

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff

VS.

PETER WILSON,

Defendant

Case No. 3:18-mj-00474-DMS

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AND ARREST WARRANT

I, Michael Watson, being first duly sworn upon oath, hereby depose and states as follows:

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE OF AFFIANT

1. I am a Special Agent (SA) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and have been since September 2008. I am currently assigned to the Violent Crime Squad in the FBI Anchorage Field Office. During my time with the FBI, I have led and participated in investigations involving violent crimes, financial crimes, drugs, and firearms. The information contained below is from my personal knowledge, from other law enforcement agents and officers, or from specific sources as set forth. It does not include all the information known to me as part of this investigation, but only information sufficient to establish probable cause.

PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT

2. This affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint against Peter Wilson for violations of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001(a)(2), False Statement to a Federal Officer. This statute provides, in relevant part:
 - (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, knowingly and willfully--

(2) makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation.

PROBABLE CAUSE

3. On September 10, 2018, at the request of the Alaska State Troopers and Kotzebue Police Department, the FBI became involved in an investigation in Kotzebue, Alaska involving the disappearance of Ashley Johnson-Barr, a ten-year-old child ("ASHLEY"). Pursuant to the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2012, Public Law 112-265, the FBI has jurisdiction to assist in investigations of violent acts in a place of public use where requested by a law enforcement official of a state. In addition, the FBI has jurisdiction to investigate kidnappings, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C. § 1201.
4. On September 6, 2018, ASHLEY was at Rainbow Park in Kotzebue, playing with friends between approximately 5:30 pm and 6:00 pm. ASHLEY was last seen alive near the park. ASHLEY had a cellphone with her, which is an instrumentality of interstate commerce. Her parents attempted to call her cellphone multiple times to locate her. Her cellphone rang but no one answered.

ASHLEY's cellphone is found in the defendant's jacket on the night of September 6

5. During the course of the investigation, "JJ" was interviewed and advised she found a cellphone in the pocket of a jacket belonging to defendant Peter Wilson, who occasionally stays with JJ. According to JJ, late in the evening of September 6, 2018, JJ and Wilson were at JJ's residence. JJ heard a cell phone repeatedly ringing. JJ followed the ringing to Wilson's jacket. When she picked up the phone and tried to unlock it she saw ASHLEY's name displayed on the screen. JJ knew ASHLEY and her family, so JJ immediately contacted ASHLEY's mother, who advised that ASHLEY was missing. ASHLEY's father went to JJ's residence and retrieved the phone and it was later turned over to the Kotzebue Police Department. When asked by ASHLEY's father and JJ where he found the phone, Wilson stated he found it near the NANA building, near the intersection of Second and Third Avenue at 10:30 pm.
6. In the early morning hours of September 7, 2018, Wilson went to the Kotzebue Police Department and reported that he had heard that the police were looking for a girl named "Chelsea" or "Kelsie", and that he had found "a phone" near the NANA building.

Wilson takes 4-wheeler for unexplained two-hour trip at 5:20pm on September 6

7. JJ also advised law enforcement that on September 6, 2018, she and Wilson were present at JJ's mother's (SM) house throughout the day. This location is approximately one mile from Rainbow Park.
8. SM and JJ both advised law enforcement that at approximately 5:20 pm on September 6, SM asked Wilson to pick up JJ's child and one other child (not ASHLEY). Wilson left the house on a 4-wheeler at approximately 5:20 pm.
9. JJ advised that Wilson was gone with the 4 wheeler until approximately 7:20 pm, and when he returned he did not have any children with him. JJ was upset that Wilson had been gone for so long.

10. ASHLEY's parents were interviewed by law enforcement. They reported ASHLEY and Wilson were relatives and knew each other, as Wilson had been to the family home on numerous occasions.

Wilson lies to TFO Torres

11. On September 13, 2018, Wilson was interviewed by FBI Task Force Officer Leonard Torres, after being administered *Miranda* warnings. TFO Torres is a Detective with the Anchorage Police Department who is currently assigned to the FBI Child Exploitation Task Force. TFO Torres is deputized as a federal officer, with authority under Title 18 and Title 21 of the United States Code.
12. During the interview with TFO Torres, Wilson denied using a 4-wheeler at any time on September 6, 2018.
13. During the interview with TFO Torres, Wilson denied he knew ASHLEY.
14. During the interview with TFO Torres, Wilson stated that while he had ASHLEY's cellphone, it remained black, and denied seeing ASHLEY's name on the cellphone, despite the fact that it had been ringing.
15. During the interview with TFO Torres, Wilson repeatedly stated that he had found the cellphone near the NANA Building on Third Avenue at 10:30pm on September 6.

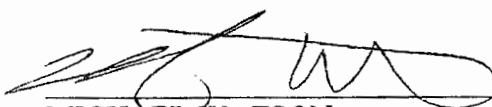
ASHLEY's cellphone travelled east from are where she was last seen, to where it appears she was murdered

16. ASHLEY's cellphone that was found by JJ was forensically analyzed by Alaska State Trooper Technical Crimes Unit Investigator Dustin Jorgenson. Inv. Jorgenson advised that when the phone screen was activated, ASHLEY's full name was displayed.
17. Investigators asked for assistance from GCI, the service to provider to ASHLEY's cellphone. Working with GCI, investigators were able to determine that ASHLEY's cellphone did not remain in the area where she was last seen. At approximately 6:11 pm and 7:11 pm, the cellphone was geo-located in areas well south and east of the location where ASHLEY was last seen (as well as where Wilson said he found the phone).
18. On September 14, 2018, investigators initiated a search of the area where GCI records showed ASHLEY's cellphone had travelled, which was approximately two miles east of downtown Kotzebue. At approximately 4:15pm, ASHLEY's body was located one quarter mile off the road on the tundra in an area that could only be accessed by four-wheeler or on foot. This was an area that was concealed by thick alder and willow brush and a depression in the ground.

19. The exact cause of ASHLEY's death is still being investigated, although it appears to be a homicide based upon the training and experience of the investigators. Crime technicians processed the scene and collected evidence, which is currently being analyzed by the state crime laboratory. Warrants have been obtained to collect DNA and trace evidence samples from the defendant for comparison.

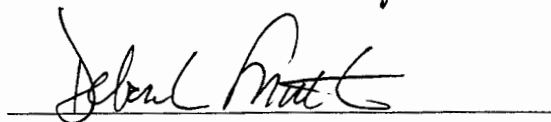
Further the Affiant sayeth not.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 16th day of SEPTEMBER, 2018.



MICHAEL WATSON
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this telephonically 16 day of Sept., 2018.



United States Magistrate Judge