

IN THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA
CRIMINAL BRANCH

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA,
Plaintiff,

) DCSO20180021043
) M02610
)
)

vs.

) DOC. _____ NO. _____
)
)

Craig A. Wiech
DOB 2/16/66, data #2024148
Defendant,

)
) AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLAINING
)

WITNESS

)
)

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

Deputy M. DeChellis S-408, being duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that your affiant is a resident of the State of Nebraska, and a Deputy Douglas County Sheriff.

At 2156 hours on the 26th of August 2018 a subject, who identified himself as a Bellevue Police Officer, called 911. The subject, later identified as WIECH, Craig A. stated that his girlfriend, later identified as BROWN, Carrie A., was dead. WIECH provided his address of 18911 L St, Omaha, Douglas County, NE. Wiech told the 911 operator, "My girlfriend is, like, like, shot herself." WIECH stated later in the phone conversation, "I'm in so much trouble."

At 2201 hours, Omaha Fire and Rescue arrived at 18911 L St. Omaha Firefighters MITCHELL and CRAIG were the first responders at the scene. MITCHELL advised they found WIECH in the open garage. Firefighter CRAIG went to speak with WIECH, while MITCHELL went into the house to find the injured victim. MITCHELL advised she found BROWN in the master bedroom with a gunshot wound to the right side of her jaw. MITCHELL advised there was a large pool of coagulated blood

on the bed. BROWN was located on the floor next to the bed. MITCHELL advised she checked for a pulse on BROWN'S left wrist. MITCHELL advised there was no pulse, the victim was cold to the touch and BROWN displayed signs of Rigor Mortis. Forensic Pathologist Dr. ELIEFF advised investigators the rigor mortis noted by firefighter MITCHELL indicated a time of death a minimum of forty five minutes prior to MITCHELL'S examination of the body.

Firefighter CRAIG advised that when he spoke with WIECH, WIECH appeared to be intoxicated. CRAIG stated WIECH was uncooperative and refused to provide information CRAIG requested with the goal of potentially aiding in the treatment of BROWN. CRAIG advised WIECH became combative and attempted to strike CRAIG with a closed fist, but CRAIG was able to move out of the way. CRAIG advised WIECH then walked around and punched the firetruck. Firefighter CRAIG continued to speak to WIECH and WIECH again swung a closed fist at CRAIG. CRAIG was able to avoid being hit by this punch as well.

Uniformed law enforcement officers Dep. Charles GABLE (S-464) and Officer GIRARD of the Omaha Police Department were also dispatched to the scene. Dep. GABLE observed WIECH to be uncooperative and belligerent on the scene and noted he refused to obey commands to stay seated. Dep. GABLE observed WIECH punch Omaha Police Officer GIRARD in the chest. WIECH was arrested for this assault. WIECH resisted arrest and was forcibly taken to the ground and handcuffed, resulting in a superficial head wound that bled onto his body and clothing. WIECH was placed in a DCSO marked cruiser and held while an initial investigation of the scene was undertaken.

Dep. J. MASS (S-367), the acting supervisor for the Douglas County Sheriff's Road Patrol responded to the scene. MASS gathered information from Dep. GABLE and firefighter MITCHELL. MASS viewed the room that contained the body of Carrie BROWN and noted inconsistencies between BROWN'S final position and the blood-shed event. MASS requested assistance from Lt. RINN (S-363) of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Bureau. Lt. RINN and your affiant responded to the scene.

A walk-through of the residence was completed to identify perishable items of evidence in need of immediate protection or

collection and to gather information. No items were touched nor was any evidence collected at that time. The following observations were made:

- The home's garage door was open and two folding chairs were set up near the entrance with a black stool nearby that appeared to be used as a table.
- The garage was in disarray with an ashtray, cell phone, and miscellaneous credit cards and cigarette butts strewn about behind the vehicles.
- A substance that appeared to be blood transfer was noted on hose and hose reel that was mounted on the garage wall. The hose was observed to be incompletely shut off and dripping water.
- Further apparent blood transfer was noted on the lid of a trash can located inside the garage.
- A heavy rain fall had occurred since the arrival of law enforcement and fire personnel that removed any potential biological evidence that may have existed in the home's yard or driveway.
- Two vehicles were parked in the garage; later determined to belong to WIECH and BROWN.
- The door jamb of the garage to home walk-through door had been split along its center axis and the strike plate was missing. Your affiant has observed this type of damage at multiple crime scenes at which entry had been forced through a locked door.
- The carpets in the basement and living areas were extremely clean and had lines in the pile consistent with recent vacuuming.
- Suspected blood transfer was noted on the basement to landing staircase handrail. This blood appeared to be dry.
- The kitchen was in disarray, a state notably at odds with the condition of most of the living areas.
- On the kitchen floor was a picture that appeared to have been knocked off of the wall. Also scattered on the floor was the partial contents of a bag of Chex Mix.
- On the kitchen counter to the left of the sink was a women's purse with its contents dumped out. Items of venue indicated that this purse belonged to Carrie BROWN.
- More Chex Mix was observed on the carpet of the hallway leading to the South-West master bedroom.

Master bedroom:

- A large pool of coagulating blood was noted in the center of the bed. Blood was also observed on pillows and sheets on the bed. The continuity of blood from the coagulating pool to the sheets and pillows appeared to be broken, indicating scene manipulation post event.
- The body of Carrie BROWN was observed to be lying on its left side on the floor just South of the bed.
- BROWN's head was wedged between the bed and an adjacent night stand, facing up. A large apparent gun-shot wound was observed on the right side of the jaw.
- Blood transfer in an apparent smear pattern was noted on the front of the body's thighs, causing your affiant to suspect the body was moved after the blood shed event. This blood appeared to have dried.
- BROWN's left hand was lying flat and towards the feet. Her right hand was lying across the body with a clenched fist placed on top of a Glock 43 9mm handgun that was on the ground just behind the lip of the bedframe.
- The handgun was completely covered with and full of liquid blood. Your affiant noted the hand resting on the gun was not substantially coated with blood, nor was the carpet area surrounding the gun. Your affiant noted that these inconsistencies further indicated post-bloodshed event scene manipulation.

Based upon your affiant's observations, he requested and was granted search warrants for 18911 L St, Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska and for the collection of physical evidence from the person of Craig WIECH. These search warrants were duly served by your affiant and other investigators and crime scene technicians employed by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

The search warrant on the home was served by Dep. T. Cruise (S-424) and Sgt. Kramer (S-368), assisted by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Investigations Unit. The following pertinent facts and items of evidence were noted, collected, and documented:

- A 9mm bullet was found inside a pillow on the bed. Forensic testing later confirmed this bullet was fired from the Glock 43 recovered

near the body. The owner of this gun was determined to be Craig WIECH.

- Damaged fabric from the blue sweatshirt worn by Carrie BROWN at the time of her death was recovered near the bullet. It was determined the bullet that had entered BROWN's jaw exited on the other side of her neck and passed through the shoulder of this sweatshirt prior to coming to rest in the pillow. This indicated a downward trajectory in relation to the body.
- When BROWN's body was moved, a spent 9mm cartridge with dried blood on its exterior was found stuck to the carpet under the body. The cartridge contained and was covered in dried, coagulating blood but almost no blood was observed on the carpet around it, indicating post bloodshed event scene manipulation.
- The feet of BROWN's body were wrapped in a blanket, the ends of which were still attached to the bed.
- A black trigger guard suitable for use on the Glock 43 was found wrapped in these blankets.
- In a later interview with Craig WIECH's Bellevue Police Department supervisor Sgt. Don PLEISS, it was determined that WIECH commonly carried the involved Glock 43 with a black trigger guard as a secondary weapon.
- Inside the master bedroom's attached bathroom, blood transfer was found on the medicine cabinet. Testing later determined that a swab of this transfer was positive for blood and BROWN'S profile was the major contributor. There were also two minor contributors, which included WIECH's profile.
- Inside the medicine cabinet was a jewelry cleaner container with red stains from which swabs were collected. Testing later determined a swab of these stains was positive for blood with BROWN's profile as the major contributor and WIECH's profile as a minor contributor.
- In the cleaning solution were two women's rings, later confirmed to be BROWN's engagement and wedding rings, both of which she received from WIECH. Later testing of a swab from the rings tested positive for blood with BROWN's profile as the major contributor and WIECH's profile as the minor contributor.
- On BROWN's left ring finger a void pattern in dried blood was present consistent with the presence of these rings on her finger at the time of the bloodshed event. The void pattern indicated the

blood spatter on the hand substantially dried prior to the removal of the rings.

- Samples of the blood on the hose, hose reel, and basement stairs railing were collected and later analyzed. In all three, the DNA profile was determined to be that of Carrie BROWN.
- Additional pieces of Chex Mix similar to that in the kitchen were found near the body in the master bedroom.
- In the laundry room wet clothing was found in the washing machine. This clothing included salmon colored shorts which subsequent investigation determined WIECH to have worn in the day and hours preceding the death of BROWN. WIECH's wearing of these shorts was confirmed by the witness testimony of neighbors and video evidence.

While the warrant was being served at the residence, your affiant and Lt. RINN attempted to interview WIECH at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and also served the warrant for collection of physical evidence from his person.

- WIECH chose not to make any factual statements to investigators. Your affiant noted that at no time in his contact with the 911 operator or the first responders did he indicate the presence of any persons in the home other than himself and BROWN. No physical evidence was found that would indicate the presence of any third parties and a later review of personal electronics indicated the phones of BROWN and WIECH were present in the home throughout the late evening hours during which the death occurred.
- The clothing worn by WIECH at the time of his arrest was collected. Blood was found on WIECH's clothing. It was determined to be his own blood and was likely attributable to the head wound he sustained during his arrest. No blood belonging to BROWN was found on his person. None of his limited statements explained the presence of BROWN's blood throughout the residence or its lack of presence on his person.
- Blood was drawn from WIECH approximately eight hours after the time that he had placed the 911 call. His BAC at that time was determined to be 0.112 +/- 0.001 grams of ethanol per 100 ml. of blood.

A neighborhood canvas was conducted. Resident Jerry AUSTIN advised he observed WIECH and BROWN sitting on chairs in the garage of 18911 L

St. at approximately 1800 hrs. He described BROWN as acting “weird”, noting that she was staring away from WIECH and did not acknowledge AUSTIN as he passed and waved at her.

Deputies learned that Zachary R. PAULISON had been helping a friend move out of 18917 L St. on the night of the death. He advised he saw WIECH and BROWN sitting in their home’s garage between 1800 and 1900 hrs. When PAULISON drove past the house at approximately 2145 hrs. he observed WIECH sitting calmly in the garage alone. This was approximately ten minutes prior to WIECH’s 911 call.

WIECH was arrested for the charge of assault on an officer. That case is currently still pending in Douglas County District court. Investigators monitored WIECH’s communications while he was incarcerated for the charge of assault on an officer and also interviewed persons with whom he spoke about the incident after his release on bond. WIECH’s account of the night varied depending on whom he was speaking to but none of his statements explained the observed alterations to the scene or the fact that BROWN’s blood was smeared around the house after her death but was not found on WIECH’s clothing or person.

Dr. ELIEFF performed an autopsy on BROWN’s body on 27Aug18. She determined that the cause of death was a near contact gunshot wound to the head/neck. Time of death was established as a minimum of forty five minutes prior to MITCHELL’s examination of the body. Witness statements placed WIECH sitting calmly in the garage long after this presumed time frame for the death by gunshot.

Based on the above information your affiant respectfully requests a felony arrest warrant for Tampering with Physical Evidence, a Class IV Felony be issued for Craig A. Wiech, w/m DOB 2/16/66 data #2024148, 5’11”, 190 lb, brown eyes and brown hair.

This affiant further states that he has probable cause to believe and does believe the crime was committed as charged in said complaint filed, that he believes the said defendant committed the said crime as indicated by the facts set out herein; and that the prosecution has sufficient evidence to warrant the conviction of the defendant for the crime charged.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2020.

_____.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Judge of the County Court of Douglas County, Nebraska