

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF ALLEN } SS:

FELONY

02D05-2106-MC-001691

IN THE AI State of Indiana v. Cohen B Hancz-Barron

CAUSE NO. _____

FYPD Control # 21F057755

STATE OF INDIANA
VS. }
COHEN B. HANCZ-BARRON

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE

FILED
JUN 3 2021
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

1. The undersigned swears and affirms, under the penalties for perjury, that he/she has good cause to believe that:
On or about the 2nd, day of June, 2021
In the County of Allen and in the State of Indiana said Defendant did knowingly commit the crime(s) of **Counts I-IV, Murder**
2. The Defendant, COHEN B HANCZ-BARRON, is described as being: **WHITE, MALE, 10-22-1999**
3. The Affiant, BRIAN MARTIN, is an officer of the Fort Wayne Police Department. The Affiant believes and has good cause to believe that the said Defendant committed the aforesaid offense(s). The Affiant bases his belief on the following facts that were developed during the course of the investigation. Wednesday June 2, 2021 at approximately 1043 hours officers of the Fort Wayne Police Department responded to an unknown problem at **REDACTED**, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. When they arrived, officers located a male and female yelling, "he killed them, they're dead", while pointing to **REDACTED**.
4. Officer Munger spoke to **Witness 1** who stated that Victim 1, Sarah Zent's, boyfriend, Cohen Barron "did this." **Witness 1** stated that prior to June 2 he had given Sarah Zent a set of keys to his truck to use his anytime she needed it. **Witness 1** said that he was familiar with Cohen Barron and that Barron did not have permission to use the truck. The truck was described as a black Ford F-150. **Witness 1** stated that he had seen Cohen Barron at **REDACTED** earlier this date at approximately 12:30 a.m. **Witness 1** advised at 0554 hours on June 2 he saw Cohen Barron getting into **Witness 1's** truck and getting ready to leave the Gay Street location. **Witness 1** stated that Cohen Barron then left the area in his truck without permission.
5. Officers entered **REDACTED** and located an adult female deceased kneeling by a bed in a downstairs bedroom, and three small children lying face down on the same bed. All of the victims had significant injuries to their necks consistent with having been inflicted with a sharp object. Medics pronounced the victims dead at the scene. The victims have been identified as Sarah N Zent, dob: **REDACTED**, **VICTIM 2**, dob: **REDACTED**, **VICTIM 3**, dob: **REDACTED**, and **VICTIM 4**, dob: **REDACTED**.
6. I was able to review video surveillance from cameras at the Whitney Young School, which is approximately a block away from **REDACTED**. The camera is motion-activated. The video shows upstairs lights on at **REDACTED** between approximately 4:22 a.m. and 5:22-5:42 a.m., when the lights go off. I was able to see that the black Ford F-150 belonging to **Witness 1** drives away from **REDACTED** between 5:54 a.m.- 6:15 a.m. This information is consistent with **Witness 1** statements about seeing Barron leave. Detectives then continued to watch the surveillance video and did not see anyone else enter or exit the residence until the 911 callers arrive.
7. Detectives spoke to **Witness 2**, the mother of Cohen Barron. **Witness 2** stated that she had not seen Cohen Barron for approximately two years, but he randomly called her at approximately 12:30 a.m. on June 2 to wish her a happy birthday. **Witness 2** advised that Cohen Barron showed up to her house at **REDACTED** in Fort Wayne at approximately 6:15 a.m. this morning talking and acting crazy telling her that he had been shot in the stomach. Cohen Barron **Witness 2** for duct tape and money. This scared **Witness 2**, and she told Cohen Barron to leave her home.
8. Officers viewed surveillance video from **REDACTED**, Fort Wayne. This is the residence of **Witness 3**, the step-mother of Cohen Barron. This video showed that at approximately 6:31 a.m. Cohen Barron arrives in what appears to be a black truck and parks behind the residence and walks to the front door of **REDACTED** wearing dark jeans and a black hoodie.
9. Detectives then located digital intelligence showing Cohen Barron in the area of an apartment complex in the 500 block of Gordon Court, Lafayette, Indiana. Surveillance units made a positive identification of Cohen Barron still wearing the dark jeans and black hoodie at that location. Officers served a search warrant at **REDACTED**, Lafayette, Indiana. Cohen Barron was detained and was

in possession of a knife with what appeared to have a red stain on the blade. **Witness 1's** Ford F-150 was located outside **REDACTED**.

10. During the time Cohen Barron was in Lafayette he called **Witness 3**. **Witness 3** called 911 to report that she was speaking to Cohen and the call was recorded via the 911 dispatch center. During the call Cohen Barron asked **Witness 3** to send money. **Witness 3** asked how and Cohen Barron said via cash app. Cohen Barron said that he needs to call a lawyer and that he is going to have to tell the police who did this, and that they haven't connected everything yet. **Witness 3** ask if he is talking about what happened this morning, referring to the quadruple homicide. Cohen Barron make a statement that, "I was there". When **Witness 3** confronted him about the stolen vehicle he claimed that he had permission to use the F-150. **Witness 3** asked him what lawyer to call, he replied there is a lawyer in Chicago, but that he would charge \$100,000 for something like this. Cohen Barron told **Witness 3** to look at Facebook to see what he had done and she told him, "I don't want to". Cohen said that he knows who killed [the victims]. Cohen said that he would take the time for [the killer] because he had time coming anyway. Cohen said there was not a gun involved. Cohen told **Witness 3** that he got shot, but that he pulled the bullet out himself. Cohen claimed that he must have been followed to the house. Cohen told **Witness 3** that he went into **REDACTED** and saw Sarah Zent injured, but did not see the kids.
11. While in the car with Detective Geoff Norton between Lafayette and Fort Wayne Cohen Barron asked if he "will I do my time for this case before the time I had on my other case". By "his other case" Barron was likely referring to a pending probation violation from Starke County, Indiana. Upon arrival at the Fort Wayne Police Department Barron was placed into a recorded interview room. I entered the room and went over the advice of rights form. Cohen Barron advised he understood his rights and signed his waiver of rights. I started to talk to Cohen Barron and asked him how his day started off? I told him that I knew he had a rough day and pointed out several cuts and scratches he had on his neck, jaw, and wrist. Cohen Barron was very vague about the wrist injuries which appeared to be lacerations from a sharp object. Barron did not have any injuries consistent with gunshot wounds. He told me that the scratches on his neck were from the police standing on his neck, however, the scratches on his neck and jaw appeared to me to be scratches consistent with finger nail scratches. Cohen told me that he talking to me would not be good for him or help him, so he would need to talk to a lawyer. I looked in Cohen Barron's billfold and discovered a Visa card with the name of Sarah Zent, this card was placed into evidence along with a set of car keys that were in Cohen's property.
12. Given the course of the investigation to date, your affiant believes that Cohen Barron killed the four deceased victims with a sharp object. This is due to witness statements and surveillance video showing that Barron was the last person to leave **REDACTED**, his possession of a stolen vehicle and the credit card of one of the victims, his possession of a knife with red stains, and apparent admissions made during a recorded call with his step-mother and indirect admissions to Detective Norton, in addition to other evidence.

The above took place in Fort Wayne, Allen County Indiana.

Brian Martin

Affiant

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF ALLEN } SS:

Subscribed and sworn to before me in and for said County and State this 3rd day of June, 2021.

My Term/Commission Expires:

3/21/2024

Mark A. Coath

Deputy Prosecutor/Notary Public

ORDER

Defendant appears in person. Review of probable cause held. The Court now finds probable cause does exist for arrest of Defendant. On motion of the State, cause continued for seventy-two (72) hours, excluding intervening Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, for Formal Charges. Bail fixed in the sum of \$ _____.

ORDER

Hearing on issue of probable cause held. State of Indiana, by Prosecuting Attorney Karen E. Richards, files Affidavit for probable cause, which is examined by the Court. Court finds probable cause does exist for arrest of Defendant, and orders Clerk to issue a warrant for arrest of Defendant for the crime(s) of

0/3 2021

J. Kelly

Judge, Allen Circuit Superior Court