



MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

STATE OF MISSOURI }

Missouri State Highway Patrol

COUNTY OF }
DATE:CASE # 170356382
OCN:

I, **TPR N. SCHAFFER**, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that **RENICK, LYNLEE JO**, currently residing at _____, **NEW FLORENCE, MO 63363**, born: _____/1988, social security number: _____ committed the offense(s) listed below, at/on _____

TYPE	STATUTE	CHARGE CODE	DESCRIPTION
FEL A	565.02	565.020-001Y19840901.0	MURDER 1ST DEGREE

2. State the facts that support a finding of probable cause to believe crime(s) was/were committed and that the accused committed the crime(s)

On June 8, 2017, at approximately 1830 hours, the body of Benjamin Renick was located inside his business, located at 202 State Highway RB, New Florence, Missouri. Renick's body was found by his wife, Lynlee Jo Renick. The first person or entity Lynlee contacted after finding the body of her husband was her brother in law, Samuel Renick. Then Lynlee dialed 911.

Examination of the scene, and Renick's body, revealed he had been the victim of multiple gunshot wounds, with one being a contact wound to the head. The location of Renick's body, and access to where his body was located, leads investigators to suspect the killer was known to Renick. Nothing was discovered to have been stolen during the commission of the crime.

On January 14, 2019, I interviewed B.B. who was in a sexual relationship with Lynlee Renick during Benjamin(Ben) Renick's murder. B.B. continued the relationship with Lynlee until mid-2019, and they have a child together. B.B. had been interviewed on August 10, 2017, but denied any information regarding the homicide of Ben. B.B. stated he now had information he wanted to provide to law enforcement.

B.B. stated Lynlee had told him about the murder of Ben over multiple conversations. B.B. stated every time Lynlee would talk to him about Ben's murder, she would make sure her phone and B.B.'s phone were in a different room, out of concern law enforcement was able to listen to the conversation. B.B. stated over the course of time, he would have Lynlee retell the story to see if her story faltered, but it was always the same.

B.B. stated Lynlee knew Ben was going to leave her because she was "sucking money out of the business". Lynlee ran a business by the name of "Ascensia Spa" in Columbia, Missouri. B.B. stated Lynlee and Ben's relationship was not going well, so Lynlee and a friend from work, Ashley Shaw, came up with a plan to kill Ben. B.B. stated when Ben was killed, it was "not the first attempt on his life". B.B. stated he did not believe anyone was aware, but Ben was given a protein drink, laced with "an enormous amount of narcotics". B.B. stated the drink made Ben very ill, but he did not die.

B.B. stated Lynlee justified to him she came up with this plan because Ben had the financial means to take her children away from her, perhaps putting drugs into her drink to make her look like an addict. B.B. stated he did not believe Lynlee's version of events.

B.B. stated after the failed attempt with the protein drink, Shaw and Lynlee attempted to contact one of Lynlee's ex-boyfriends, who B.B. later identified as Michael Humphrey. B.B. stated Shaw and Lynlee went to Jefferson City, Missouri, in an attempt to locate Humphrey. B.B. stated Lynlee and Shaw looked for Humphrey at Best Buy, and a trailer park, but were unable to locate Humphrey. B.B. stated Shaw and Lynlee returned to the trailer park later, and were able to make contact with Humphrey. B.B. stated they all met and came up with a plan on how to kill Ben. B.B. stated Shaw, Lynlee, and Humphrey had minimal communication during this time frame and would try to meet in person, sometimes by Humphrey booking "massage" sessions, so they could talk in person and keep the communications off of their cell phones while they made plans.

Facebook records obtained via a search warrant of Lynlee and Ben's accounts revealed private messages of Lynlee and Ben, and validate that Lynlee gave Ben a protein shake that made him very ill. Lynlee stated it was food poison and claimed she had become ill from it too. Ben stated he was unable to even move or get up without becoming extremely dizzy and nauseous. Lynlee went to work the next morning, while Ben was apparently unable to even get out of bed.

Facebook records also indicated that prior to Ben's murder, he had just discovered Lynlee was behind on paying her rent for her spa. The bank Lynlee financed her spa with had reached out to Ben after numerous failed attempts to contact Lynlee. Ben was apparently angry about the financial status of Lynlee's spa. There were also several overdue bills Ben had yet to discover, and Lynlee's bank account for the spa was constantly over-drafted.

B.B. stated on the date of the homicide, Humphrey came to the spa. Lynlee and Humphrey left in Humphrey's vehicle. B.B. stated Lynlee had to put fuel in Humphrey's car, at the Break Time gas station on Grindstone Avenue, in Columbia, Missouri. Lynlee was apparently upset Humphrey planned to bring a gun and gloves, but did not remember to fuel up his vehicle. Lynlee and Humphrey then traveled to the Renick's farm. B.B. stated Humphrey brought gloves and a firearm. Lynlee told B.B. the plan was for Humphrey to kill Ben, but Humphrey told Lynlee when they arrived at the farm that he did not feel comfortable doing it in case Lynlee later regretted the decision.

B.B. stated when Lynlee and Humphrey arrived at the farm, Ben was outside of the snake facility throwing trash away. Lynlee told Ben that Humphrey was an old friend who wanted to see their snakes. After they saw the snakes, Lynlee and Humphrey told Ben they were leaving. They retrieved the gun from the vehicle, and when they went back into the snake facility Ben was cleaning along the back wall. Lynlee walked in with the gun and shot Ben multiple times. Lynlee returned to the vehicle and Humphrey picked up shell casings.

Evidence at the scene indicated the shell casings at the scene were picked up, except for the shell casings that were in places that were not visible.

Lynlee and Humphrey returned to Lynlee's spa business. Shaw and Lynlee went into the spray tan salon, where Lynlee took off her clothes and took a shower. Shaw took Lynlee's clothes, bagged them up, and gave them to Humphrey to dispose of with the gun and shell casings.

B.B. stated Lynlee and Humphrey left their phone at the spa while they traveled to the farm, and Shaw sent messages on Lynlee's phone to make it appear as if she was there. B.B. stated he was receiving texts from Lynlee during that time frame, and at the time believed it was Lynlee, but she later told him it was Shaw.

B.B. stated Lynlee had planned a date night with Ben on June 8, 2017, to make him believe their relationship was good.

While conducting an interview of Humphrey it was discovered Shaw had contacted Humphrey to make him aware the police were coming to speak with him. When Shaw was asked about this phone call, she stated she was calling all of the clients and informing them they were no longer going to perform massages for a period of time. This phone call took place on June 20, 2017, one day after Lynlee Renick was interviewed at Troop F Headquarters, and Humphrey's involvement in the case was discovered.

During the investigation, it was found that Humphrey did show up at the spa on the date of the homicide. Humphrey stated he did not get a massage, but he worked on his car in the parking lot and Lynlee was outside with him helping.

Leading up to Ben's murder, Lynlee and Humphrey had frequent contact via phone. After the murder, they quit communicating.

3. For the issuance of a warrant in the misdemeanor case, **complete at least one of the following.**

A. I believe the defendant will not appear in court to respond to a criminal summons because
Insert facts to show the defendant will not appear, e.g. there is an outstanding warrant for failure to appear

B. I believe the defendant poses: *Insert one or all of the following*
Insert facts showing defendant is a danger to victim, e.g. cursing victim, assaulted victim, threatened victim.
(1) a danger to a crime victim because

Insert facts showing defendant poses a danger, e.g. intoxicated to a level which is unsafe
(2) a danger to the community or to any other person because

I, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true

/s/ TPR N. SCHAFFER
Signature

1-16-20
Date