

IN THE DISTRICT/SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
AT Fairbanks

COMPLAINT

Related Search Warrant(s): See Attachment A

State of Alaska,		
Plaintiff,		
vs.		
Steven John Hartman		
Defendant 2 of 2.		
Date of Birth: 03/20/1977	APSIN: 6686176	
Operator License Number: 6686176		
State: ☒ AK ☐	CDL? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Mailing Address: 710 Brewster Street		
City: Fairbanks	State: AK	ZIP: 99712

FILED in the Trial Courts
State of Alaska Fourth District

APR 23 2016

By _____ Deputy

CASE NO. 4FA-16-94802

STATEMENT OF CHARGES:

COUNT I

Defendant(s)	ATN	CTN	Date Offense	Offense Location
Steven John Hartman	/ 111091716	001	12/10/2015	Fairbanks, Alaska
Statute/Reg/Ordinance (from UOCT)	Offense Title			Modifier
AS 11.41.100	MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE			☐ Attempt - AS 11.31.100
Class: Felony				☐ Solicitation - AS 11.31.110
				☐ Conspiracy - AS 11.31.120
				☐ Gang-Related - AS 12.55.137
DV Related: ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Motor Vehicle Used in Commission of Offense - AS 28.15.181(a)			
If Traffic Offense: ☐ Highway Work Zone ☐ Traffic Safety Corridor				
Commercial Vehicle? ☐ Yes ☐ No	If Yes, type: ☐ >26,000 lbs. ☐ >15 passengers ☐ Hazardous Materials			

THE COMPLAINANT STATES that on or about the 10th day of December, 2015, at or near Fairbanks, in the Fourth Judicial District, State of Alaska, the above named Defendant did unlawfully commit the offense Murder in the First Degree, when

- [X] with intent to cause the death of another person, the person he/she
[X] caused the death of any person; or AS 11.41.100(a)(1)(A)
[] compelled or induced any person to commit suicide through duress or deception;
AS 11.41.100(a)(1)(B)

IN THE DISTRICT/SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
AT Fairbanks

COMPLAINT

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State of Alaska,		
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Defendant 2 of 2.		
Date of Birth: 03/20/1977	APSIN: 6686176	
Operator License Number: 6686176		
State: ☒ AK ☐	CDL? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Mailing Address: 710 Brewster Street		
City: Fairbanks	State: AK	ZIP: 99712

CASE NO. 4FA-12-94802

STATEMENT OF CHARGES:

COUNT II

Defendant(s)	ATN	CTN	Date Offense	Offense Location
Steven John Hartman	111091716	002	12/10/2015	Fairbanks, Alaska
Statute/Reg/Ordinance (from UOCT)	Offense Title			Modifier
AS 11.41.110	MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE			☐ Attempt - AS 11.31.100
Class: Felony				☐ Solicitation - AS 11.31.110
				☐ Conspiracy - AS 11.31.120
				☐ Gang-Related - AS 12.55.137
DV Related: ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Motor Vehicle Used in Commission of Offense - AS 28.15.181(a)			
If Traffic Offense: ☐ Highway Work Zone ☐ Traffic Safety Corridor				
Commercial Vehicle? ☐ Yes ☐ No	If Yes, type: ☐ >26,000 lbs. ☐ >15 passengers ☐ Hazardous Materials			

THE COMPLAINANT STATES that on or about the 10th day of December, 2015, at or near Fairbanks, in the Fourth Judicial District, State of Alaska, the above named Defendant did unlawfully commit the offense Murder in the Second Degree, when
[X] with intent to cause serious physical injury to another person or knowing that the conduct is substantially certain to cause death or serious physical injury to another person, he/she caused the death of any person; AS 11.41.110(a)(1)
[] he/she knowingly engaged in conduct that resulted in the death of another person under circumstances manifesting an extreme indifference to the value of human life; AS 11.41.110(a)(2)

IN THE DISTRICT/SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
AT Fairbanks

COMPLAINT

Related Search Warrant(s): See Attachment A

State of Alaska,		
Plaintiff,		
vs.		
Noah Isaac Griffith		
Defendant 1 of 2.		
Date of Birth: 10/09/1997	APSIN: 7809745	
Operator License Number: 7457714		
State: ☒ AK ☐	CDL? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Mailing Address: 29 Trinidad Drive		
City: Fairbanks	State: AK	ZIP: 99709

FILED in the Trial Courts
State of Alaska Fourth District

APR 28 2016

By _____ Deputy

CASE NO. 4FA-16-94902

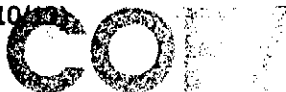
STATEMENT OF CHARGES:

COUNT I

Defendant(s)	ATN	CTN	Date Offense	Offense Location
Noah Isaac Griffith	111091725	001	12/10/2015	Fairbanks, Alaska
Statute/Reg/Ordinance (from UOCT)	Offense Title			Modifier
AS 11.41.100	MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE			☐ Attempt - AS 11.31.100
Class: Felony				☐ Solicitation - AS 11.31.110
DV Related: ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Motor Vehicle Used in Commission of Offense - AS 28.15.181(a)			☐ Conspiracy - AS 11.31.120
If Traffic Offense: ☐ Highway Work Zone ☐ Traffic Safety Corridor				☐ Gang-Related - AS 12.55.137
Commercial Vehicle? ☐ Yes ☐ No	If Yes, type: ☐ >26,000 lbs. ☐ >15 passengers ☐ Hazardous Materials			

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- [X] with intent to cause the death of another person, the person he/she
[X] caused the death of any person; or AS 11.41.100(a)(1)(A)
[] compelled or induced any person to commit suicide through duress or deception;
AS 11.41.100(a)(1)(B)



IN THE DISTRICT/SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
AT Fairbanks

COMPLAINT

Related Search Warrant(s): See Attachment A

State of Alaska,		
Plaintiff,		
vs.		
Noah Isaac Griffith		
Defendant 1 of 2.		
Date of Birth: 10/09/1997	APSIN: 7809745	
Operator License Number: 7457714		
State: ☒ AK ☐	CDL? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Mailing Address: 29 Trinidad Drive		
City: Fairbanks	State: AK	ZIP: 99709

FILED in the Trial Courts
State of Alaska Fourth District

APR 28 2016

By _____ Deputy

CASE NO.

4FA-110-94902

STATEMENT OF CHARGES:

COUNT II

Defendant(s)	ATN	CTN	Date Offense	Offense Location
Noah Isaac Griffith	111091725	002	12/10/2015	Fairbanks, Alaska
Statute/Reg/Ordinance (from UOCT)	Offense Title			Modifier
AS 11.41.110	MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE			☐ Attempt - AS 11.31.100
Class: Felony				☐ Solicitation - AS 11.31.110
				☐ Conspiracy - AS 11.31.120
				☐ Gang-Related - AS 12.55.137
DV Related: ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Motor Vehicle Used in Commission of Offense - AS 28.15.181(a)			
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[X] with intent to cause serious physical injury to another person or knowing that the conduct is substantially certain to cause death or serious physical injury to another person, he/she caused the death of any person; AS 11.41.110(a)(1)
[] he/she knowingly engaged in conduct that resulted in the death of another person under circumstances manifesting an extreme indifference to the value of human life; AS 11.41.110(a)(2)

IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT/SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
AT FAIRBANKS

AFFIDAVIT by Police Officer
In Support of Complaint

Related Search Warrant(s): _____

State of Alaska,		Plaintiff,
vs.		
Noah Isaac Griffith		Defendant 1 of 2.
Date of Birth: 10-9-97	APVIN: 7809745	
Operator License Number: 7457714		
State: ☒ AK ☐	CDL? ☐ Yes ☒ No	
Mailing Address: 29 Trinidad Drive		
City: Fairbanks	State: AK	ZIP: 99709

FILED in the Trial Courts
State of Alaska Fourth District

APR 28 2016

By _____ Deputy

CASE NO.

4FA-16-94902

Defendant(s)	ATN	CTN(s)	Date Offense	Offense Location
Noah Isaac Griffith	111091725	001, 002	12-10-15	Fairbanks

I, Investigator Michael A. Wery

attest to the following and state:

On 12-10-15 at 1341 hours, James Ward reported that he found Ronald McKnight deceased at 2576 Roland Road in Fairbanks and that McKnight's green utility pickup truck (AK plate JAX474) was missing from the driveway. Troopers responded to the residence and found a deceased male lying face down in a pool of blood next to his bed. The male was positively identified as Ronald McKnight. McKnight was dressed in only shorts and there was a blanket covering his body with a pillow over his head. There was a defect in the pillow consistent with a bullet hole. There appeared to be blood spatter on the wall above McKnight's head. Evidence on scene suggested the scene was altered following McKnight's death, which included towels and blankets covering bloodstains on the floor. There were three live .22 caliber ammunition rounds found on the floor near the front door. There was a fourth live .22 round on the stairs going up to the second story. A fifty round count .22 caliber ammunition box was found on McKnight's desk, which was the same caliber and brand as those found downstairs and on the stairs. Outside, several tire impressions were documented in McKnight's driveway.

Ward said he arrived at McKnight's residence about 1600 hours on 12/9/15 and helped McKnight work on a classic car that was parked in the garage. While working on the car, other acquaintances of McKnight stopped by, including Renee Bullock and Steven Hartman. Ward said Hartman left and returned to McKnight's residence several times that night.

Renee Bullock confirmed she was at McKnight's residence earlier in the day on 12/9/15, that she borrowed McKnight's truck, and returned to McKnight's residence at about 1900 hours. When she arrived, she saw Hartman standing outside smoking a cigarette and she noticed a small vehicle parked outside with the windows fogged up, as if someone was inside the vehicle. Bullock asked who was in the vehicle and Hartman said it was his friend "Noah" who drove him around. Bullock left McKnight's residence, but returned at 0100 hours on 12/10/15. When she went inside to visit McKnight, Hartman and Ward were both there. Bullock then left shortly thereafter, which was the last time she saw McKnight.

Ward said he fell asleep in a chair upstairs at about 0100 hours while McKnight slept in his bed, which was situated over a hot tub. Ward awoke at about 0700 hours on 12/10/15 and went outside to start his truck. Ward stated he sent a text to a friend that he was coming over and if wanted a coffee. Ward said he left McKnight's residence at about 0800 hours. As Ward was walking out the front door, Hartman had just walked out the door and got into McKnight's green utility truck, which was already running. At that time, McKnight was laying upstairs in his bed awake. Ward stated he went to his friend's to work on an ATV. Ward realized he forgot his cellular phone and at 1230 hours, returned to McKnight's to retrieve it.

When Ward returned to McKnight's residence at 1230 hours, he saw that McKnight's green utility truck was no longer parked in the driveway. Ward saw that the front door was padlocked from the outside and Ward assumed McKnight was gone. Ward had a key and unlocked the padlock, but discovered the door still wouldn't open, because it was blocked from the inside with a 2X6 board. Ward went to the back door and discovered it too was locked. Ward then climbed a ladder and entered the residence via an unsecured door on the second level. He observed McKnight lying face down covered with a blanket and thought he was sleeping. Ward retrieved his cell phone and went downstairs. Ward noticed things were missing and out of place. Specifically, he noticed drawers to the tool box were open and some of his clothes were missing. Ward then went back upstairs and noticed McKnight was deceased and notified McKnight's neighbors, who were Mike and Rory Newman.

An interview was conducted with the neighbor, Rory Newman. Newman confirmed Ward told her McKnight was dead and he appeared visually upset when he told her this. Ward's statements about working on an ATV with a friend and forgetting his cell phone at McKnight's residence was further corroborated by witness statements and a forensic examination of his cell phone.

Ward further stated that the live .22 rounds that were found inside by the front door and on the stairs (during the scene investigation) were not there when he left earlier that morning. Ward also said McKnight had boxes of various caliber brand ammunition on a shelf next to his desk. Ward said in the bedroom closet on a dresser was a small gray safe that opened from the front. Ward said McKnight kept the key to that safe on his truck key ring. Ward described the key as having four sides and looking like a Philips screw driver. Ward also said McKnight kept a Makita tool bag (that was teal and black in color) hidden behind a service panel under the hot tub. The service panel had to be unscrewed to get to the bag. Ward said McKnight kept several handguns of various makes and models inside the Makita tool bag.

McKnight's bed was positioned on top of the hot tub. The hot tub had a rigid cover over it and a mattress was on the cover. McKnight was lying on the rigid cover next to the mattress. The scene investigation revealed the service panel, located at the foot of the hot tub, was ripped off. This panel gave access to the underside of the hot tub within five feet of where McKnight's body was found. No Makita tool bag or firearms were found under the hot tub. Ward was shown scene photos of McKnight's desk and bedroom. Ward pointed out where McKnight kept his boxes of ammunition, which were clearly missing. Ward also pointed out that the clothing that was on the bed in the bedroom; were not there before and were in the closet where McKnight kept the safe.

No firearms were found inside McKnight's residence during the scene investigation; however, on the bed near McKnight's head was a cellular phone that belonged to McKnight. An examination of that phone revealed two digital photos with several pistols and revolvers displayed. Jenny McClain later provided a list of firearms that was found in McKnight's personal affects. The list contained firearm makes, models, and serial numbers. Those firearms included a Kimber .45 semi-automatic pistol, a Ruger P40 semi-automatic pistol, a Glock 10mm semi-automatic pistol, a 454 Taurus revolver, a Sig Sauer P-250 .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, a Smith and Wesson 460 revolver, a Taurus .357 Magnum 7 shot revolver, and a Remington Model 700 30-06 rifle. The photos of the firearms on McKnight's phone matched the make and models of several of the firearms on the list.

Ward said he last saw the Makita bag with firearms in it about two days prior to McKnight's death. These firearms included an H&K 9mm and 10mm Glock pistols. He believed McKnight had .40, .45, and .380 caliber pistols along with a 460 Casual. There was also .22 rifle that looked more like an AR-15 and a 30.06 rifle. Ward said McKnight bought several firearms from Steven Hartman over the past couple of months. Ward said McKnight loaned Hartman some money and Hartman gave McKnight a firearm as collateral until he could pay McKnight back.

An autopsy was conducted on McKnight, which revealed he died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds and his death was ruled as a homicide.

On 12/12/15, search warrants were obtained for Steven Hartman's residence at 710 Brewster Street in Fairbanks, as well as Hartman's person, which authorized the seizure of any cell phones. A Motorola cell phone was found in a jacket pocket in the dining room. Steven Hartman's girlfriend, Tirza Knix, stated that phone was a work phone and it belonged to a co-worker. Knix said Hartman and McKnight had a "business type relationship". When asked if it was involving drugs, Knix stated "I'm not going to say that". Knix confirmed that Hartman had been to McKnight's residence. Knix said Hartman and another subject, who she only knew as "Mark", picked her up at the Fort Wainwright main gate during the morning of 12/10/15 and drove her to her second job at the Alaska Club. Video surveillance from the visitor center at Fort Wainwright showed on 12/10/15 at 0943 hours, Arctic Taxi pulled into the parking lot and parked close to the building. Knix entered the taxi and the taxi departed Fort Wainwright. This evidence is contrary to what Knix told investigators about being picked up by Hartman.

The Motorola phone, which Knix said was a work phone belonging to a coworker, was seized. The phone was examined and found to belong to Steven Hartman with a phone number of 907-803-5757. This is contrary to Knix's statements that the phone belonged to a co-worker. Several text messages were recovered from that phone revealing Hartman had text correspondence with phone

number 907-388-7466 on 12/10/15 (the day of McKnight's death). The contact associated with the number was "Noah." Noah was later identified as Noah Griffith. The text correspondence is as follows:

0030: To Griffith: "U think it would be cool after she leaves?"

0031: From Griffith: "Yes, even thought about doing it while she's there cause then there's less of a chance anyone else would stop by"

0033: To Griffith: "If her car was out there. She came to trade a helmet for someone else so someone knows she was coming"

0034: To Griffith: "She hasn't looked at me twice, I don't think it matters its not like someone would say they were here".

0034: From Griffith: "I'm ready, wait till she drives off"

0101: To Griffith: "I'm sorry bro u must be trippin T minus 5 mins"

0105: To Griffith: "Damn is this fucking fate or what."

0106: From Griffith: "This good, less chance of knocks after this one".

0111: To Griffith: "Right that's what I thought at first but this bitch talks long and loud to anyone who will listen". Investigation revealed they were likely referring to Renee Bullock, who was still at McKnight's residence.

0114: From Griffith: "That's alright, patience is a virtue"

0416: To Griffith: "It's all clear right?"

0417: From Griffith: "100%."

0556: To Griffith: "Do it or not do it."

0557: From Griffith: "I've been waiting here over an hour."

0648: From Griffith "Yeah this two all nighters in a row."

0651: To Griffith: "I got ya bud pay off should be good and safe is to small to keep it all in so its somewhere else"

0651: To Griffith: "Not bolted down either."

0652: From Griffith: "We will find it."

0654: To Griffith: "Yes sir."

0739: To Griffith: "The wait has sucked I'm sorry we r good right?"

0740: From Griffith: "Yes"

Earlier in the night, Hartman was sending text messages to other acquaintances telling them to be patient and that he was waiting on "3 balls...3 ozs". During the scene investigation at McKnight's residence no controlled substances were found.

Also on Hartman's phone was a text at 0810 hours. This was the last call or text from Hartman's phone until 0936 hours when a text was sent to Tirza Knix stating "I so damn sorry bear its finally done I'm so sorry." The 0936 text came after Tirza called and sent Hartman multiple text messages asking him to pick her up at the gate at "915", which Hartman did not respond to.

On 12/17/15, Noah Griffith was contacted in a Volkswagen Golf (AK GZT738), which belonged to an acquaintance. He was with a female juvenile passenger, who was identified as L.G. Griffith was in possession of a Colt 1911 .45 caliber pistol. Griffith declined to answer questions, but made statements that Hartman was like a father to him.

During an interview with L.G., she stated she went to school with Griffith. L.G. stated earlier in the day, she left school with Griffith and he drove to his residence. L.G. waited in the car while Griffith went inside. Griffith came out of his residence with a Makita tool bag. L.G. said Griffith showed her guns that were under the back seat of the vehicle. L.G. said she received a text message from Griffith on 12/10/15 (the day of McKnight's death) that he wasn't going to be in class. A text message was observed on L.G.'s phone that was from Griffith. The text was dated 12/10/15 at 1019 hours stating he wasn't going to be in class because some "serious shit came up".

After obtaining a search warrant, a search of the Volkswagen Golf revealed three firearms which matched firearms in photos on McKnight's phone and on his list that was provided by Jenny McClain. In the back seat was a teal and black Makita tool bag that matched Ward's description of the Makita bag had been under McKnight's hot tub. In the tool bag was a Taurus 454 Casull revolver. Hidden under the back seat cushion was a Ruger .40 caliber pistol and a Kimber 1911.

A search at Griffith's residence discovered a cache of weapons that included a Remington 30-06 that was traced back to McKnight through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. That firearm was also on McKnight's list. Additionally two boxes of fifty count .22 caliber ammunition was found inside the residence. This .22 caliber ammunition was the same brand as the box found on McKnight's desk. The .22 live rounds in the box were also the same brand as the loose rounds found on the steps during the scene investigation. Finally, a gray Sentry brand safe was found in Griffith's bedroom in an end table next to his bed along with a four sided key. The key and safe matched the description provided by Ward during an interview. The four sided key was used to open the safe, which revealed a 1911 semi-automatic pistol and more ammunition inside.

A photo of the key used to open the safe seized from Griffith's bedroom was shown to Ward and Ward said that key appeared to be the same key that was on McKnight's key ring.

Parked in the driveway of Griffith's residence was a black Volkswagen Golf (AK plate JAU546) that was registered to Griffith. Inside the vehicle was a single .22 caliber live round that was the same brand as those found in McKnight's residence. In addition, the tire tread pattern on the vehicle appeared similar as tire impression evidence found in McKnight's driveway.

Griffith was in possession of an Apple iPhone that was seized. Pursuant to a search warrant, his phone was examined and several text messages between him and Steven Hartman had been deleted. The deleted text messages were recovered and those text messages corresponded to the text messages found on Hartman's phone. A further review of the extracted data revealed a missed phone call from Griffith's mother on 12/10/15 at 0542 hours. At 0543 hours, Griffith received a text from his mother asking "Where are you?" At 0717 hours, Griffith received a missed phone call from his father, but Griffith did not respond. Griffith finally responded to his mother at 1127 hours stating he fell asleep and was working on his school work. There were also text message correspondence with Tirza Knix that occurred on 12/10/15 which is as follows:

0922 From Knix: "Are you with Steve"

0922 To Knix: "Yes What's up."

0923 From Knix: "Tell him to call me now." This was the time frame that Knix was trying to contact Hartman to pick her up at the Ft Wainwright gate, but Hartman was not responding.

Griffith also sent several text messages to acquaintances which were as follows:

12/10/15 at 1020 hours from Griffith to 907-460-9772: "I got you a piece, HMU after school."

12/10/15 at 1031 hours from Griffith to 907-388-7779: "Aye BOI I got something way cool to show you".

12/11/15 at 1437 hours from Griffith to 907-388-7779: "Still have something super cool to show you".

12/11/15 1440 hours from Griffith to 907-388-7779: "A new piilstola."

Also recovered from Griffith's phone was a conversation with Knix that occurred on 12/12/15, which was the date investigators were searching Hartman's residence. That conversation is as follows:

12/12/15 at 2009 hours: From Knix: "Not a good time dude. Troopers are at the house."

12/12/15 at 2010 hours: To Knix: "Had no clue, what's the word??"

12/12/15 at 2014 hours: From Knix: "Not good but I think it'll be okay...I hope."

12/13/15 at 1043 hours: From Knix: "They arrested Steve last night and searched the house and took a bunch of stuff out of his room. He's going to get arraigned today then we'll know what

his bail and charges are. He said to tell you to throw everything away."

12/13/15 at 1310 hours: To Knix: "Yeah, I'm alright, just woke up. Everything is going or gone..."

12/13/15 at 1312 hours: From Knix: "Okay I'm at the courthouse now for his arraignment. Just keep a low profile for now. They arrested Cherie yesterday too. So who knows what she's saying to get herself out."

12/13/15 at 1315 hours: To Knix: "Cherie will say everything she knows, but she doesn't know enough to get me in trouble, I don't know what she's going to say about Steve though."

12/13/15 at 1317 hours: From Knix: "I know just stay low for now."

On 1/12/16, Griffith was interviewed by investigators with his attorney present. Griffith said he knew Hartman and would drive him around; that Hartman bought and sold drugs. He claimed he gave Hartman \$1000 for marijuana. Griffith said Hartman was buying drugs from McKnight and he had been to McKnight's a couple of times in the past with Hartman, but he never went inside. Griffith stated on this occasion, he picked Hartman up and they went to McKnight's so Hartman could "do a deal", implying there was going to be a bigger quantity than normal. He stated they were there for a couple of hours and saw Ward leave. Later Hartman came out with a soft case and some baggies of methamphetamine. Hartman drove McKnight's green utility truck up to Yak Estates and Griffith followed him. Hartman told him that they were giving the truck to one of McKnight's friends to borrow. Griffith claimed he and Hartman went back to his residence on 29 Trinidad where he took a shower while Hartman waited in his vehicle, the black Volkswagen Golf. Griffith denied being involved in McKnight's death. Griffith stated Hartman gave him several firearms and ammunition a day or two later for money Hartman owed him.

Griffith's statements about receiving the firearms from Hartman "a day or two" after McKnight's death is contrary to text message information found on Griffith's phone stating he's got a "piece" and a "new piistola" that were sent from Griffith's phone the day of McKnight's death (on 12/10/15).

Griffith admitted to selling a Glock 10mm to a minor, C.S. and a Smith and Wesson 460 revolver to Rob Longnecker. When confronted, C.S. and Longnecker denied obtaining any firearms from Griffith. They later admitted to buying those firearms from Griffith and turned them over to investigators. Both the Glock 10mm and the 460 revolver matched the firearms on McKnight's list. Griffith said he also sold a firearm to Katrina Vecchiarelli.

On 1/13/16, investigators contacted Katrina Vecchiarelli. Vecchiarelli told investigators that Griffith came to her residence around 12/14/15 to sell her a Ruger .380 with a laser sight. This firearm was on McKnight's list and it was pictured in his photos on his phone. Vecchiarelli told investigators that Hartman showed up to her residence after being released from custody. Records showed Hartman was released from FCC on 12/21/15. Vecchiarelli showed Hartman the firearm. Hartman told her the weapon was unsafe and he took it from her. This firearm has not been recovered.

On 1/14/16, a search warrant was executed to seize Knix's cell phone and to extract the data. A

Conversation was recovered between Knix and Hartman that occurred on 1/13/16 (the day investigators spoke to Vecchiarelli about the Ruger .380). That conversation is as follows:

1/13/16 at 1257 hours: From Hartman: "What's a good number for Noah."

1/13/16 at 1351 hours: To Hartman: "I only have 1 number for him. It's 907-388-7466."

1/13/16 at 1351 hours: From Hartman: "He's talking bear."

1/13/16 at 1352 hours: To Hartman: "What makes you think that?"

1/13/16 at 1353 hours: From Hartman: "They are raiding Katrians right now."

1/13/16 at 1355 hours: To Hartman: "That doesn't mean much. It's not like it was a big secret that there was something going on there."

1/13/16 at 1356 hours: From Hartman: "He said he sold her a gun."

1/13/16 at 1357 hours: To Hartman: "Damn, well come talk to me after call outs."

Ronald McKnight's green utility pickup was found abandoned in the parking lot of Yak Estates. The vehicle was unlocked and the keys were in the ignition. Ward told investigators McKnight kept a four sided key to a safe on the key ring to his truck. That key was not on the key ring nor was a similar key found in the vehicle. A neighborhood canvas was conducted at Yak Estates and nobody knew who the truck belonged to and nobody advised they knew McKnight. This was contrary to Griffith's statements that Hartman was taking the vehicle to that location so a friend of McKnight's could borrow it.

Finally, cellular subscriber information for Griffith's and Hartman's cell phones confirmed that both Hartman and Griffith were in the area of McKnight's residence on 12/10/15 during their text message conversations documented above.