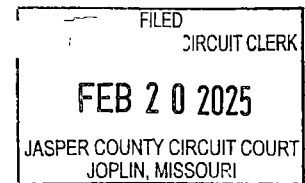




STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE



STATE OF MISSOURI  
COUNTY OF Jasper

Date: 2/19/2025

I, Lieutenant Trevor Hole, 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 on the date of February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 11:31 p.m., at 313 W. Vine Street, City of Carthage, County of Jasper, State of Missouri, Elijah Micheal Hardee, committed one or more criminal offense(s) of: Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree (RSMO 565.021)

Name: Elijah Micheal Hardee  
Arrested: NOT IN CUSTODY

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 02/15/2025 the Carthage Police Department was contacted in reference to a disturbance involving a weapon. The reporting party advised on the 911 emergency call that someone had been shot at the residence and that there was a large physical disturbance ongoing. Upon officer arrival there was a large group of people standing around a male who was laying on in the yard. The male had suffered an apparent gunshot wound and first aid was being rendered. The male was later transported to Mercy Carthage Hospital via ambulance where he was later pronounced deceased at the hospital.

During a subsequent investigation, several witnesses were contacted on scene, as well as surrounding neighbors to the residence. Witness 1, was standing by the victim when he was shot and identified the male with the pistol as Elijah Hardee. Witness 2 was also in close proximity to the victim and identified Elijah Hardee as the male who had the pistol. Witness 3 was in a physical altercation with another subject while the shooting occurred. Once a gunshot was heard, their fight stopped and they turned to look and identified Elijah Hardee holding a gun.

While a neighborhood canvas was being conducted, witness 4, approached officers and advised that they had taken a video of the entire incident. While observing the video, Hardee is observed to be partially involved in the physical altercation before stepping back, pulling a pistol from his person, and firing a shot into the victim. Witness 4 then observed Hardee and 3 other unknown subjects flee the scene in a passenger vehicle. Hardee was observed wearing a black hoodie and blue athletic shorts on the video.

Hardee was stopped and contacted in a traffic stop by the Joplin Police Department on 02/15/2025 at approximately 2040 hours. Hardee was the passenger in the traffic stop wearing a black hoodie with blue athletic shorts.

Witness 5 was later contacted and interviewed. Witness 5 stated that they were standing behind the victim trying to pull another male off during the physical altercation portion of the disturbance. Witness 5 stated that they observed Hardee pull a gray/black pistol from his hoodie pocket area and shoot the victim.

An exigent location request was submitted via social media and it was observed that Hardee was at the scene at 11:17 p.m..

3. **MISDEMEANORS AND FELONIES:** I am requesting the issuance of an arrest warrant based on the following:

☒ I believe that the defendant will not appear in court in response to a criminal summons because:

Hardee shot and killed the victim and then fled the scene prior to officer arrival. Hardee also has a criminal history including Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Property Damage.

☒ I believe that the defendant poses a danger to other person because:

☐ a crime victim / ☒ the community or to any

In the middle of an altercation involving multiple people, Hardee brandished a firearm, shot and killed the victim, while there were several people in close proximity. Hardee then fled the scene with the firearm and has not been currently located.

Print Name: Trevor Hole

Signature:



Agency Name: Carthage Police Department

Agency Case Number: 25-0423

OCN: