

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	Criminal No.	24cr10259
	)	Violation:	
v.	)	<u>Count One:</u> Killing a Witness or Victim	
MATTHEW FARWELL,	)	(18 U.S.C. § 1512(a)(1)(C))	
	)		
Defendant	)		

INDICTMENT

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

General Allegations

1. Between on or about March 27, 2012, and on or about April 1, 2022, defendant MATTHEW FARWELL (hereinafter, "FARWELL") was a sworn officer of the Stoughton Police Department in Stoughton, Massachusetts. In his capacity as a Stoughton police officer, FARWELL also served as an instructor for the Stoughton Police Explorers Academy (hereinafter, the "Police Explorers"), which was a vocational education program for local youth. The Police Explorers was designed to enable youth participants to learn about law enforcement careers.

2. Sandra Birchmore was born in May 1997. In or around March 2010, Sandra Birchmore applied to be a participant in the Police Explorers. At that time, Birchmore was 12 years old. She began participating in the program in or around the spring of 2010 and remained in the program through in or around 2016.

3. Prior to in or around 2012, FARWELL was a Police Explorers volunteer. He became an instructor when he started working for the Stoughton Police Department in 2012.

4. Before Birchmore attained the age of 16 years old, FARWELL engaged in sexual intercourse and other sex acts with Birchmore. FARWELL's sexual contact with Birchmore continued until in or around early 2021.

5. The Stoughton Police Department required employees, including police officers, to accurately report their time and attendance in order to receive wages and overtime. During some of the shifts when FARWELL was supposed to be performing his duties as a Stoughton police officer, he was instead engaged in sex acts with Birchmore. He failed to disclose that information to the Stoughton Police Department, and he took steps to conceal his conduct from other department employees.

6. In or around December 2020, Birchmore learned that she was pregnant. Birchmore told FARWELL that he was the father of the child.

7. On or about January 20, 2021, Birchmore's friend called the Stoughton Police Department and told a department employee that FARWELL had been having sex with Birchmore. Shortly thereafter, a Stoughton Police Department employee told FARWELL about the call.

8. On or about February 1, 2021, FARWELL killed Birchmore by strangulation. Shortly thereafter, FARWELL staged Birchmore's Canton, Massachusetts apartment to make it appear as if Birchmore had committed suicide.

COUNT ONE  
Killing a Witness or Victim  
(18 U.S.C. § 1512(a)(1)(C))

The Grand Jury charges:

9. The Grand Jury realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 8 of this Indictment.

10. On or about February 1, 2021, in Canton, in the District of Massachusetts, the defendant,

MATTHEW FARWELL,

did kill Sandra Birchmore, a person known to the Grand Jury, with malice aforethought, willfully, deliberately, maliciously, and with premeditation, and with the intent to prevent the communication by any person to a law enforcement officer of information relating to the commission or possible commission of a federal offense, to wit, commission or possible commission of the federal offenses of Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 242, Coercion and Enticement, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b), and Wire Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343.

All in violation of Title 18, United State Code, Section 1512(a)(1)(C).

A TRUE BILL



FOR PERSON *J*

*Torey B. Cummings*  
TOREY B. CUMMINGS  
BRIAN A. FOGERTY  
ELIZABTH C. RILEY

ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

District of Massachusetts: August 27, 2024  
Returned into the District Court by the Grand Jurors and filed.

*Jarrett Jewell @ 12:36 PM*  
DEPUTY CLERK

JS 45 (5/97) - (Revised U.S.D.C. MA 9/20/2023)

**Criminal Case Cover Sheet**

**U.S. District Court - District of Massachusetts**

Place of Offense: MA Category No. II Investigating Agency FBI

City Canton

**Related Case Information:**

County Norfolk

Superseding Ind./ Inf. \_\_\_\_\_ Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Same Defendant \_\_\_\_\_ New Defendant \_\_\_\_\_

Magistrate Judge Case Number \_\_\_\_\_

Search Warrant Case Number 24-6842, 24-6425-6426, 24-6363, 24-6358, 24-6000

R 20/R 40 from District of \_\_\_\_\_

**Defendant Information:**

Is this case related to an existing criminal action pursuant to Rule 40.1(h)? If yes, case number \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

Defendant Name MATTHEW FARWELL

Juvenile:  Yes  No

Is this person an attorney and/or a member of any state/federal bar:  Yes  No

Alias Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 187 Chestnut St., North Easton, MA

Birth date (Yr only): 1985 SSN (last 4#): 9751 Sex: M Race White Nationality: US Citizen

Defense Counsel if known: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bar Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Attorney Information**

AUSA: Riley/Cummings/Fogerty Bar Number if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Interpreter:  Yes  No List language and/or dialect: \_\_\_\_\_

Victims:  Yes  No If yes, are there multiple crime victims under 18 USC§3771(d)(2)  Yes  No

Matter to be SEALED:  Yes  No

Warrant Requested  Regular Process  In Custody

Location Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrest Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Already in Federal Custody as of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Already in State Custody at \_\_\_\_\_  Serving Sentence  Awaiting Trial

On Pretrial Release: Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Charging Document:  Complaint  Information  Indictment

Total # of Counts:  Petty \_\_\_\_\_  Misdemeanor \_\_\_\_\_  Felony 1

Continue on Page 2 for Entry of U.S.C. Citations

I hereby certify that the case numbers of any prior proceedings before a Magistrate Judge are accurately set forth above.

Date: 8/27/2024

Signature of AUSA: *Joyce B. Cummings*

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District Court Case Number (To be filled in by deputy clerk): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Defendant MATTHEW FARWELL

	U.S.C. Citations	
	<u>Index Key/Code</u>	<u>Description of Offense Charged</u>
Set 1	18 USC 1512(a)(1)(c)	Killing a victim/witness
Set 2	_____	_____
Set 3	_____	_____
Set 4	_____	_____
Set 5	_____	_____
Set 6	_____	_____
Set 7	_____	_____
Set 8	_____	_____
Set 9	_____	_____
Set 10	_____	_____
Set 11	_____	_____
Set 12	_____	_____
Set 13	_____	_____
Set 14	_____	_____
Set 15	_____	_____

1

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**