



DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR Montgomery County

Located at 191 East Jefferson St, Rockville, Maryland 20850



Case No. 4D00417050

STATE OF MARYLAND

VS. PHILLIPS, BILLY J III

COMPLAINANT:

Officer: DETECTIVE P. MARABLE
Agency/Subagency: MCP HQ15
Officer ID: 2922

9709 KEY WEST AVE #458
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850

CC#: 210024213

SID:

LID:

DL#:

Race: 2 Sex: M

Ht: 6' 0"

Wt: 227

Hair: OTH Eyes:

DOB: 01/21/1985

Phone(H):

Phone(W):

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

UPON THE FACTS CONTAINED IN THE APPLICATION OF Officer: DETECTIVE P. MARABLE IT IS FORMALLY CHARGED THAT PHILLIPS, BILLY J III at the dates, times and locations specified below:

NUM	CHG/CIT	STATUTE	PENALTY	DESCRIPTION OF THE CHARGE
001	1 0990	CR 2 201	0 L	MURDER - FIRST DEGREE On or About 06/23/2021 4604 WINDSOR LANE BETHESDA MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND did feloniously, willfully and with deliberately premeditated malice aforethought, kill and murder BIDDLE, GEOFFREY BURR. Against the Peace, Government, and Dignity of the State.



DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR Montgomery Cou.

LOCATED AT (COURT ADDRESS)
191 E. Jefferson St

Rockville, MD 20850



DC Case : 4D00417050

(City/County)
ATED CASES:

COMPLAINANT

Detective P. Marable

Printed Name

100 Edison Park Drive

Address

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

City, State, Zip

MCPD, HQ 15, 2922

Agency, Sub-agency, and I.D. #

240-773-5113

Telephone

(Officer Only)

DEFENDANT

Billy J. Phillips III

Printed Name

9709 Key West Ave #458

Address

Rockville, MD 20850

City, State, Zip

Telephone

CC# 210024213

DEFENDANT'S DESCRIPTION: Driver's License #

Sex M

Race White

Ht 6'00

Wt 227

Hair Bald

Eyes Unk

Complexion

Other

DOB 1/21/1985

ID

APPLICATION FOR STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Page 1 of 5

(Include a statement of facts within your personal knowledge (what you saw or heard, what someone said to you, etc.) showing that there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and that the defendant has committed it. Please see the "NOTICE TO APPLICANT FOR A CHARGING DOCUMENT" for further information.)

I, the undersigned, apply for a statement of charges and a summons or warrant which may lead to the arrest of the above named defendant because on or about 6/23/2021 at 4604 Windsor Lane, Bethesda

Date

Place

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

, the above named defendant

*****SEE ATTACHED NARRATIVE*****

(Continued on attached 5 pages) (DC-CR-001A)

I solemnly affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this document are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

6/29/2021

Date

Officer's Signature

Detective Peter Marable

Printed Name

I have read or had read to me and I understand the notice on the back of this form.

Date

Applicant's Signature

Printed Name

Subscribed and sworn to before me

Date

at

Time

☐ AM ☒ PM

Judge/Commissioner

tdsouza

ID Number

6649

I understand that a charging document will be issued and that I must appear for trial ☐ on

Date

at _____, ☐ when notified by the clerk, at the court location shown at the top of this form.

Time

Applicant's Signature

☐ The applicant requests reasonable protection for safety of the alleged victim or the victim's family:

(Describe)

☐ I have advised applicant of the right to request shielding.☐ The applicant declines shielding.☐ I declined to issue a charging document because of lack of probable cause.

Date

Commissioner

ID Number



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DEFENDANT'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)

Phillips, Billy J

APPLICATION FOR STATEMENT OF CHARGES (CONTINUED)

Page 2 of 6

The writer, Detective Peter Marable, is currently assigned to the Montgomery County Department of Police, Major Crimes Division – Homicide Section.

On June 24, 2021 at approximately 1109 hours, the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received a call for a missing person at Payment Solutions Incorporated, located at 9210 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 315, Gaithersburg Maryland for the report of a missing person. According to the complainant(s), the CEO of the company, Geoffrey Burr Biddle, a white male having a date of birth of 5/23/1955 had sent a suspicious email the previous morning (6/23/2021) and hadn't shown up for work on this date (6/24/2021), which was extremely unlike him. Furthermore, the last person known to have seen him was one of the employees, John Mac Leod, who had dinner with him on the evening of 6/22/2021. Due to their concerns, employees reached out to Biddle's close friend and former business partner, Stephen Hopkins Willard. Willard agreed to go to Biddle's residence, located at 4604 Windsor Lane, Bethesda, Montgomery County Maryland and check his welfare. This address will hereinafter be referred to as "the residence."

Willard responded to the residence and immediately noticed Biddle's vehicle parked in the driveway with a flat front tire. He immediately thought this to be suspicious. Willard entered the residence through the front door, which was unlocked, and proceeded to search the main level and upper levels of the residence, with negative results. On the kitchen island, Willard located Biddle's cellular phone which was laid next to his wallet. Willard opened the wallet and discovered that there were credit cards missing, which he found to be odd. There was also no cash in the wallet. According to Willard, Biddle usually kept around \$100 cash in his wallet. Willard did not check the basement, as he thought the door was locked, and eventually exited the residence and reached back out to Mac Leod, asking him to call police.

Once officers responded to the Gaithersburg address, they requested additional officers respond to the residence to check Biddle's welfare. Upon making entry into the basement,

I SOLEMNLY AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE MATTERS AND FACTS SET FORTH IN THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF.

6/29/21

DATE

SIGNATURE OF AFFIANT

Tr.#211001315000

PC DC/CR 1A

COURT COPY

STATES ATTORNEY

DEFENDANT

LAW ENFORCEMENT

APPLICANT



DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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DEFENDANT'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.)

Phillips, Billy J

APPLICATION FOR STATEMENT OF CHARGES (CONTINUED)

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officers discovered Biddle on the ground, and a large amount of blood on his body and throughout the basement. Biddle was obviously deceased, and pronounced as such on scene. Numerous .22 caliber shell casings were located on the scene. The writer and other members of the Homicide Section responded to the scene and assumed control of the investigation. Biddle was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, where his death was ruled a homicide by multiple gunshot wounds.

On scene, Biddle's unlocked cellular phone was located on the kitchen island next to his wallet. Investigators looked through his call log and saw a one-minute call to SunTrust bank on 6/23/2021 at 0758 hours. Investigators also located the outgoing email on the phone, which stated that Biddle was having a family emergency and would be out of touch, and was sent to several employees. The email was sent on 6/23/2021 at 0907 hours. It should be noted that Biddle was not supposed to be working on 6/23/2021, which is one of the reasons employees found the email suspicious.

On 6/24/2021, Det. Rule made contact with Biddle's daughter, Elizabeth, and notified her of the death. It should be noted that Elizabeth is Biddle's only living family member, and at no time has she represented to investigators or Biddle's employees that she was having any type of emergency on 6/23/2021.

On 6/24/2021, Det. Rule interviewed a witness, whose identity will remain anonymous by who is known to the writer, who stated that she recently started dating Biddle. Furthermore, she was supposed to meet Biddle for a date on 6/23/2021 at 0930 hours (in fact, the reason he took off that day), a date for which he never showed. She had last spoken to Biddle via text message in the 2200 hour of 6/22/2021. It should be noted that she believed the text messages on 6/22/2021 to have come from Biddle. Based on this timeline, the writer believes that Biddle was probably dead at or before 0930 hours on 6/23/2021.

On 6/25/2021, the writer interviewed Willard at MCPD HQ. On the same date, Detective Rule interviewed Mac Leod. Between these two interviews, it was determined that there was

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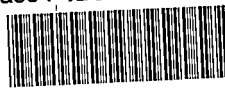
APPLICANT

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Phillips, Billy J

APPLICATION FOR STATEMENT OF CHARGES (CONTINUED)

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possibly a personal SunTrust card missing which had the potential to access a large amount of money.

On 6/25/2021, Det. Then interviewed an employee of Payment Solutions, David Sacramo. Sacramo had access to Biddle's personal and business accounts. Det. Then asked him to look at the bank account and see if there were any suspicious transactions. Upon doing so, Sacramo noticed a check from Biddle's personal SunTrust account made out to Billy Phillips dated 6/20/2021. Sacramo found this odd, because Billy Phillips hadn't worked for Payment Solutions for some time. When Sacramo looked at a scanned copy of the check, he immediately believed the signature was forged, as it wasn't consistent with Biddle's signature. Sacramo sent Detective Then the picture of the check, along with a picture of Biddle's actual signature from another document. The writer compared these two signatures, and they are obviously different. Furthermore, the writer looked at the endorsement on the back of the check, which was signed with Billy Phillips' signature, and noticed the "B" in Billy and the "B" in Biddle are virtually identical. Further inspection of the back of the electronic copy of the check showed that it was deposited into a Navy Federal Credit Union Account on 6/23/2021, the day of the murder. The check was I the amount of \$4,550.00

On 6/26/2021, Sacramo reached back out to Det. Then, because he had discovered another suspicious check. This check was also made out to Billy Phillips, dated 6/17/2021, in the amount of \$9,500. The signature on the front of the check appears identical to the fraudulent signature on the front of the first check. Furthermore, the endorsement signature on the back of the check, signed "Billy Phillips", appears identical to that of the first check. This check was deposited to a Navy Federal Credit Union Atm on 6/23/2021, the day of the murder, at 11:53 pm. Furthermore, Sacramo also stated that Billy was terminated from Payment Solutions in May or June of 2020 due to lack of performance.

On 6/26/2021, Detective Rule queried several Law Enforcement Databases for Billy J Phillips III, a white male having a date of birth of 1/21/1985. Furthermore, Det. Rule located a

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Phillips, Billy J

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Virginia DMV photo of Phillips, which she gave to the writer.

On 6/26/2021, the writer reached back out to Willard to ask if he knew Billy Phillips. Willard stated to the writer that he did know him, and that he had been in financial despair recently. Furthermore, he stated that he had fired Phillips from his company in April 2021 for fraud, and shortly after firing him, discovered that he had stolen 3 checks from him, and deposited or cashed all 3 at Navy Federal Credit Union. The writer showed Willard the DMV photo of Phillips provided by Det. Rule, and he confirmed that it was, in fact the Billy Phillips that he and Biddle knew. Willard further stated that Phillips would have known all of the people who the email was sent to, however, would not have known that they were teleworking on that day, nor that Biddle had taken off. Also according to Willard, it would be extremely unusual for Biddle to call the bank at 0758 hours for any reason. Due to the short duration of the call, the writer believes that the purpose of the call may have been to check the balance of the account. It should be noted that a forensic download of Biddle's phone revealed no other calls to SunTrust going back to 2018.

On 6/28/2021, investigators learned that on 6/23/2021 (the day of the murder) at 1303 hours, Phillips deposited \$94 cash into a Navy Federal Credit Union ATM. This would be consistent with the amount of cash that was stolen from Biddle's wallet. Furthermore, another forged check from Biddle's account, made out to Billy Phillips and in the amount of \$4,000 was found to be deposited by Phillips at Navy Federal on 6/25/2021.

The writer observed bank surveillance photographs, and determined that it was, in fact Phillips who made the deposits. It should be noted that in the video from one of the deposits on 6/23/21, Phillips was wearing a dark greyish/greenish t-shirt and white plaid shorts.

On 6/28/21, Investigators obtained surveillance footage of Phillips driving a white, 4 door BMW SUV bearing DE tag 1748DV.

On 6/29/21, members of the Repeat Offender Unit were conducted surveillance on Phillips and observed him driving the same vehicle. The vehicle is registered to Juan Aponte,

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DATE


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who investigators believe is the father of Phillips' girlfriend.

On 6/29/21, Det. Rule observed video surveillance footage from 4600 Windsor Lane, which is directly next door to the Biddle's address/the scene. On 6/23/201, a white SUV bearing an ~~exact~~ ^{exact} likeness to the above mentioned vehicle can be seen driving in the neighborhood. Furthermore, at 0920 hours, 13 minutes after the email was sent, a large white male bearing an ~~exact~~ ^{exact} likeness to Phillips is seen walking past 4600 Windsor, away from the crime scene. The subject in the video is wearing the same greyish/greenish T-shirt and same shorts from the bank surveillance video taken just 4 hours later.

Based on all of the above facts and circumstances, the writer believes that Phillips went to the residence to steal checks, and at some point, encountered Biddle. The writer believes that Phillips either made the call to SunTrust from Biddle's phone himself or forced Biddle to do it in order to check his SunTrust balance. The writer believes that Phillips then shot and killed Biddle, stole the checks, cash and credit card, pre-dated the checks for 6/20/2021 and 6/18/2021, and deposited them between 6/23/2021 (the day of the murder) and 6/25/2021.

The writer believes that probable cause exists, and requests that an arrest warrant be issued, charging Billy J Phillips III with the following:

CR 2-201 First Degree Murder

All Above Events Occurred in Montgomery County, Maryland.

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