

INTERIM COMPLAINT

STATE OF ARIZONA

Date 04/23/2025

vs.

Court Justice

Pima County, State of Arizona

Manny Romero Jr 05/06/1993

No. 1

Defendant's Name (Please Print)

Precinct No. 1

Arresting Agency Tucson Police Dept

Agency Case No. 2504200067

Arresting Officer Det. Ewings 53652

BOND RECOMMENDATION

High Bond ☒ Low Bond ☐

No Recommendation ☐

Hold Without Bond ☐

INTERIM COMPLAINT:

To be used only where necessary to comply with the provisions of Rule 4.1, Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure.

PLEASE PRINT CHARGING INFORMATION

The undersigned, having appeared personally and having been duly sworn does, upon information and belief, accuse Manny Romero Jr 05/06/1993 of the crime(s) of 1st degree felony murder/burglary

committed on the 20 day of April, 20 25, in Pima County, in violation of A.R.S. Section 13-1105A2 F1 13-1508A1 F2

Statute(s)

Date

Offense Time/Date: 1057 4/20/25

Offense Location: [REDACTED]

Training Witness

Arrest Time/Date: 2000 1413/25

Arrest Location: [REDACTED]

(Please Print)

Statement of Probable Cause:
SEE ATTACHED

☐ Continued on next page

04/23/2025

Date

Det. K Ewings 53652

Reporting Officer / Badge No.

This court has found reasonable cause to believe that such offense was committed and that the defendant committed it.

4/24/25

Date

[Signature]
Justice of the Peace / Magistrate

Defendant's Name: Manny Romero Jr 05/06/1993

Agency Case No. 2504200067

Statement of Probable Cause continued:

SEE ATTACHED

Justification for Bond Recommendation:

Romero is currently on parole from the AZ Department of Corrections until 05/21/2025 for charges of attempted aggravated assault with a simulated weapon.

On 04/20/2025 officers responded to [REDACTED] reference a person shot. When officers arrived they located the victim Fernando Issac Pablos with gunshot trauma. He was pronounced deceased at the scene. Persis, a friend of the decedent, was the tenant of the apartment stated she was the only person who lived there. Persis stated Pablos came over unannounced and she allowed him in. A short time later there was a knock at the door. When she opened it, a female she knew as Ambar Morales, was outside and demanded to talk to Pablos, who was in the living room near the front door. An unknown male pushed past Persis and barged his way in. Both Ambar and the male entered the apartment without permission. The male pointed a gun at Pablos' head and said "you wanna play mother fucker".

Persis told Ambar and the male to leave and moved to open the front door. Neither Ambar nor the male left. As Persis attempted to open the door, she heard 2-3 gunshots and turned to see that the male had shot Pablos multiple times. Ambar and the male then fled in a white 4 door sedan. Persis told investigators that Ambar is the older sister of Pablo's ex-girlfriend, Jeannette Morales. Persis did not know who the male was.

Records show that Pablo and Jeannette have contacts together as far back as November of 2023. Persis believes Pablo has known Ambar for as long as he had known Jeannette.

Debra Mallacci, a long-time resident, reported that Persis' apartment was a site of suspected drug activity involving Pablos and others. She also described a suspicious white vehicle frequently seen at the complex and believed it to be connected to drug trafficking. She also described hearing gunshots and saw a male and female fleeing the complex in a white 4 door sedan, that she said was the same car she had frequently seen at the complex. She was not able to describe the female.

Video from a nearby apartment complex shows a white 4-door sedan dropping Pablos off at the complex on 4/20/25 at approximately 0951 and then leaving. The vehicle returns at approximately 1028. Pablos called his mother at 1037 stating he needed to be picked up, although he did not tell her why or where. The white 4-door sedan is then seen leaving the scene after the shooting at approximately 1051. The vehicle shares similar characteristics with a Hyundai Sonata to include the body shape, front grill and bumper, rear taillights and rear bumper.

Records showed that Ambar Morales was the registered owner of a white 2013 Hyundai Sonata bearing Arizona License plate W0A0KR which returned [REDACTED]

While conducting surveillance on [REDACTED] officers observed a white 4-door Hyundai Sonata. The vehicle was occupied by a female that matched the description of Ambar. There were no other occupants visible in the vehicle. The Hyundai went mobile and officers ultimately conducted a traffic stop on the sedan bearing AZ.W0A0KR at [REDACTED] As Officers contacted the driver, she was actively sending a text message. Officers secured the phone and took the female into custody. The female matched the MVD photo for Ambar Morales.

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Ambar was placed under arrest for 1st degree Homicide and transported to the main police station.

addendum

Ambar was interviewed by investigators, and she stated that she had been with Pablos earlier in the day and had met up with a friend that she initially identified as "Band." Ambar stated that she communicated with "Band" through cell phone communication and stated that "Band" calls her from different numbers and is not listed in her contacts. She advised that she would be able to point out in her call log which number was "Band's."

Ambar stated that she and Pablos separated from "Band" and continued to hangout. Later she dropped off Pablos at [REDACTED] and they smoked meth before he exited the car. He became upset with Ambar when she refused to give him more meth. Pablos exited the car and then reached back in and stole an empty bag and, what Ambar described as, an expandable stick. She asked Pablos for her property back, but he refused. He then left the area and Ambar did not know where he went.

Ambar Morales recounted that after Pablos took items from her car, she became frustrated and wanted to retrieve her belongings. She called her acquaintance, Band, hoping he could help her confront Pablos and recover the items. Morales picked up Band from an apartment complex and explained the situation to him during the drive. They then went to another apartment complex where she believed Pablos was staying. Upon arrival, Morales knocked on the door while Band accompanied her. She stated that when the door opened, the situation quickly spiraled out of control. According to her, Band immediately entered the apartment, not allowing her to speak or de-escalate the situation. Ambar stayed within the threshold of the apartment.

Within moments, Morales heard three gunshots and panicked. She fled down the stairs and ran to her car. By the time she reached the vehicle, Band had already gotten inside. As they drove away, Morales heard someone scream, adding to the chaos. Band instructed her to keep driving, and they left the area. Afterward, Morales said Band directed her to pull over, at which point he exited and left in another vehicle that had arrived. Morales stated she did not know who picked him up and that everything happened very quickly.

Investigators provided Ambar with her phone, and she began scrolling through previous calls. She was able to identify several undesignated numbers but stated none of them were "Band." While she was scrolling through there were multiple calls to and from two contacts listed as "Bandit" and "Bandit 1." Ambar claimed that "Bandit" and Bandit 1" were both the

same person and identified the person only as her cousin, Jesus Moreno Ramirez, who is the son of her Uncle on her father's side.

The contact information for "Bandit" was [REDACTED] and per records was associated to a T-Mobile account for "Jenny Rom."

The contact information for "Bandit 1" was [REDACTED] and per records was associated to a T-Mobile account for Alexand Saucedo."

Video showed Ambar dropping off Pablos at 0951. At 0956 Ambar called "Bandit 1" and the call lasted for 3 minutes. This was consistent with Ambar's statement that she called "Band" after Pablos took her items. Investigators challenged Ambar on "Band," "Bandit," and "Bandit 1" being different people.

Eventually, Ambar admitted that "Band," "Bandit" and "Bandit 1" were the same person and that he contacts her from both numbers listed. This was supported by the call history. There was no unassigned number associated with "Band", "Bandit," or "Bandit 1."

The phone number [REDACTED] is associated with a cash app profile of Manny Romero with a profile name of \$Bandit6000. ZetX shows the account holder as Jenny Rom" Manny Romero Jr 05/06/1993, has a mother named Jenny Romero. A Facebook profile for Manny Romero, URL [REDACTED] has photos of a Hispanic/mixed male with multiple tattoos. MVD photos and police database photos were compared to social media photos, and it was determined that Manny Romero's facebook was Manny Romero Jr, 05/06/1993.

Ambar's mother, Irma, confirmed that Ambar does not have a cousin named Jesus Moreno Ramirez. Irma stated that Ambar had been associating to a male she said is violent and she did not like. She knows him as "Bandit" and has seen him hundreds of times. A photo, with no name, from Manny Romero's Facebook page was shown to her and she identified him as "Bandit"

Amber also stated she knows Bandit to carry a firearm. On 04/22/2025 under TPD 2504220188, Anna Shanklin reported her ex boyfriend Manny Romero stole her 2016 Hyundai Elantra on 04/15/2025. She was told to wait 7 days to make a report if it was not returned. She stated there were no weapons in the car at the time of the theft. The vehicle was disabled by the car dealership on 04/18. Officers obtained the location for the vehicle. It was parked at [REDACTED] at the Food City. A short time later, a male, identified as Manny Romero Jr was seen getting into that car. He was with a female later identified as Corina Martinez..

Martinez and Romero were detained and taken into custody. A firearm and paraphernalia was observed in plain view inside the vehicle. A cell phone was located in the car. A search warrant was obtained for the cellphone. Martinez claimed the cell phone was hers. She identified the male she was with as a "Bandit". In the call log/text message history for the cellphone were multiple calls and messages to "Bandit" at [REDACTED] over the course of a few days and as recent as 513 pm today. This is the same phone number Ambar Morales called Bandit on 5 minutes after she dropped off the victim, which is the same Bandit that she said shot Pablos.