

SEATTLE  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**CERTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION  
OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

GENERAL OFFENSE #	09-383210
UNIT FILE NUMBER	H09-348

That Cloyd Steiger is a Detective with the Seattle Police Department and has reviewed the investigation conducted in Seattle Police Department Case Number 09-383210;

There is probable cause to believe that Christopher John Monfort committed the crime(s) of Murder and Attempted Murder within the City of Seattle, County of King, State of Washington.

This belief is predicated on the following facts and circumstances:

On October 31, 2009, at approximately 9:30 p.m., Seattle Police Department Officers Timothy Brenton and Britt Sweeney conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and East Jefferson Street in Seattle. The stop, which lasted approximately 25 minutes, was uneventful. However, a witness walking her dog observed what appeared to be suspicious behavior by the driver of a car in the area. The car she observed drove past the officers, then turned at the next intersection, and pulled into a small park directly across from the officers. The headlights in the vehicle went off. The car then backed out of the paved area and onto a raised grassy area in the park. The car was directly facing the patrol car. The woman thought she saw two silhouettes in the car, but was not certain of this. It appeared to the woman that the occupant(s) in the car were watching the officers conduct the stop. She later described the car as a small, white or light-colored, older, foreign vehicle, with a sloped rear windshield, like a hatchback. In-car video from the officer's patrol car later depicted a car matching that description pass the officer's patrol vehicle at about 9:46 pm. These images were shown to the woman who had been walking her dog in the area at the time; she said that was the car that she subsequently saw "watching" the officers.

At almost at the exact time the officers left in their patrol car, the car the woman had been watching drove off the grass, onto Jefferson, and headed east. The woman walked a few blocks to her residence; just as she arrived there she heard multiple gunshots.

After the traffic stop, at approximately 10:06 p.m., Officers Brenton and Sweeney pulled their patrol car to the west side of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a residential street, near East Yesler Way in Seattle, approximately six blocks from the traffic stop. The officers were discussing the traffic stop: Brenton was a Field Training Officer, and Sweeney was his student. Sweeney was sitting in the driver's seat; Brenton was in the front passenger seat.

As the officers were parked in that location, a resident north of them saw what she described as a white or light-colored Toyota, possibly a hatchback, driving in a manner that appeared suspicious to her. (Later she told detectives that she suspected the car might be preparing to do a "drive-by shooting.") As she watched, the car drove northbound down 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then saw it return southbound and drive toward East Yesler Way.

As Officer Sweeney sat in the patrol car, talking with Officer Brenton, she became aware that a car had stopped almost directly adjacent to the patrol car. The street is narrow; she later said that she could have reached out and touched the other car. She sensed danger, and ducked in her seat, yelling to Brenton to do the same. She saw muzzle flashes, heard explosions, and felt a stinging sensation on the top of her head. She was aware that bullets were striking Brenton. She immediately radioed for help, and was aware that the other car was backing away from the patrol car. She got out of the patrol car and saw the other car making a turn mid-block, by backing into



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a space between cars and then driving north. Officer Sweeney fired approximately ten rounds from her duty weapon at the fleeing car. Officer Sweeney does not know whether any of the rounds she fired at the car struck it.

Officer Brenton was obviously dead at the scene. A search for the assailant was immediately commenced by the scores of patrol units that had responded to the scene from all over the city.

The immediate scene of the shooting was secured. Homicide detectives were summoned to the scene. Detective E. Jason Kasner and myself were designated as the primary detectives assigned to investigate this case.

Witnesses were interviewed in the area. A man who lives very close to the scene of the shooting was smoking a cigarette outside. He saw the other car pull up next to the patrol car, watched as shots were fired from that car into the patrol car, and saw the car back down the street, turn around, and drive away. He later described the car to detectives as a white or light-colored vehicle similar to a 1980's model Toyota Corolla.

Two other witnesses sitting in a car in a driveway just north of the shooting scene saw what they later described as a light-colored car, possibly a Toyota, drive southbound past them before the shooting. They heard the shots, and saw the same car drive past them at a high speed, in reverse, and then proceed northbound.

At a later point, Officer Brenton's body was removed from the scene and taken to the King County Medical Examiner's Office. An autopsy was conducted by Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Richard Harruff. Dr. Harruff said that Officer Brenton was struck several times in the head and torso by a weapon that fires .223 caliber, (5.56mm) rounds, commonly fired from an AR-15 or similar weapon. He ruled the cause of death as gunshot wounds, and the manner of death as Homicide.

Crime Scene Unit detectives were also summoned to process the crime scene. During the processing of the crime scene, CSI detectives noted and recovered a small bandana. This bandana had an American flag print on it. It was found just north of the shooting scene, at about the spot the suspect vehicle reportedly had turned around just after the shooting before fleeing northbound. We immediately placed significance on this piece of evidence because of the bombing of police equipment at the Charles Street shops nine days earlier, in which an American Flag was left by the suspect in that case, (a fact not widely reported or known outside very few in the police department).

Later, while reviewing in-dash cameras on responding patrol units, detectives reviewed the camera from Officers Brenton and Sweeney's patrol car. It is clear from that video that when they arrived at 29<sup>th</sup> and Yesler, the flag bandana was not in the street. We then reviewed the videos from the first arriving back-up units. The bandana is clearly seen in the street when they arrived very shortly after the shooting. We considered this signature evidence for this case, clearly left intentionally by the killer for that purpose.

We later learned that a male DNA profile had been developed on the flag found at the Charles Street shops, and that that profile had been searched in the state DNA databank with negative results. We submitted the bandana to the crime lab for DNA testing. A male DNA profile was developed. That profile was compared to the profile developed for Charles Street. The profile was matched to the Charles Street profile.



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Numerous patrol cars responded from various parts of the city to Officer Sweeney's call for assistance. Most, if not all of these patrol cars had operating in-car video. Detectives viewed these videos and were able to see the same vehicle identified by the witness walking her dog driving away from the scene of the shooting. In several of the in-car videos, this car can be seen moving to the right of a large SUV, despite Yesler being one lane in each direction at those points, in what appeared to be an attempt to stay out of the sight of the responding patrol vehicles. Some of this video and some still photos of this car were shown to an expert vehicle salvage retailer, Harvey Gunderson, who is located in Bellingham. After reviewing the videos and the photos, using forensic-like techniques measuring point by point, Gunderson opined that the car is a 1980-82 Datsun 210. A 1980-82 Datsun 210 can appear to the casual observer to be a very similar in body style to a 1980s Toyota Corolla.

Further review of patrol car videos revealed that the car described above is actually captured on the Coban digital recording system installed in the car occupied by Officers Brenton and Sweeney. This image is time stamped 9:59 pm, just 8 minutes before the murder of Officer Brenton. At 21:46:50 video shows that this car passed the location where Officers Brenton and Sweeney were discussing their traffic stop in the same direction as the patrol car was parked. The car then made a right turn, toward the west; at the next street. This maneuver put the car in position to round the block and approach the patrol car from behind, southbound. At 22:06:18 headlights appear approaching from the north. The headlights stop. The interior of the patrol unit can be seen rocking. At 22:06:23, spatter appears on the front windshield of the patrol car. At 22:06:37, Officer Sweeney appears out of and in front of the patrol car, with her weapon in hand. She is speaking into her portable radio microphone. At 212:08:03 the first back up units arrive.

In the days following the murder of Officer Brenton the Seattle Police Department received several hundred tips from the public relating to this case. A task force made up of detectives from units outside of the Homicide Unit was assigned to conduct follow-up investigation on many of these tips.

At 11:30 AM on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, Detective Timothy Renihan of the Criminal Intelligence Section received a tip from Kim Karns, the manager of the Terrace Apartments, 13725 56<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Tukwila, WA 98168. Karns told Detective Renihan that the leaseholder/occupant of unit D402 owned a "Datsun 210." Karns further stated that she found it "weird" that the occupant had covered the Datsun with a tarp during the last few days while it had been parked in the open for many months prior. Karns identified the occupant of D 402 as "Chris Monfort."

Detective Renihan checked available computer systems and found that Christopher Monfort was listed as residing at the Tukwila address given by Karns. Detective Renihan then searched Washington State Motor Vehicles records through the DAPS (Driver and Plate Search) program and found that Christopher Monfort was the owner of a 1980 Datsun 210 Coupe, WA license #313UHG. The registration shows the same Tukwila address, 13725 56<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., #D-402, Tukwila, WA 98168.

Contemporaneous to this, I received a phone call from Sarah Atterbury, a scientist with the crime lab. Atterbury told me that she had developed a male DNA profile from the flag bandana recovered at the shooting scene. She then compared this profile to the male DNA profile developed from the flag, (and other items) from the Charles Street bombing. She told me that the two profiles were a match.



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Detectives from the Homicide Unit responded to the scene to watch the vehicle while a search warrant was sought. SWAT officers were also dispatched. Upon the detectives arrival Monfort confronted them, produced a weapon and was shot by the detectives.

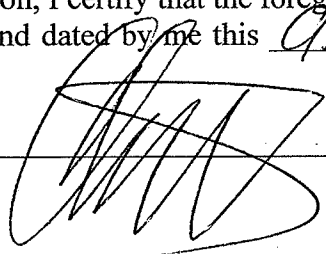
We obtained a search warrant to search his apartment. Upon entering the apartment, Kasner and I saw, among other things, an AR-15 type assault rifle in the living room, as well as other firearms, etc. Home-made explosives had been removed by the Bomb Squad prior to our entry.

The AR-15 style rifle was submitted to the crime lab and examined by Forensic Scientist Rick Wyant. He compared it with spent bullet fragments recovered at the scene and from autopsy. Wyant matched the weapon to the rounds to the exclusion of all other weapons in the world.

Bloody clothing from Monfort was examined by Forensic Scientist Sarah Atterbury. Atterbury developed a DNA profile from that clothing. The profile was compared to DNA profiles from the flag at Charles Street and the bandana from the shooting scene. The three profiles were matched to the same source.

At the time of its recovery, the Datsun 210 did not have louvers. (The video of the suspect vehicle passing Brenton and Sweeney's car clearly showed that the car had louvers). Among the items recovered in the search of Monfort's apartment were a cell phone and two computers. We turned those items over to Seattle Police Detective David Dunn, a member of the US Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force. Dunn brought us printouts of the cell phone text messages and photographs from the cell phone. Among the photographs was one in which the Datsun 210 is shown with louvers on.

Under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, I certify that the foregoing is true and correct to best of my knowledge and belief. Signed and dated by me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 2009, at Seattle, Washington.



AGENCY: <b>Seattle PD</b>	<b>WASPD0000</b>	CASE NUMBER <b>09-383210</b>	FILE NUMBER <b>H09-348</b>	PCN NUMBER	<b>SUPERFORM</b>
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ARREST INFORMATION		
DATE & TIME OF VIOLATION <b>10/31/2209 10:06 PM</b>	CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CITATION ATTACHED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	ACCOMPLICES
DATE OF ARREST/TIME <b>11/9/2009 12:34 PM</b>	ARREST LOCATION <b>13725 56 AV S Tukwila, WA 98168</b>	

SUSPECT INFORMATION		
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE/JR, SR, 1st, 2nd) <b>Monfort, Christopher John</b>	DOB <b>9/13/1968</b>	ALIAS, NICKNAMES
ARMED/DANGEROUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	IDENTITY IN DOUBT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	CITIZENSHIP <b>US</b>
PHYSICAL DETAILS		
SEX <b>M</b>	HEIGHT <b>603</b>	WEIGHT <b>215</b>
SKIN-TONE <b>LGT</b>	RACE <b>B</b>	EYE <b>BRO</b>
		HAIR <b>BLK</b>
SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS, DEFORMITIES		
IDENTIFICATION DETAILS		
CCN	PRIOR BA # <b>0</b>	AFIS #
FBI #	STATE ID #	DRIVER'S LICENSE #
STATE	SSN	
RESIDENCE		
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS <b>13725 56 AV S UNIT: D402 Tukwila, WA 98168</b>		EMPLOYMENT / SCHOOL
RESIDENCE PHONE		BUSINESS PHONE
		OCCUPATION
EMERGENCY CONTACT		
PERSON TO BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY		RELATIONSHIP
Address		PHONE

CHARGE INFORMATION			
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE <b>F - Murder</b>	RCW / ORD# <b>9A.32.030</b>	COURT / CAUSE # <b>Superior /</b>	CITATION #
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE	RCW / ORD#	COURT / CAUSE #	CITATION #

WARRANT / OTHER				
WARRANT DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	OFFENSE	AMOUNT OF BAIL	WARRANT TYPE
ORIGINATING POLICE AGENCY	ISSUING AGENCY	WARRANT RELEASED TO: (SERIAL # / UNIT / DATE / TIME)		

PROPERTY INFORMATION		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY LEFT FOR ARRESTEE AT JAIL		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE (SIMPLE DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFYING MARKS, SERIAL #)		
LIST ITEMS ENTERED INTO SAFEKEEPING		
TOTAL CASH OF ARRESTEE <b>\$0.00</b>	WAS CASH TAKEN INTO EVIDENCE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	SIGNATURE OF JAIL STAFF RECEIVING ITEMS / SERIAL #
AMOUNT: <b>\$0.00</b>		

OFFICER INFORMATION		
ARRESTING OFFICER / SERIAL # <b>Kasner, Earl J 5825</b>	TRANSPORTING OFFICER / SERIAL #	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / SERIAL #
SUPERFORM COMPLETED BY (SIGNATURE/SERIAL #) <b>Kasner, Earl</b>		CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NAME/SERIAL#/PHONE)

COURT FILE			
SUPERIOR COURT FILING INFO	<input type="checkbox"/> IN CUSTODY	<input type="checkbox"/> AT LARGE	<input type="checkbox"/> OUT ON BOND
			COURT CAUSE (STAMP OR WRITE)
COURT/DIST. CT.NO.	DIST. CT. BOND \$	SUP. CT. DATE	

EXTRADITE				
PERSON APPROVING EXTRADITION	SEAKING-LOCAL ONLY WACIC-STATE WIDE <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM ID & OR ONLY <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM OR, ID, MT, WY, CA, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM, HI, AK <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM FROM ALL 50 STATES <input type="checkbox"/>
E N T R Y	CCN _____ WAC _____ NCIC _____	DOE _____ TOE _____ OP _____	C L E A R A N C E	DOC _____ TOC _____ OP _____

PROBABLE CAUSE INFORMATION

**STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE: NON-VUCSA**

CONCISELY SET FORTH FACTS SHOWING PROBABLE CAUSE FOR EACH ELEMENT OF THE OFFENSE AND THAT THE SUSPECT COMMITTED THE OFFENSE. IF NOT PROVIDED, THE SUSPECT WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY RELEASED. INDICATE ANY WEAPONS INVOLVED. (DRUG CRIME CERTIFICATE BELOW.)

ON (date) \_\_\_\_\_ AT (time) \_\_\_\_\_, WITHIN THE (city/unincorporated area of county) \_\_\_\_\_, COUNTY OF KING, STATE OF WASHINGTON, THE FOLLOWING DID OCCUR:

\_\_\_\_\_

I CERTIFY (OR DECLARE) UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

REQUEST 72-HR RUSH FILE?  
 YES  NO

ANTICIPATED FILING DATE

DATE AND PLACE

SIGNATURE / AGENCY

DRUG CRIME INFORMATION

**DRUG CRIME CERTIFICATE**

**Part I:** ON (date) \_\_\_\_\_ THE SUSPECT (suspect's name) \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVERED  POSSESSED WITH INTENT TO DELIVER/MANUFACTURE  POSSESSED WHAT THE UNDERSIGNED OFFICER

(officer's name) \_\_\_\_\_ BASED ON TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE, BELIEVES TO BE (approximate quantity and type of controlled substance) \_\_\_\_\_ APPROXIMATE STREET VALUE OF THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IS (value of drugs) \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II:** FACTS INDICATING THE SUSPECT  DELIVERED  POSSESSED WITH INTENT TO DELIVER/MANUFACTURE  POSSESSED THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE:

ON (date) \_\_\_\_\_ AT (time) \_\_\_\_\_, WITHIN THE (city/unincorporated area of county) \_\_\_\_\_, COUNTY OF KING, STATE OF WASHINGTON, THE FOLLOWING DID OCCUR:

\_\_\_\_\_

MY SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CRIME (e.g., myself, other person with firsthand knowledge)

OTHER FACTS

I CERTIFY (OR DECLARE) UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

REQUEST 72-HR RUSH FILE?  
 YES  NO

ANTICIPATED FILING DATE

DATE AND PLACE

SIGNATURE / AGENCY

ZONE DETAILS

SODA ZONE  YES  NO DRUG FREE ZONE? EXACT LOCATION IS REQUIRED.  YES  NO

LAB WORK

LAB WORK REQUESTED? (DATE / TYPE)

OBJECT TO RELEASE INFORMATION

LAW ENFORCEMENT OBJECT TO RELEASE?  YES  NO

IF YES, EXPLAIN WHY SAFETY OF INDIVIDUAL OR PUBLIC WILL BE THREATENED IF SUSPECT IS RELEASED ON BAIL OR RECOGNIZANCE (CONSIDER HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, MENTAL ILLNESS, DRUG DEPENDENCY, DRUG DEALING, DOCUMENTED GANG MEMBER, FAILURE TO APPEAR, LACK OF TIES TO COMMUNITY). INCLUDE FARR GUIDLINES. DESCRIBE TYPE OF WEAPON. BE SPECIFIC.

TIES TO COMMUNITY (MARITAL STATUS, TIME IN COUNTY, ETC.)

CONVICTION RECORD

SUBJECT ARMED/DANGEROUS  SUSPECT IDENTITY IN QUESTION?  WARRANT(S) FOR FTA

HISTORY OF FTA'S (LIST) \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIDENTIAL \*\*\*\* FOR KING COUNTY JAIL USE ONLY \*\*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL**

CASE NUMBER  
**09-383210**

VICTIM DATA: Please include below data for the following types of arrests: any Domestic Violence or related offense, Assault, Harassment, Stalking and Sex Offenses. Information is used by jail staff for no contact orders and to make recommendations regarding release.

VICTIM INFORMATION				
VICTIM'S NAME	PHONE NUMBER	ALTERNATIVE NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH	ADDRESS