

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SUMMARY OF OFFENSE AND PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT

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LCSO CASE # 11-18445
DETECTIVE: D. Odham
VICTIM: L. Herring & S. Conner

TO: FIRST APPEARANCE MAGISTRATE

DEFENDANT: Deshon Thomas
CHARGES: 2 cts. 1st Degree Murder

DATE ARRESTED: _____

FILED
FEB 7 2011
CLERK OF COURT
FOR COUNTY OF FLORIDA

11 FEB - 7 PM 4: 02

FILED

SUMMARY OF OFFENSE AND PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT

THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT WAS ARRESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON

On Thursday, January 27, 2011, Laqecia Herring and her juvenile brother, Sterling Conner were found dead inside their home located at 1740 Corey Wood Circle in Tallahassee, Florida.

Through interviews with family members, it was determined that Deshon Thomas and Laqecia attended middle school together. Approximately seven months ago, Deshon and Laqecia began talking and started a relationship. About a month into their relationship, Laqecia realized she was pregnant.

When Laqecia informed Deshon of her pregnancy, he offered to, and gave her approximately \$140.00 to go to a location at Cross Creek in Tallahassee so Laqecia could start the abortion process. It was reported Laqecia changed her mind and decided to not carry out the abortion. When the decision was made by Laqecia to not follow through with the abortion, Deshon decided not to have her as a friend on his face book site and stopped talking to her altogether.

According to family, Deshon and Laqecia began talking again approximately two weeks ago.

On Tuesday night, January 25, 2011, Deshon reportedly went to Laqecia's residence for a visit being extremely nice to her.

Later on during interviews, Lashonda Perkins, (Laqecia mother's significant other) reported Laqecia had told her that she told Deshon on Tuesday night she "Was still going to put him on child support."

After the two victims were located, it was determined that foul play was involved and a search warrant for 1740 Corey Wood Circle was obtained. During the search, Laqecia's cell phone was located. After looking through the cell phone, the following text messages were sent/received on January 26, 2011.

8:48PM - Sent from Deshon to Laqecia

AO, where are you at?

8:47PM - Sent from Laqecia's phone number (850) 566-2236 to Deshon

On my way home

IN
COMPUTER

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8:49PM - Reply from Deshon's phone number (850) 459-0690 to Laqecia

Who gonna be there?

8:49PM - Reply from Laqecia's number to Deshon

Me, Nina and Sterling might be.

8:51PM - Reply from Deshon to Laqecia

What's his number?

8:58PM - Reply from Laqecia to Deshon

His phone broke.

8:58PM - Reply from Laqecia to Deshon

About 10:30

9:00PM - Reply from Deshon to Laqecia

I'm coming over there when I get off

9:31PM - Reply from Laqecia to Deshon

What time do you get off?

9:37PM - Reply from Deshon to Laqecia

1 Something

9:38PM - Reply from Laqecia to Deshon

Okay

9:43PM - Reply from Deshon to Laqecia

Let me know when Sterling get there.

9:43PM - Reply from Laqecia to Deshon

Okay

10:59PM - Message sent from Laqecia's phone to Deshon's

Sterling here.

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*** END TEXT MESSAGES ***

Prior to the discovery of the deceased at approximately 10:19AM on January 27, 2011 their mother advised she attempted to call Laqecia's cellular phone several times. These calls were observed on Laqecia's phone as missed calls. The last known communication made by Laqecia was the 10:59PM text noted above.

After obtaining cellular site data for Deshon Thomas' phone records provided by AT&T, it was discovered that his cell phone was hitting off of the cellular tower in the area of State Road 20 and Capital Circle North West at approximately 0414 and 0415 hours on January 27, 2011. These times are associated to an outgoing and incoming text message.

Due to the discovery of the information provided by Laqecia's family members, her phone records and her involvement with Deshon Thomas, it is believed that he is responsible for the death of the two deceased individuals.

During the course of the investigation, a witness advised that she/ he has seen Deshon Thomas in possession of a 9mm handgun and that the handgun is kept at Thomas' residence located at 1555 Delaney Drive, Apt 309. The witness stated that he/ she has observed the weapon at this location (1555 Delaney Drive, Apt 309) numerous times. The witness has seen this weapon at the residence within the last 10 days. The witness knows this to be Deshon Thomas' weapon. The witness is familiar with handguns and recognized the weapon as a 9mm semi-automatic pistol.

An autopsy of the victims confirmed that both victims died as a result of gunshot wounds consistent with small caliber rounds. Additionally, the autopsy confirmed that Laqecia was approximately 21 weeks pregnant.

On the evening of 1/27/11, a traffic stop was conducted where contact was made with Deshon Thomas. At that time, he was observed to be wearing shoes that were consistent with a tread pattern found at the scene of the crime.

Also, there were no signs of forced entry to the residence, no obvious items removed, no signs of a struggle having occurred, and due to the positioning of the victims bodies this scene appeared consistent with the suspect having been known to the victim's. The front door to the residence was reportedly locked to include the door knob and deadbolt. The rear door was found open (possible exit point).

On Friday evening, 1/28/2011, at approximately 1900 hours Deshon Thomas along with his mother arrived at the LCSO duty office requesting to speak with anyone investigating the death of Laqecia Herring and Sterling Conner. During a post Miranda interview Mr. Thomas stated he had known Ms. Herring and her brother, Mr. Conner, since middle school and renewed their friendship last year. He advised that he lived with Ms. Herring for a short period and during that time, "I think we conceived, I think I got her pregnant." He was confident of her pregnancy since he administered a pregnancy test with a positive result while he was living with her.

Mr. Thomas advised Ms. Herring and he had been discussing aborting the baby, but Ms. Herring changed her mind and decided to not have an abortion because they did not have the money for the abortion. Also, he said Ms. Herring advised due to medical conditions she did not want to have a late abortion. During this time they ended their relationship because of "all kind of things" and decided to keep the baby.

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Mr. Thomas advised that there was no problem with Ms. Herring having the baby since his mother was going to assist him with the finances for raising the baby including child support. He said this baby would be his first child.

Mr. Thomas advised he had not seen Ms. Herring since last year but she continued to text and communicate with him on Facebook.

He advised that on Wednesday morning, 01/26/2011 he woke up late after working at Taco Bell the night before so he did not go to school and stayed at home all day until he went to work later that evening. While at work Ms. Herring texted him several messages requesting they get together when he got off work. Mr. Thomas assumed she wanted to discuss about getting back together. Mr. Thomas texted Ms. Herring he "may or may not" go by her residence to see her because he works late and needed to catch the city bus to school the next day at 7 a.m. Upon leaving work, Mr. Thomas advised he went to his residence, went to sleep and did not go to Ms. Herring's residence.

Mr. Thomas' statement that he returned to his residence on Delaney Dr. immediately after work is not consistent with Mr. Thomas's cell phone cell site tower records.

Thursday, 01/27/2011 Mr. Thomas stated he did not go to school and woke up late in the afternoon. He advised his girlfriend, Brittney Little, texted him, about 5 or 5:30p.m., asking where Ms. Herring lives. He responded she lived at Wolf Creek off of Highway 20. She responded to him by text message advising him to watch the news. He said he watched the 5:30 news and was at a loss for words and shocked about seeing the news about his friends.

On Friday 04 February 2011, Trentin Ross (Deshon Thomas' roommate) voluntarily responded to this agency for an interview.

On 27 January 2011, Trentin and Deshon went out. Trentin advised that prior to leaving their apartment complex on Delaney Dr. He observed Deshon place a black bag containing what he believed to be the three guns that Deshon owned. He described the guns as a Tech-9 9mm, another 9mm and a revolver into the trunk of the vehicle they were driving.

Trentin advised that on 27 January 2011 shortly after 0200 hours, they went to a friend's (B.J.) house and then to a female's house on November Ct. After leaving the female's house they drove around the area of the victim's residence. They eventually parked across the street (Hwy 20) from the victim's residence. Deshon had him pull the lever to open the trunk of the vehicle. Deshon retrieved something, Trentin believed to be a gun from the trunk. Trentin stayed in the vehicle while Deshon walked away in the direction of the victim's residence. Deshon was wearing a black "hoodie" and had his hand inside the hoodie as he walked away. Trentin observed lights coming on and off inside the victim's residence. Sometime later Deshon sent him a text requesting Trentin to let him know when the highway was clear. Trentin sent Deshon a text telling him the highway was clear. Trentin heard two shots and then a large truck drove by. Trentin observed Deshon coming towards the vehicle. He did not see Deshon come out of the back door, but the door was open and it had not been open earlier. Deshon came to the vehicle, at which time Trentin observed that Deshon was shaking, sweaty and "looked like he had seen a ghost". Deshon told him "it ain't like it is in the movies". Deshon had Trentin drive to the parking lot of the Family Dollar. Deshon told him, "now is not the time to make mistakes". Deshon instructed Trentin to back up to the dumpsters. Deshon exited the vehicle, at which time it appeared that Deshon put something into the dumpster.

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They drove to several other locations before returning to their residence. Later that morning Trentin overheard Deshon talking to someone outside the apartment. He heard Deshon say "two to the head, she was slumped over in the chair and little crab lying on the floor with a blanket over his head".

Trentin advised that the same evening Deshon dropped off the Tech-9 9mm off at a female's apartment on Blountstown Street. Using the information that Trentin provided, the Tech-9 9mm was recovered Saturday 05 February 2011 by this agency.

It should be noted that Laqecia was found sitting in a chair slumped to one side. Sterling was found lying on the floor completely covered from head to toe with blankets. Both victims suffered from gun shot wounds to the head.

Approved
ASA

THE PRECEDING IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE OR BELIEF.

SIGNATURE Det. [Signature]

AGENCY: LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NOTARIZATION:

SWORN AND SUBSIBED BEFORE ME THIS 7 DAY
OF FEB 2011.

Det. Dennis

NOTARY PUBLIC / ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY / L.E.O.

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: FULL TIME L.E.O.

ORDER

THIS CAUSE coming before me as a First Appearance Magistrate, and having reviewed the preceding affidavit, this court finds:

- Probable Cause Is Sufficient
- Probable Cause Is NOT Sufficient

[Signature]
JUDGE

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