



# Office of the Washington County Attorney

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Kevin Magnuson, County Attorney

## News Release

**Contact:** Amanda Fehlen, Criminal Analyst

**Phone:** 651-430-6115

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** July 30, 2024

### **Man sentenced in Newport transit center murder**

STILLWATER, Minn. – A Newport man was sentenced to over 30 years in prison Tuesday for the murder of his cousin in 2023, Washington County Attorney Kevin Magnuson announced.

Sylvester T. Jones, 39, pleaded guilty to intentional second-degree murder in May. On July 30, the Honorable Siv Mjanger sentenced Jones to 367 months in prison. The sentence was the result of a plea agreement that requires Jones to serve the maximum presumptive sentence called for by the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines.

At his guilty plea hearing, Jones admitted to shooting his cousin, Terrell E. McIntyre, multiple times while McIntyre sat in the driver's seat of an SUV in the parking lot of the Newport transit center. The Washington County Sheriff's Office was called to the scene of the shooting after a witness saw McIntyre slumped over in the driver's seat of the SUV.

Investigators worked with local businesses to review outside surveillance footage and track Jones as he left the area. Investigation into prior law enforcement contacts led authorities to a home on the 1700 block of 1st Avenue, just blocks from where the shooting took place. The Washington County Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT team assisted in executing a search warrant at the residence that night, and Jones was taken into custody. A gun was located on the floor of Jones's bedroom.

Magnuson stated, "Our thoughts go out to the family of the victim of this totally senseless crime. Any homicidal violence in our community is terrifying but, thankfully, rare. This dangerous person is off the street and I thank the prosecutors, Marc Berris and Keshini Ratnayake, for their hard work. I also commend the Washington County Sheriff's Office, assisting law enforcement agencies, and the citizens who came forward to help in this case."

In addition to the 367-month prison sentence, Jones was ordered to pay a total of \$8,500 in restitution for reimbursement of funeral expenses.

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State of Minnesota  
County of Washington

District Court  
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CR-2023-284  
Court File No. 82-CR-23-484

**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**SYLVESTER TREMAINE JONES DOB: 04/16/1985**

1738 1st Avenue  
Newport, MN 55055

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Order of Detention

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: Dangerous Weapon – Firearm Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated**

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.19.1, 609.11.5(a)

Maximum Sentence: 40 years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/06/2023

Control #(ICR#): 23006377

Charge Description: cause the death of T.E.M. with intent to effect the death of the victim or another, but without premeditation

**STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

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Your complainant is a licensed Minnesota peace officer and is employed by the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Your complainant offers the following statement to establish probable cause:

At 10:50 a.m. on February 6, 2023, Washington County sheriff's deputies responded to a welfare check at the Newport transit station located in the City of Newport, Washington County, Minnesota. A 911 caller reported that there was a male in the driver's seat of a black Ford SUV who was slumped over in the vehicle. The caller also reported that there appeared to be a pool of blood on the ground below the vehicle.

Deputies arrived and located a black 2016 Ford Escape with its front driver's side door open, and a male slumped in the driver's seat with his left leg hanging outside of the vehicle. The deputies determined that the male was deceased. The deputies located multiple spent .22 caliber ammunition casings inside of the vehicle and on the ground just outside of the vehicle. The vehicle had no damage to suggest that shots were fired through the vehicle from outside of it.

A sheriff's detective interviewed the 911 caller, who said that earlier in the morning he had seen a Black male walking from the direction of the SUV towards the adjacent apartment complex. The caller said that this person was between 5' 10" and 6', weighing between 170 and 200 pounds, having a scruffy beard, and wearing a black stocking cap, black jacket, dark jeans, and a hoodie sweatshirt with lettering on it. The caller said that approximately 20 to 30 minutes later he saw that the SUV was still there, that the front driver's side door was open, and that the person in the driver's seat was slumped over and hanging out of the vehicle. The caller said he yelled out to the vehicle and when he received no response he called 911.

The decedent was identified as T.E.M. Detectives reviewed Washington County Sheriff's Office records and learned that a vehicle owned by T.E.M. was being driven by SYLVESTER TREMAINE JONES, d/o/b 4/16/1985, when he came in contact with law enforcement on August 17, 2022. The detectives also learned that this same vehicle had been issued a parking citation on November 15, 2022 when it was parked in front of 1738 1st Avenue North in Newport. The detectives also learned that JONES resides at this location, which is approximately three blocks from the Newport transit station where T.E.M. was discovered. JONES's driver's license photograph shows him to be a Black male with a beard. A detective spoke with a relative of T.E.M. and was told that T.E.M. and JONES were cousins.

The detectives obtained surveillance video from the apartment complex that is adjacent to the transit station parking lot. The video documented that T.E.M. arrived at the transit station in the Ford Escape at 9:34 a.m. At 9:44 a.m. a male matching the description provided by the 911 caller walked through the apartment complex parking lot, approached the passenger side of T.E.M.'s vehicle, and got into the vehicle. Approximately 19 seconds later the male exited from T.E.M.'s vehicle and walked out of view of the camera. At 10:50 a.m. the 911 caller is shown checking on T.E.M. and calling 911.

The detectives also obtained surveillance video from two area businesses just to the south of the transit station. One of these videos shows the suspect walking northbound on 1st Avenue in the area of 20th Street, and approximately seven minutes later this same person walked southbound on Maxwell Avenue, then crossed 21st Street towards 1st Avenue, then walked southbound on 1st Avenue. The second video also shows the suspect first walking northbound on 1st Avenue, then southbound on 1st Avenue approximately nine minutes later.

The detectives sought and were granted a search warrant which authorized a search of JONES's residence at 1738 1st Avenue. During a subsequent search the detectives located a Sig Sauer .22 caliber handgun on the floor of JONES's bedroom. Also located in the home were several boxes of .22 caliber ammunition. In a laundry basket in the home the detectives located a black jacket, black pants, and a black vest with a white emblem, all of which matched the clothing worn by the suspect as shown in the various security videos and the 911 caller's description.

JONES was in his home when the search warrant was served and he was arrested. In a post-Miranda interview JONES admitted to shooting T.E.M. JONES said that he had exchanged text messages with T.E.M. about meeting at the apartment complex parking lot and that T.E.M. was supposed to bring JONES to a Target store. JONES said that he shot T.E.M. between eight and ten times.

An autopsy was performed on T.E.M. and seven bullets or bullet fragments were recovered from his body. The medical examiner concluded that T.E.M. died from the multiple gunshots, including one which entered the right side of his body, causing damage to his lungs, aorta, and esophagus. A second gunshot entered T.E.M.'s leg and severed his femoral artery. Either of these two injuries would have been fatal.

JONES is in custody.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: YOU MUST APPEAR FOR EVERY COURT HEARING REGARDING THIS CASE. FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR COURT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE AND MAY RESULT ON ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES BEING IMPOSED AND PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 609.49.

**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**

Matthew OHara  
Deputy Sheriff  
15015 62nd Street N  
PO Box 3801  
Stillwater, MN 55082-3801  
Badge: 149

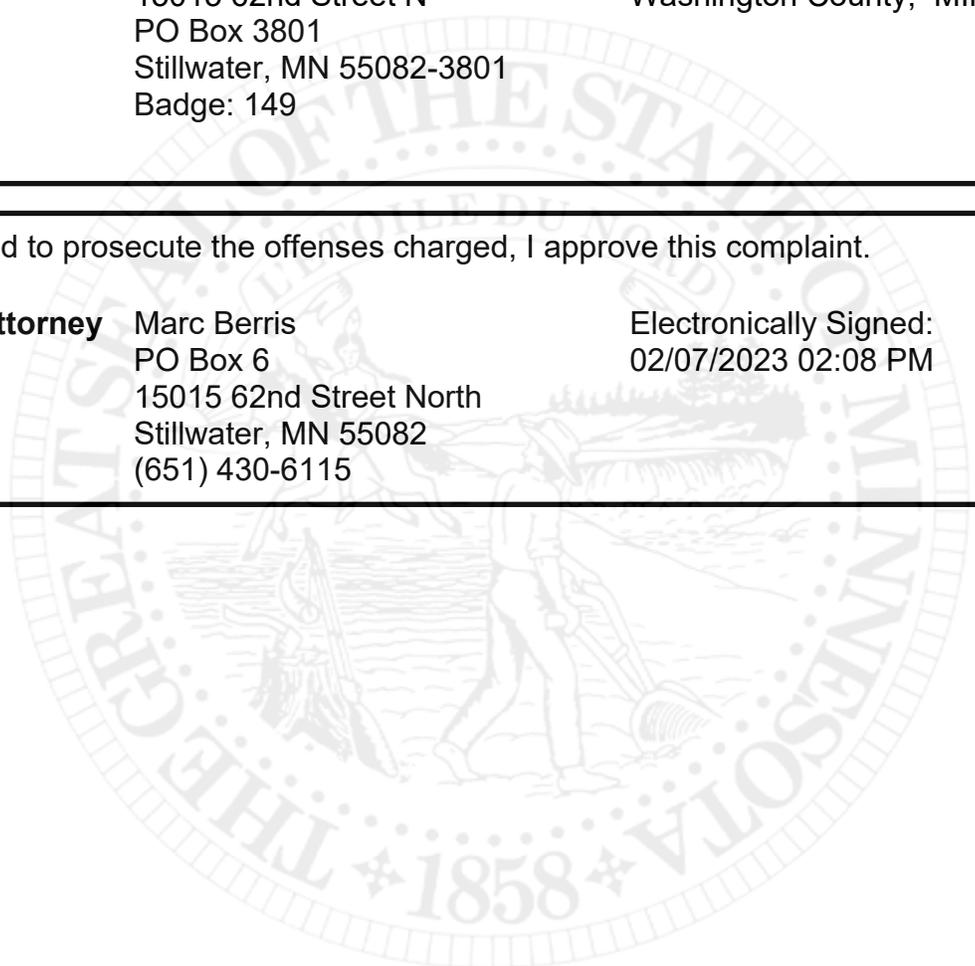
Electronically Signed:  
02/07/2023 02:08 PM  
Washington County, MINNESOTA

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Marc Berris  
PO Box 6  
15015 62nd Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
(651) 430-6115

Electronically Signed:  
02/07/2023 02:08 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:

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: February 7, 2023.

**Judicial Officer**

Laura A Pietan

Electronically Signed: 02/07/2023 02:58 PM

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

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Sylvester Tremaine Jones**

Defendant

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

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

82-CR-23-484  
**DEFENDANT FACT SHEET**

*Filed in District Court  
State of Minnesota  
2/7/2023*

**Name:** Sylvester Tremaine Jones  
**DOB:** 04/16/1985  
**Address:** 1738 1st Avenue  
Newport, MN 55055  
  
**Alias Names/DOB:**  
**SID:** MN06026153  
**Height:**  
**Weight:**  
**Eye Color:**  
**Hair Color:**  
**Gender:** MALE  
**Race:**  
**Fingerprints Required per Statute:** Yes  
**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:** Yes  
**Driver's License #:** A091097074910 (MN)  
**Alcohol Concentration:**

**STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID**

<b>Cnt Nbr</b>	<b>Statute Type</b>	<b>Offense Date(s)</b>	<b>Statute Nbrs and Descriptions</b>	<b>Offense Level</b>	<b>MOC</b>	<b>GOC</b>	<b>Controlling Agencies</b>	<b>Case Numbers</b>
1	Charge	2/6/2023	609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated	Felony	H2011	N	MN0820000	23006377
	Modifier	2/6/2023	609.11.5(a) Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm Use or Possession	Felony	H2011	N	MN0820000	23006377
	Penalty	2/6/2023	609.19.1 Murder - 2nd Degree	Felony	H2011	N	MN0820000	23006377

