121

PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION AND ISSUANCE OF WARRANT

☐ Probable cause IS NOT found for the issuance of this complaint.

Signature of Court Administrator or Deputy Court Administrator

Date

Signature of Judge

Date

☒ Probable cause IS found for the issuance of this complaint. **MICHELE EDGIN JUDICIAL OFFICER** 09/13/2019
Signature and Title of Judicial Officer Issuing Warrant Date

TO ANY PEACE OFFICER OR OTHER AUTHORIZED PERSON: PURSUANT TO THIS WARRANT YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO ARREST THE NAMED DEFENDANT AND BRING THAT PERSON FORTHWITH BEFORE THE COURT TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT.

Bail Amount Set: by:

(if different from judicial officer that issued warrant)

☐ Domestic Violence - Confidential

☐ Related Traffic Tickets or Other Complaints

☒ Serious Personal Injury/ Death Involved

Special conditions of release:

- ☐ No phone, mail or other personal contact w/victim
- ☐ No possession firearms/weapons
- ☐ Other (specify):

COMPLAINT - WARRANT (DEFENDANT'S COPY)

COMPLAINT - WARRANT

COMPLAINT NUMBER

1506

W

2019

000916

STATE V.

JERAY K MELTON

COURT CODE

PREFIX

YEAR

SEQUENCE NO

CONSTITUTE THE CRIME OF MURDER OR AN ATTEMPT OR SOLICITATION TO COMMIT THE CRIME OF MURDER

Original Charge

4) 2C:5-2A(1)
2C:11-3A(1)

Amended Charge

COMPLAINT - WARRANT (DEFENDANT'S COPY)

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COMMITMENT

COMPLAINT NUMBER

1506**W****2019****000916**

COURT CODE

PREFIX

YEAR

SEQUENCE NO

BRICK TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COURT
401 CHAMBERS BRIDGE
BRICK NJ 08723-0000
732-262-1226 COUNTY OF: OCEAN

of CHARGES 4 CO-DEFTS 1 POLICE CASE #: 57483-19

COMPLAINANT MARK BYRNE DET.
NAME 401 CHAMBERS BRDG RD
ATTN WARRANTS
BRICK TOWN NJ 08723

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**VS.****JERAY K MELTON**

ADDRESS: 112 ANDERSON DR

SALEM CITY**NJ 08079-0000****DEFENDANT INFORMATION**

SEX: M EYE COLOR: BROWN DOB: [REDACTED] 1991
DRIVER'S LIC. # [REDACTED] DL STATE: NJ
SOCIAL SECURITY # [REDACTED] SBI #: 582709D
TELEPHONE #: ()
LIVESCAN PCN #: 150603005561

To any Law Enforcement Official of New Jersey, You are commanded to transport this defendant to the Warden of this county who is required to keep the defendant in custody until a release or detention decision is made.

	Offense	Aux Offense	Drug Code	Degree	Offense Description
1.	2C:11-3A(1)			1	MURDER - PURPOS
2.	2C:39-5D			4	UNLAWFUL POSS W
3.	2C:39-4D			3	POSS OF WEAPON
4.	2C:5-2A(1)	2C:11-3A(1)		1	CONSPIRACY - AG

Commitment Reason: Criminal Justice Reform

You will be notified of your Central First Appearance/CJP date to be held at the Superior Court
at the following address: OCEAN SUPERIOR COURT
100 HOOPER AVE

in the county of OCEAN

TOMS RIVER

NJ 08753-0000

Date of Arrest: 09/13/2019

Phone: 732-244-2121

MICHELE EDGIN JUDICIAL OFFICER

09/13/2019

Signature and Title of Judicial Officer Issuing Warrant

Date

COMMITMENT

Affidavit of Probable Cause

COMPLAINT NUMBER

1506**W****2019****000916**

COURT CODE

PREFIX

YEAR

SEQUENCE NO

BRICK TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COURT
401 CHAMBERS BRIDGE
BRICK NJ 08723-0000
732-262-1226 COUNTY OF: OCEAN

of CHARGES
4

CO-DEFTS

POLICE CASE #:
57483-19

COMPLAINANT MARK BYRNE DET.
NAME: 401 CHAMBERS BRDG RD
ATTN WARRANTS
BRICK TOWN NJ 08723

*THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**VS.***JERAY K MELTON**

ADDRESS: 112 ANDERSON DR

SALEM CITY**NJ 08079-0000**

DEFENDANT INFORMATION

SEX: M EYE COLOR: BROWN

DOB: [REDACTED] 1991

DRIVER'S LIC. # [REDACTED]

DL STATE: NJ

SOCIAL SECURITY # [REDACTED]

SBI #: 582709D

TELEPHONE # [REDACTED]

LIVESCAN PCN #: 150603005561

Purpose: This Affidavit/Certification is to more fully describe the facts of the alleged offense so that a judge or authorized judicial officer may determine probable cause.

1. Description of relevant facts and circumstances which support probable cause that (1) the offense(s) was committed and (2) the defendant is the one who committed it:
(SEE APPENDIX A)

Affidavit of Probable Cause

Affidavit of Probable Cause

COMPLAINT NUMBER

1506**W****2019****000916**

COURT CODE

PREFIX

YEAR

SEQUENCE NO.

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**VS.****JERAY K MELTON**

2. I am aware of the facts above because: (Included, but not limited to: your observations, statements of eyewitnesses, defendant's admission, etc.)

3. If victim was injured, provide the extent of the injury:

Certification:

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Signed: MARK BYRNE DET. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Date: 09/13/2019

Affidavit of Probable Cause**Page 9 of 10****1/1/2017**

Preliminary Law Enforcement Incident Report

COMPLAINT NUMBER				THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY VS. JERAY K MELTON ADDRESS: 112 ANDERSON DR SALEM CITY NJ 08079-0000	
1506	W	2019	000916		
COURT CODE	PREFIX	YEAR	SEQUENCE NO.		
BRICK TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL COURT 401 CHAMBERS BRIDGE BRICK NJ 08723-0000 732-262-1226 COUNTY OF: OCEAN					
# of CHARGES 4	CO-DEFTS	POLICE CASE #: 57483-19		DEFENDANT INFORMATION SEX: M EYE COLOR: BROWN DOB: [REDACTED] 1991 DRIVER'S LIC. #. [REDACTED] DL STATE: NJ SOCIAL SECURITY #. [REDACTED] SBI #: 582709D TELEPHONE #: [REDACTED] LIVESCAN PCN #: 150603005561	
COMPLAINANT NAME: MARK BYRNE DET. 401 CHAMBERS BRDG RD ATTN WARRANTS BRICK TOWN NJ 08723					

Purpose: The Preliminary Law Enforcement Incident Report (PLEIR) is intended to document basic information known to the officer at the time of its preparation. It is recognized that additional relevant information will emerge as an investigation continues. The PLEIR shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, any regular police arrest, incident, or investigation reports. Note that the PLEIR is specific to each defendant charged in an investigation.

- The defendant made statements/admissions.
 - It was recorded using:
 - *Stationhouse interview room camera
- The defendant was known to the victim as:
 - Other/Explain SON'S FRIEND
- The victim was injured and:
 - Victim transported to medical facility
- A weapon was involved in the incident:
 - Other/Explain BASEBALL BAT
- Physical evidence was seized/recovered:
 - Weapon(s)
- The case involves a search warrant(s).
- The case involves a consent search.
- The investigation involved the seizure of one or more cellphones, computers or similar electronic devices.
 List the type of device(s) and total number of each recovered: **5 CELL PHONES, 1 LAPTOP**

Certification:

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Signed: **MARK BYRNE DET. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** Date: **09/13/2019**

Preliminary Law Enforcement Incident Report

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7/20/2018

**SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF OCEAN**

*****ARREST AFFIDAVIT*****

- A. On Saturday, September 7, 2019, Brick Township Police (C# 57483-19), responded to [REDACTED] following a 9-1-1 call placed at approximately 2307 hours by Michael Rodgers (DOB: [REDACTED] 1953, SSN: [REDACTED] in reference to an unresponsive male. Upon arrival, responding officers found the front door of the residence to be unlocked and subsequently made entry. They subsequently discovered what appeared to be a person covered in blankets in the living area to the right.
- B. Upon removal of the blankets, police discovered the body of Mark Austin (DOB: [REDACTED] 1963, SSN: [REDACTED] with apparent blunt force trauma to the face. The victim was pronounced dead via telemetry at 2328 hours by Dr. Delmaestro of Newark Beth Israel Hospital. As a result of not knowing if the actor was still in the residence, police cleared the residence.
- C. Patrol Officers spoke with the decedent's ex-wife, Barbara Austin (DOB: [REDACTED] 1963, SSN: [REDACTED]), and the decedent's friend, Jeremy Londino (DOB: [REDACTED] 1993, SSN: [REDACTED]) outside of the residence. The following information was related by the two.
- D. On Saturday, September 7, 2019, at approximately 1947 hours, Londino received a phone call from the decedent, requesting that Londino bring him water and chips. Londino arrived at the residence at approximately 2100 hours and used the rear door to make entry. Subsequent to entering the residence, Londino discovered the body of the decedent on the sofa in the front living area. Londino stated that he noticed blood spatter on the walls and ceiling. Londino then called his friend Artie. Artie was identified as Arthur Smith (DOB: [REDACTED] 1965, SSN: [REDACTED]).
- E. Londino and Smith responded to Barbara Austin's boyfriend's residence at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Austin's boyfriend was identified as Michael Rodgers.

- F. Londino, Smith, and Austin then responded back to [REDACTED]. Upon arrival, the three entered through the rear door of the residence and observed the body of the decedent. Austin noticed a baseball bat on the floor and picked up the same, leaning it on the wall and cabinet in the kitchen of the residence.
- G. The three left the residence. Smith drove Austin back to [REDACTED]. Austin related to Rodgers what she observed while at the residence. Austin and Rodgers subsequently called 9-1-1.
- H. On September 8, 2019, at approximately 0233 hours, a Court authorized Search Warrant was authorized telephonically by the Honorable Therese Cunningham, J.S.C. A search of the residence was conducted pursuant to said Search Warrant. The search yielded one baseball bat with apparent blood transfer and hair located in the kitchen of the residence leaning against a cabinet and the wall. Located in the back room near the back entrance of the residence were a beer, spoon, and a belt. Located on the table in the backroom was, what appeared to be, an apparatus used for ingesting narcotics.
- I. Located in the front of the residence was a black in color 2010 Ford F150 bearing New Jersey Registration Number [REDACTED]. Said vehicle was found to be registered to Carol Lehman of [REDACTED].
- J. On Thursday, September 8, 2019, Detective Murphy and Detective Byrne conducted an audio/video recorded statement of Mark J Austin in regards to this investigation. The interview was conducted at the Brick Township Police Department. During the course of the interview with Mr. Austin, he related that he resides at [REDACTED] with the decedent, whom he identified as his father. According to Austin, on September 6, 2019, he slept at his residence along with his four (4) year old a child. He woke up on September 7 at approximately 0700 hours and made breakfast for him and his son.
- K. Austin stated that at approximately 1315 hours, he had a conversation with the decedent who advised that he was going to Bayonne, New Jersey, presumably to purchase heroin from an individual that he only knows as "Shadow." The

decedent also related to Austin that he needed Austin to travel to a location on State Highway 70, near the intersection of State Highway 72, to pick up a black male who would be standing on the side of the road.

- L. It was at that time that Austin left the residence and dropped his son off at his mother's residence located on [REDACTED]
- M. After dropping his son off at Austin's mother's house, Austin travelled to the aforementioned location on Highway 70, where he picked up a black male that he described as wearing a red baseball cap and had a beard. He then drove said male back to his residence at [REDACTED] in Brick Township, where, according to Austin, the decedent told him that the unidentified male could stay in his room until the decedent returned home.
- N. Subsequent to dropping off the unidentified male at his residence, Austin took his dogs and dropped them off at his mother's house. He remained there for a period of time and then returned to his residence, picked up the unknown male, and dropped him off around the location he picked him up at earlier in the day. Austin stated that he did not mind doing so because he planned on going to a bonfire in Whiting, NJ.
- O. Austin advised that after dropping off the unidentified male, he decided to take a ride to Philadelphia, where he purchased two cheesesteaks.
- P. Austin advised that at approximately 2300 hours he received a phone call from his neighbor across the street. The neighbor told him that he needed to return home and that something happened to his father. He eventually told Austin that his father was deceased and after pulling over numerous times to calm himself down, he returned to the residence where he was met by law enforcement.
- Q. During the interview, Austin advised that he drove himself to Brick Police Headquarters in a white Volkswagen Jetta. A look up of vehicles registered to Austin yielded a New Jersey registration number [REDACTED] described as a white in color 2006 Volkswagen Jetta registered to Mark J Austin bearing vehicle identification number 3VWST71K16M791408.
- R. Subsequent to the interview, Austin's cell phone and smart watch were seized from his person pending application for a Court authorized Search Warrant.

- S. On Sunday, September 8, 2019 at approximately 1930 hours, a post mortem examination was conducted on the body of the decedent. The examination, which took place at Community Medical Center in Toms River, New Jersey, was conducted by Dr. Ian Hood of the Ocean County Medical Examiner's Office. Dr. Hood determined the cause of death of Mark Austin to be blunt trauma to the head and face and the manner of death to be homicide.
- T. On Monday, September 9, 2019, officers returned to the residence located at [REDACTED] in Brick Township to continue processing the scene. Recovered from the residence was a black in color cell phone with a cracked screen and "ZTE" written in gray lettering on the back in the center of the phone. Also located on a desk in the residence was gold in color Samsung SM-N950F/DS bearing serial number R38JBOLVKAT.
- U. On Sunday, September 8, 2019, a Search Warrant for the Samsung Galaxy Note 10 was drafted by Detective Dennis Mitchell of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and subsequently approved by Chief Trial Attorney Michael Weatherstone. The Search Warrant was authorized by the Honorable Therese A. Cunningham, J.S.C., at approximately 1313 hours.
- V. An extraction of the cellphone was conducted by Detective Ray Coles of the High Tech Crime Unit. A review of the extraction yielded a Wyze Labs application on the device. Said application can be used to review and store video surveillance from synced cameras. A review of the content yielded video surveillance from the victim's residence at [REDACTED] on September 7, 2019. Said footage is contradictory to statements made by Austin to police. Austin previously told police that the cameras in the residence have not worked for several days and that there would not be video footage from September 7, 2019. The email account associated with the Wyze account was found to be [REDACTED].
- W. On Monday, September 9, 2019, Communications Data Warrants were drafted by Detective Dennis Mitchell of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit for the telephone facilities [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Said telephone facilities are were found to belong to the victim and Mark J. Austin, respectively. The Communications Data Warrants were approved by Chief Trial Attorney

Michael Weatherstone and approved by the Honorable Guy P. Ryan, J.S.C.

- X. A review of the documentation provided pursuant to said Warrants was conducted. On September 7, 2019, the victim's phone, as well as Mark J. Austin's, were in the area of [REDACTED] at approximately 1600 hours. At approximately 2101 hours, the victim's cell phone was located in area of Route 70 and Route 539. Mark J. Austin's phone appears to travel west on Route 70 from the hours of 2040 hours to 2125 hours which was documented as a result of the previously issued warrants.
- Y. A review of video surveillance collected from the Wawa located at 135 NJ-70, in Lakewood Township shows a white vehicle pull into the fueling area. A male exits the vehicle and walks into the store to make a purchase at approximately 2043 hours. The male was identified through the surveillance to be Mark J. Austin.
- Z. On Tuesday, September 10, 2019, Detective Dennis Mitchell of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit completed the Search Warrant Return for the residence located at [REDACTED] in Brick Township. Among the items taken from the residence were a black in color Synology Diskstation, Model DS1812+ network area storage drive, a HP M7-J010DX laptop bearing serial number 6CG3352FS, an Apple iPad A1567, and Apple iPad A1395 bearing serial number F5RKR655DKPH, a Seagate SRD0SP0 External Drive bearing serial number NA5AG9RJ, a Western Digital Passport External Hard drive serial number WXE1A174JS2F, a Western Digital WD1600UO-17-004 External Drive bearing serial number WXE107697021, a Sandisk 32GB Micro USB, a Sandisk 64GB MicroSD Card serial number 627DPEYK08M, a HP Presario C700 laptop serial number CND742093Y, a HP TC1100 laptop serial number KRD53009V, and a Toshiba Satellite A205-S5000 laptop serial number 68148276K.
- AA. On Thursday, September 9, 2019 the forensic extraction of the gold in color Samsung SM-N90F/DS was reviewed pursuant to a Court authorized Search Warrant. The cellular device was identified as an old phone belonging to Mark J. Austin. Said extraction yielded a conversation using the application Facebook Messenger between Austin and an individual using the Facebook handle "Jeray

Melton." "Jeray Melton" was identified as Jeray Melton (DOB: [REDACTED] 1991, SSN: [REDACTED]). The only visible text in the chat was sent by Melton to Austin. The messages starting on September 7, 2019 at 1915 hours read as follows:

"This shit"

"He went in his room to do his hit he told me he was a junky he noticed the cameras"

"He said someone is on there way"

"K"

"[image: thumbs up]"

"I'm ready but he said someone is coming"

BB. Detective John Carroll, of this office, spoke with Melissa Jones of the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, in reference to Jeray Melton. Ms. Jones related that Melton and Austin were bunkmates from March 2016 to May 2016 at the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility.

CC.



DD. A search of an online law enforcement database was conducted by detective for Jeray Melton. Said search yielded a possible phone number for Jeray Melton as [REDACTED] with an address of [REDACTED] as of March 7, 2019. A search of an online law enforcement database was conducted

by detective for Jeray Melton. Said search yielded a possible phone number for Jeray Melton as [REDACTED] with an address of [REDACTED] as of March 7, 2019.

- EE. A subpoena for subscriber information was sent to Sprint Wireless. A response pursuant to said subpoena showed the subscriber to be Baron Smith, Jr of [REDACTED]
- FF. On September 12, 2019, this Affiant was provided with information from the Salem County Prosecutor's Office that Jeray Melton was stopped by police on two occasion in May 2019 and one occasion in July 2019. On all three occasions Melton provided officers with the address of 112 Anderson Drive, Salem City, New Jersey. Furthermore, Melton was observed by a detective from the Salem County Prosecutor's Office in a vehicle registered to Teonna Nelson. Nelson is a known associate of Melton. The vehicle was observed parked in front of the residence 112 Anderson Drive as of September 13, 2019.
- GG. Based on the aforementioned information Detective Dennis Mitchell of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit made an application for a telephonic search warrant for the residence 112 Anderson Drive, Salem City, New Jersey. The Search Warrant was authorized by the Honorable Therese Cunningham, J.S.C.
- HH. On September 13, 2019 Melton was observed leaving the residence of 112 Anderson Drive and entering a 2010 grey Chrysler Sebring, Pennsylvania registration [REDACTED] This is the same vehicle Melton was observed driving on the night of September 12, 2019.
- II. Detectives from Salem County Prosecutor's Office executed a motor vehicle stop on the vehicle and Melton was taken into custody. Melton was transported back to the Salem County Prosecutor's Office. Melton was interview by Detective John Murphy of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and Detective Mark Byrne of the Brick Township Police Department, prior to the interview, Melton was advised of his Miranda warnings and waived same.
- JJ. During the subsequent interview Melton admitted that on September 7, 2019, he was transported by Mark Austin to [REDACTED] Brick, New Jersey. While at

the residence Melton said Austin threatened him with a handgun and forced Melton to strike Austin's father multiple times in the head with a bat resulting in his death.

- KK. Melton stated that after striking the victim multiple times in the head with a bat Austin drove Melton back to his residence in Salem City. Melton further stated that Austin had Melton remove his clothing, place it in a garbage bag. Austin then poured bleach into the garbage bag and through the clothing into a dumpster in Salem City.
- LL. Melton stated that he communicated with Austin via Facebook Messenger.

DET. Mark Byrne #177
Detective Mark Byrne
Brick Township Police Department

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION - OCEAN COUNTY

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

VS. :

JERAY K. MELTON
MARK J. AUSTIN

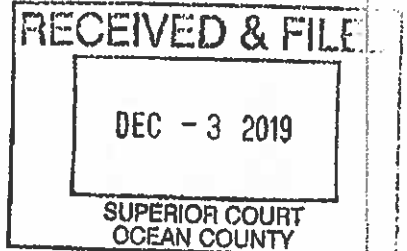
Defendants :

INDICTMENT

NO. 19-12-1883

COUNT ONE

MURDER-FIRST DEGREE



The Grand Jurors of the State of New Jersey, in and for the County of Ocean, upon their oaths present that JERAY K. MELTON and MARK J. AUSTIN, on or about September 7, 2019, in the Township of Brick, County of Ocean, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, did purposely or knowingly cause the death of Mark R. Austin or did purposely or knowingly cause serious bodily injury to Mark R. Austin resulting in his death, contrary to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(1) or N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(2), and against the peace of this State, the Government and dignity of the same.

COUNT TWO

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER-FIRST DEGREE

The Grand Jurors of the State of New Jersey, in and for the County of Ocean, upon their oaths present that JERAY K. MELTON and MARK J. AUSTIN, on or about September 7, 2019, in the Township of Brick, County of Ocean, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, with the purpose of facilitating the crime of Murder, did agree that they or one or more of them would engage in conduct which would constitute the aforesaid crime or did agree to aid each other in the planning or commission of said crime, that is, purposely or knowingly

causing the death of Mark R. Austin or purposely or knowingly causing serious bodily injury resulting in the death of Mark R. Austin, contrary to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(1) or 2, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2, and against the peace of this State, the Government and dignity of the same.

COUNT THREE

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON-FOURTH DEGREE

The Grand Jurors of the State of New Jersey, in and for the County of Ocean, upon their oaths present that JERAY K. MELTON and MARK J. AUSTIN, on or about September 7, 2019, in the Township of Brick, County of Ocean, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, knowingly did possess a certain weapon, that is, a baseball bat, under circumstances not manifestly appropriate for such lawful uses as it may have, contrary to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5d, and against the peace of this State, the Government and dignity of the same.

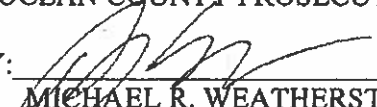
COUNT FOUR

POSSESSION OF A WEAPON FOR AN UNLAWFUL PURPOSE-THIRD DEGREE

The Grand Jurors of the State of New Jersey, in and for the County of Ocean, upon their oaths present that JERAY K. MELTON and MARK J. AUSTIN, on or about September 7, 2019, in the Township of Brick, County of Ocean, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, did possess a certain weapon, that is, a baseball bat, with a purpose to use it unlawfully against the person or property of another, contrary to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4d, and against the peace of this State, the Government and dignity of the same.

BRADLEY D. BILLHIMER
OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR

DATED: 12/3/19

BY: 

MICHAEL R. WEATHERSTONE
ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

ENDORSED: 

Foreperson

Superior Court of New Jersey
Law Division, Ocean County

THE STATE

VS.

JERAY K. MELTON
MARK J. AUSTIN

INDICTMENT NO.

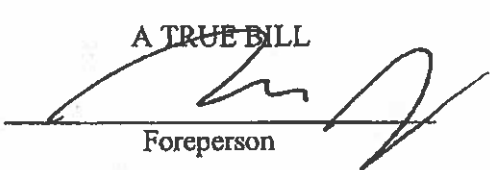
19-12-1883

INDICTMENT FOR

MURDER
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER
UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON
POSSESSION OF A WEAPON FOR AN UNLAWFUL PURPOSE

BRADLEY D. BILLHIMER
Ocean County Prosecutor

A TRUE BILL


Foreperson

Bail

BOTH: Eligible defendant
under Bail Reform - Detained

Condition Of Bail
