

DEFENDANT: CARA LEE RODRIGUES
DOB: 11/27/1990 AGE: 31
ADDRESS:
140 Blackmer Lane
Wardsboro, VT 05355

ARRAIGNMENT DATE: August 10, 2022
SA CASE ID.: 22-11712
ASSIGNED (D)SA: ERN:
POLICE DEPT.: VSP - Westminster
INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Det. Trooper James Vooris
VICTIM ADVOCATE: Carol Scott
INCIDENT NO.: 22vB1004818

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT
WINDHAM UNIT

STATE OF VERMONT

CRIMINAL DIVISION

v.

DOCKET NO.

CARA LEE RODRIGUES

INFORMATION BY STATE'S ATTORNEY

By the authority of the State of Vermont, the State's Attorney for Windham County, upon the oath of office charges:

COUNT 1 OF 3

CHARGE CODE: 13V2301/2D | CODE ID: 364 | OFFENSE CLASS: F
CHARGE NAME: MURDER-2ND DEG

CARA LEE RODRIGUES, in the County of Windham, at Wardsboro on or about August 8, 2022, committed second degree murder by unlawfully causing the death of another with the intention to kill, the intention to do great bodily harm, or a wanton disregard of the likelihood that death or great bodily harm would result, in violation of 13 V.S.A. § 2301.

Penalty: Imprisoned for life with a presumptive minimum term of 20 years.

COUNT 2 OF 3

CHARGE CODE: 13V3705D&9 | CODE ID: 643 | OFFENSE CLASS: F
CHARGE NAME: UNLAWFUL TRESPASS-RESIDENCE/OCCUPIED/ATTEMPT

CARA LEE RODRIGUES, in the County of Windham, at Newfane on or about August 8, 2022, attempted to enter a dwelling house, to wit; 180 Cushing Flats Road, Newfane, VT, whether or not a person was actually present, knowing that she was not licensed or privileged to do so, in violation of 13 V.S.A. 3705(d).

Penalty: Imprisoned not more than 3 years or fined not more than \$2,000.00 or both.

COUNT 3 OF 3

CHARGE CODE: 13V3705D | CODE ID: 644 | OFFENSE CLASS: F
CHARGE NAME: UNLAWFUL TRESPASS-RESIDENCE/OCCUPIED

CARA LEE RODRIGUES, in the County of Windham, at Newfane on or about August 8, 2022, entered a dwelling house, to wit; 461 Galbraith Road, Newfane, whether or not a person was actually present, knowing that she was not licensed or privileged to do so, in violation of 13 V.S.A. 3705(d).

Penalty: Imprisoned not more than 3 years or fined not more than \$2,000.00 or both.

Against the peace and dignity of the State.

DATED: August 10, 2022



State's Attorney (Deputy)

No Diversion Referral -

This information has been presented to me and I have found probable cause.

DATED: **8/10/2022**



Superior Court Judge

ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR PD



Affidavit of Probable Cause

NOW COMES Detective Sergeant James Vooris, affiant, being duly sworn and on oath, deposes and says he has probable cause to believe that **Cara Rodrigues DOB: 11/27/90** has committed the offense(s) of **Second-Degree Murder and Burglary (2 counts)** a violation of Title **13**, Vermont Statutes Annotated Section **2301 and 1201** respectively.

1. I, Detective Sergeant James Vooris, am now and have been for the past 8 years, a full-time employee of the Vermont State Police, being presently assigned to the Major Crime Unit as a Detective Sergeant.
2. This affidavit is based upon my personal knowledge, my review of documents and other evidence, and my conversations with other law enforcement officers. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, it does not include all the facts I have learned during my investigation and is a case synopsis. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

August 8, 2022, Overdose in Brattleboro Vermont

3. On August 8, 2022, at approximately 0047 hours, the Brattleboro Police Department received a report of an overdose in the Marina parking lot located at 464 Putney Road in the town of Brattleboro, VT. Donald Mutebi DOB 11/29/1980 told officers he noticed a female with her head down who was sitting in a vehicle not moving and unresponsive. Mutebi went to the vehicle to assist. He observed a white powder in a Ziploc bag inside the vehicle and moved it to the side. Mutebi grabbed the female from the vehicle and laid her down on the ground to provide CPR. Officer Tyler Cooke administered Narcan to the female and then took over CPR from Mutebi until a pulse was located.
4. Officer Cooke identified the unresponsive female as Cara Rodrigues DOB 11/27/90 from previous professional encounters. Officer Cooke spoke with Emmy Bascom DOB 10/16/1979, who had been driving Rodrigues, and asked her where the bag was that Rodrigues had used. Bascom pointed to a small ziplock bag that contained a white powdery substance. Bascom advised that Rodrigues had snorted whatever she had used.
5. Officer Prophete Cheridor spoke with Bascom who advised she was driving the 2005 Chevrolet Suburban bearing VT registration HMM907 that was on scene. Bascom stated that she only knew the female she was with for a couple weeks and the female went by



"Lady." Officer Cheridor advised Rodrigues refused medical assistance and refused to go to the hospital.

VT Registration HMM907

6. A routine DMV records check indicates Vermont HMM907, a 2005 Chevrolet Suburban, silver in color is currently registered to Emmy Bascom DOB 10/16/1979 and Brian Johnston DOB 08/18/1974.

August 8, 2022, Burglary at 180 Cushing Flats Road Newfane VT and August 8, 2022, Report of Deceased Female

7. On August 8, 2022 at approximately 1813 hours, Pat Beaudry DOB 05/12/1950 contacted the Vermont State Police and reported a burglary at 180 Cushing Flats Road in the Town of Newfane, Windham County, VT. Beaudry advised she has cameras at this residence, and she was notified that there was a person on her deck before both the interior and exterior cameras were disabled. Beaudry later provided a screen grab of the individual caught on her security cameras. The screen grab is below. It should be noted the individual in the photo was later identified as Cara Rodrigues and she was wearing the same clothing at the time of her arrest, further described below.



- 8.
9. As responding troopers were en route to the reported burglary described above, they learned of a reported dead body that had been located in the area of Wacker Road in the Town of Wardsboro, Windham County, VT.



10. On August 8, 2022 at approximately 1832 hours, Michael Mercier, DOB 7/4/1963 contacted 911 and reported he discovered a deceased female in the area of Wacker's logging in Wardsboro Vermont. Trooper Gregory Mills later spoke with Mercier who reported locating the body of a deceased female who was partially nude with blood on her neck. Mercier advised he was with his friend, "Mort" Davis at the time of the discovery.
11. Troopers diverted their response from the burglary and responded to the area of Wacker Road. While responding to the area of Wacker Road, Trooper Austin Soule located a Chevrolet Suburban bearing VT registration HMM907 stationary with no occupants or individuals around the vehicle. The vehicle was not running and was parked in the travel portion of the roadway on Newfane Road, in close proximity to the area of the deceased female. The vehicle is currently secured on Newfane Road by Troopers on scene.
12. Trooper Galusha, Trooper Mills, Trooper Dermody, Trooper McCutcheon, and Trooper Soule continued to 180 Cushing Flats Road and located an open window that had been broken on the back side of the residence. Troopers described a chair underneath the window and the glass was on the floor inside the residence. Troopers made entry into the residence and determined it was empty at that time.

August 8, 2022, Burglary at 461 Galbraith Road

13. Troopers left the Cushing Flats Road residence and began checking houses in the immediate area for signs of forced entry. Troopers made contact with the homeowner of 461 Galbraith Road; this is the closest residence to the initial burglary. The homeowner identified himself as James Galbraith DOB 01/29/1952 and advised a female with short, red hair stopped at his residence at approximately 1900 hours and was distraught. He tried to help her, but she took off. Trooper Soule advised the description of the female matched the information he was given regarding the initial burglary.
14. Troopers cleared from that residence and moved on to the next building, which ended up being a building also belonging to Galbraith. The building was described as a guest house/study and Trooper Soule advised he observed an open front door, and as Troopers were exiting their cruisers someone closed the door. Troopers later observed a large rock which appeared to have been used to break a sliding glass door on the residence.
15. Contact was made with a female, and she exited the building through the front door. The female matched the prior descriptions and was identified as Cara Rodrigues DOB 11/27/1990. She was placed into handcuffs by Trooper Mills and searched. She was transported to the Vermont State Police Westminster Barracks by Trooper Dermody.



16. It should be noted 151 Blackmer Lane, Newfane Road, and Wacker Road are all in close proximity to each other. The approximate distance from the location of the body site to the residence on Blackmer Lane is approximately .75 miles via road, less if you walk through the woods. The approximate distance from the residence on Blackmer Lane to the residence on Galbraith Road is less than 1.1 miles through the woods.

Interview of Michael Mercier

17. On August 8, 2022, Detective Trooper Jason Lengfellner and Detective Sergeant Robson spoke with Michael Mercier DOB 07/04/1963. During the interview Mercier stated that Cara Rodrigues was banging on their front door around 0400 hours this morning, August 8, 2022. He advised that Cara occasionally stays with them at 151 Blackmer Lane in Wardsboro Vermont. Mercier stated his girlfriend Amy Doyle let Cara into the house and he went back to sleep.
18. Mercier advised he woke up for work at around 5 or 5:30 am and as he was getting ready to leave Cara asked him to borrow the wagon. Mercier described the wagon as square black Rubbermaid wagon. During the conversation with investigators, which occurred near the location of the deceased female, Mercier stated that he observed what appeared to be the handle to his wagon on the ground.
19. Prior to going to work Mercier spoke with Mort Davis who also resides at the residence. Davis told Mercier that something was going on and that Cara had banged on his door at 4 this morning, asking him to help move a carcass. Cara kept referring to the carcass as a she. Davis denied helping Cara. Mercier told Doyle about this because Cara was acting strange.
20. Mercier later spoke with Cara about the wagon, and she said that she left the wagon at the log landing. Mercier did not know why she left the wagon there and clarified that the area of the deceased female was the log landing. Mercier advised that Cara looked distraught and sweaty. He observed a lump on her head and a gash above her right eye. He asked her if she was okay, and she advised she was. He then went to work.
21. When Mercier and Davis later came to look for the wagon, they pulled up to a vehicle that was parked on the road and looked in the vehicle. Mercier did not know whose vehicle it was and had not seen it before. Davis told Mercier that he saw blood on the seat of the vehicle. Mercier did not observe the blood.
22. After checking on the vehicle, Mercier pulled his vehicle onto the trail. They went up to the power lines and parked. Davis walked up a trail into the woods, looking for the wagon. Mercier walked around the power lines. He did not see anything. Mercier walked out to the vehicle parked on the road and looked to see if he could see blood but didn't. Mercier then walked back to his vehicle. When he got into his vehicle, he could see a



body on the ground outside. He beeped the horn for Davis, but Davis did not come back down the trail. Mercier stated he needed to call the cops, so he left Davis at the scene and drove home and called the police.

Handle Located near Deceased Body and Recovery of Wagon

23. Below is a photo provided by Detective LT Eric Albright of a handle believed to be the handle to Mercier's wagon. This handle was located within feet of the deceased female body on August 8, 2022.



24.

25. On August 9, 2022, at approximately 2242 hours, Trooper Austin Soule located a wagon on a pull off located on Newfane Road near the intersection with Townshend Dam Road. The wagon appears to contain a red/brown stain consistent with the appearance of blood and is missing the handle. The wagon was seized and secured at the Westminster State Police Barracks.

Interview of Mortin Davis

26. On August 8, 2022, Detective Trooper Jason Lengfellner spoke with Mortin "Mort" Davis DOB 2/10/1975. During the interview Davis advised he is currently residing at Mercier's residence located at 151 Blackmer Lane.
27. Det. Lengfellner asked Davis to speak about what was going on and what information he knows. Davis advised Cara (Davis did not know her last name) knocked on his door



around 4 AM and sounded worried. Davis advised Cara was alone. Cara advised she had hit a deer. Davis thought Cara may have been on something because she was puking all over. Davis advised Cara appeared to have a knot on her forehead and it appeared she had been in a fight. Davis also observed injuries to Cara's hand.

28. Davis was asked how Cara arrived at the residence and he advised she walked. Davis stated Cara had patted him down for a wire and was frantic.
29. While Cara was at 151 Blackmer Lane, Davis advised Cara threw her clothes into the trash inside the residence. She also had a bag of trash to burn, but it was never burned. Davis advised Mercier later reported to him that he observed blood on a 12 pack of Pepsi and a purse that were in the trash. Davis did not observe Cara remove her clothing but stated that she removed her bra. Davis observed clothing in the trash. Davis thought Cara was wearing a white shirt and possibly grey shorts in the morning and had changed into a red shirt when she left the residence around midafternoon. The bag of clothing and bag of trash from 151 Blackmer Lane have been provided to the Vermont State Police.
30. Det. Trooper Lengfellner asked Davis what Cara did after she asked for help with the deer she reportedly hit. Davis advised he began walking with Cara toward where a vehicle was on south Wardsboro Road. Davis did not walk with Cara the entire way because he did not want any part of what was going on. Davis reported Cara was referring the deer as "a she." Det. Trooper Lengfellner asked him about the wagon. Davis described it as a Gorilla cart and stated Cara did not return the wagon. Davis advised when he was with Mercier they were looking for the wagon could not find it. This is when Mercier located the body.

Interview with Amy Doyle

31. On August 9, 2022 Detective Sgt. Jesse Robson spoke with Amy Doyle. Doyle resides at 151 Blackmer Road with Mercier. Det. Sgt. Robson reported the following information from his interview with Doyle.
32. Doyle advised she was woken up around 2 AM on August 8, 2022, by Cara knocking at the door. Doyle advised Cara occasionally stays the night and Mercier allows Cara to stay in her own room while at their residence. Doyle does not know how Cara got to the trailer before knocking on the door. Doyle let Cara into the trailer and went back to sleep. Mercier woke Doyle up around 7 AM and told Doyle that Cara was acting weird. Doyle saw that Cara was acting jumpy and unable to relax. Doyle told Det. Sgt. Robson that Cara has been having emotional problems.



33. Doyle asked Cara if she was all right, and Cara replied that she was. Doyle saw a knot on Cara's head. Doyle later specified that she thought it was on the left side of Cara's head above her eye. Cara explained that this knot was from getting attacked by a guy in Brattleboro which is why Cara decided to come home to Doyle and Messier's. Doyle told Det. Sgt. Robson that she noticed bruising on Cara's arm but could not recall which arm.
34. Doyle went into the bathroom and saw blood on the shower curtain and then saw that Cara also had a deep cut on one of her pinky fingers. Doyle did not ask for details about this cut. Doyle went outside of the trailer and saw that her wagon was gone. Cara told Doyle that she used the wagon to go look for cans and bottles and made it as far as Wackers somewhere, but didn't have it in her to pull the wagon back.
35. Doyle said that Cara was in her bedroom and said something about wanting to clean it. Cara came out with a black trash bag which she asked Mort to burn, but Mort did not burn it and the bag is still out in the burn pit. Doyle also saw a bra and sweatshirt in her kitchen garbage, and these items had blood on them. At this time Cara's bedroom at 151 Blackmer Lane has not been searched. The bedroom has been cordoned off by the Vermont State Police.
36. Doyle told Sgt. Robson that around 9 – 10 AM on August 8, 2022 Cara filled a sport bottle with ice water and told Doyle that she was going for a walk, which was the last time Doyle saw Cara. She tried calling Cara's cell number, but the call did not go through.

Vermont State Police Crime Scene Search Team

37. On August 8, 2022, Trooper Austin Soule obtained consent from David Wacker for law enforcement to search the area of the deceased female. The Vermont State Police Crime Scene Search Team recovered the body of the deceased female, and it has been transported to the Vermont OCME for autopsy and official identification. Detective Sergeant Aron McNeil noted the body appeared to have numerous stab and defensive wounds.
38. Detective Sergeant Aron McNeil examined the Suburban. He noted apparent reddish brown stain (RBS) spots on the exterior and, when looking in through the windows, could see what appeared to be personal property strewn all over the driver seat as well as more RBS in the front passenger area.

OCME

39. On August 9, 2022, an autopsy was performed and the deceased female was positively identified as Emmy Bascom DOB 10/1979. The cause of death was determined to be multiple sharp force injuries of neck and torso and manner listed as homicide. On August



10, 2022, I spoke with Doctor Kathleen McCubbin who performed the Autopsy. I learned there were more than 100 multiple sharp force injuries to the body of Bascom.

Interview with Cara Rodrigues

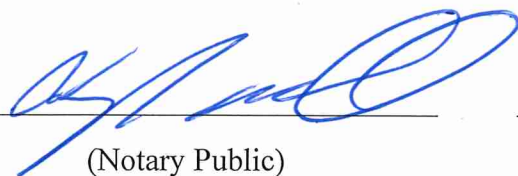
40. On August 9, 2022, Detective Trooper Kelsey Knapp and I spoke with Cara Rodrigues. Rodrigues had been taken into custody and transported to the Westminster State Police Barracks after being arrested for Burglary as described above. Cara was advised she was in custody for burglary and that we were investigating a homicide that occurred in the area.
41. During the conversation with Rodrigues, she advised she wanted to have an attorney present. Rodrigues was advised we would not ask her questions regarding the investigation. Rodrigues was then read and signed a consent form to obtain DNA buccal swabs, swabs her hands and fingernails, photos and her clothing.
42. While in the presence of the detectives, Rodrigues made statements about being drugged and asked Detective Trooper Knapp about taking a drug test. I asked Rodrigues what she was asking for and she advised she wanted a drug test because she should have no drugs, other than THC, in her system. She then stated, "I don't know how I can be held responsible of anything if I was being drugged."
43. At approximately 2:45 AM I entered the holding cell to check on Rodrigues. While doing so she advised she now wanted to speak with detectives. I explained that was her decision and confirmed she was reinitiating and now wanted to speak. Rodrigues was brought into an interview room.
44. Rodrigues again confirmed she wanted to speak with detectives, and I read her the Miranda rights and waiver. Rodrigues indicated she wanted to speak with us however she was not sure she could sign the form because she didn't believe her legal name was Cara Rodrigues, and she was not certain which name she should sign. She again confirmed she wanted to speak with Detective Trooper Lengfellner and me and signed the Miranda Waiver with an "X".
45. During this conversation with Cara she described her injuries as defensive wounds. I asked her about her friend Emmy, and she advised she last saw Emmy when Emmy gave her a ride to her residence on Blackmer Lane. Cara would not advise when this occurred and stated Emmy dropped her off up the road from the house. Cara claimed Emmy's "dealer" was also present with Emmy and his name was "Buck." Cara initially advised



“Buck” was the individual who assaulted her and caused her current injuries but when asked to describe “Buck” she advised she has never seen him before. Throughout this conversation Cara questioned her own mental health and advised numerous times everyone would think she was crazy. After a short period of time Cara ended the conversation.

46. A review of Cara’s criminal history reveals she has 1 prior felony conviction and 27 prior misdemeanor convictions.
47. At the Westminster Barracks, Detective Lieutenant John-Paul Schmidt and Detective Trooper Knapp checked the bag of garbage that had been collected from the Mercier residence. They were looking to see if the victim’s identification might be in the purse that had been described as being in the trash bag. They located the cardboard Pepsi soda container inside. The container had RBS on it and a small black purse was jammed inside of it. The purse was mostly empty, and no identification was located.
48. Based upon the above noted facts and circumstances, I have probable cause to believe Cara Rodrigues DOB:11/27/90 committed the offense of Second-Degree Murder and Burglary (2 counts) a violation of Title 13, Vermont Statutes Annotated Section 2301 and 1201.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
this 10 day of August 2022


(Notary Public)


(Affiant)
8/10/22
(Date)

STATE OF VERMONT
CONDITIONS OF RELEASE ORDER

Defendant CARA RODRIGUES	D.O.B. 11/27/90	Unit Windham	Circuit	Docket Number 22 B1004818
			Offense 2nd Degree Murder Burglary	

The Court has determined that future appearance(s) of the defendant will not be reasonably assured by his/her release on personal recognizance or execution of an unsecured appearance bond alone; or that the release of the defendant will constitute a danger to the public. It is therefore ORDERED that the defendant be released upon the following marked conditions:

You must give the court bail as follows:

- a. An Unsecured Appearance Bond in the amount of \$ _____.
- b. A Secured Appearance Bond in the amount of \$ _____, with a cash or surety deposit of \$ _____.
- c. A Surety Bond or cash in the amount of \$ Held w/o Bail
- d. A Peace Bond in the amount of \$ _____, with a deposit of \$ _____.

PROBABLE CAUSE MUST BE FOUND BY A JUDICIAL OFFICER IF HELD ON BAIL FOR MORE THAN 48 HOURS.

1. ☐ You must come to court when you are told to.
 2. ☐ You must give your attorney and the court clerk your address and phone number. If it changes, you must tell them immediately.
 3. ☐ You must not be charged with or have probable cause found for a new offense while this case is open.
 4. ☐ You are released into the custody of _____.
 5. ☐ You must report to _____ police station/barracks and check in on _____ (days) by _____ (time) AM/PM.
 6. ☐ You must live in _____ county. You cannot leave the county without the court's permission.
 7. ☐ You cannot drive any motor vehicle, including a car, truck, or motorcycle.
 8. ☐ You cannot drive any motor vehicle, including a car, truck, or motorcycle unless you have a valid driver's license, one that is not suspended or expired or revoked.
 9. ☐ You must submit to an alcosensor when you report to the police station/barracks.
 10. ☐ You must NOT buy, have or use regulated drugs without a prescription.
 11. ☐ Curfew: _____
 12. ☐ You must NOT buy, have or drink any alcoholic beverage.
 13. ☐ You must NOT buy, have or use any firearms or dangerous/deadly weapons.
 14. ☐ You must NOT have contact with _____, which includes in person, in writing, by telephone, by e-mail or through a third person regardless of whether you are in jail or released.
 15. ☐ You must NOT abuse or harass in any way _____ regardless of whether you are in jail or released.
 16. ☒ You must come to court on 8/10/22 at 1:00 AM/PM PM
 17. ☐ You may be arrested without a warrant if you do not abide by Condition(s) No. _____.
- Other conditions: _____

VIOLATIONS OF ANY OF THESE CONDITIONS IS A CRIME. If you violate any of these conditions the court may send you to jail or keep you in jail and you may be charged with new crimes. You must follow these conditions until your case is closed or until the court changes the conditions.

Order of the Court:

Presiding Judge/Clerk Judge Palmer via phone	Date 8/9/22
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I have received a copy of this order. I have read it. I understand it.

Defendant	Date	Time AM PM
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