

State of Minnesota  
County of Hennepin

District Court  
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 19A06255  
Court File No. 27-CR-19-13035

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**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**NOUH OMAR ELMI DOB: 05/20/1996**

416 31ST AVE N  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55411

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Summons

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The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**COUNT I**

**Charge: Negligent Fires-Value of Property \$2,500 or More**

Minnesota Statute: 609.576.1(3)(iii), with reference to: 609.576.1(3)(iii)

Maximum Sentence: 3 YEARS AND/OR \$5,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 05/16/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19138141

Charge Description: That on or about May 16, 2019, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, Nauh Omar Elmi, was grossly negligent in causing a fire to burn or get out of control, which fire caused damage to property belonging to victim, and the value of the property damaged was more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00).

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Complainant has investigated the facts and circumstances of this offense and believes the following establishes probable cause:

On May 16, 2019, several neighbors called 911 to report that Lola's on the Lake, located at 3000 East Calhoun Parkway, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, was on fire. Two engines and one ladder truck from the Minneapolis Fire Department arrived and saw flames engulfing the building and coming out of the roof.

Lola's on the Lake is a large one-story commercial building approximately 45 feet wide and 90 feet long. The building's exterior is stucco covering wood joist framing and has a metal roof. The building was constructed in 1930.

The heaviest damage occurred to the roof, as it had collapsed into the building. The exterior stucco showed little relative damage. The arched openings around the building had steel roll down doors. All of the steel doors were closed and had burns and paint that had melted away from the interior heat. Some of the ceiling in the kitchen remained intact as well as the cooking equipment.

When firefighters first arrived, they noticed two wire mesh garbage cans and one metal drum garbage cans next to the building on the southwest corner. Other trash can setups in the area all had plastic dome lids. The cans next to the building were burned without lids. The roof above the cans was burned and sagging. A flammable liquid detector had a positive hit at the base of the wall behind the cans. Movement and intensity patterns indicated the area or origin was behind the three garbage cans at the base of the south west exterior wall.

Surveillance was recovered from Lola's on the Lake and a neighboring business. At approximately 2:43 a.m., a man, later identified as NOUH OMAR ELM I (Defendant), and a woman approach Lola's from the south and sit at a table closest to the building. Defendant is holding a white bag and takes out a hookah. At approximately 2:57 a.m., Defendant attempts to light the hookah. The video shows the stormy and windy weather, making lighting the coals used for the hookah difficult. Sparks are then seen coming from the top of the hookah, and eventually glowing embers. At around 3:17 a.m., Defendant dumps the embers from the hookah behind the three trash cans on the south west corner of the building. This is a dry area, protected from rain, but not wind. Several other options for disposing coals are readily available.

As Defendant and the woman walk away, surveillance from the neighboring business shows fire activity behind the trash cans. At 3:24 a.m. Defendant returns to the area to look for something before leaving.

As surveillance continues, the flames begin to increase at the base of a column. The columns are hollow and have a separation at the base from the ground. This creates negative air flow, sucking the flame into the space, causing the fire to ignite in the interior of the building, up the interior walls, and into the roof. High winds created constant air flow and movement. The building becomes consumed by fire at 3:42 a.m.

A press release was done in effort to identify the individuals on surveillance. Witness 1 came forward and identified herself as the female on the video. Witness 1 identified Defendant as the male in the videos.

Total estimated loss from the fire is over \$2,000,000.

Defendant is out of custody.

## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:  
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or  
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

**Complainant**

Erika I Christensen  
Sgt  
350 S 5th St  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1389  
Badge: 1097

Electronically Signed:  
06/04/2019 01:11 PM  
Hennepin County, mn

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Scott E. Haldeman  
Assistant County Attorney  
300 S 6th St  
Minneapolis, MN 55487  
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:  
06/04/2019 01:07 PM

**FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

**SUMMONS**

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM before the above-named court at the address listed on the attached court summons to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

**WARRANT**

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

*Execute in MN Only*

*Execute Nationwide*

*Execute in Border States*

**ORDER OF DETENTION**

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$0.00

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: June 4, 2019.

**Judicial Officer**

Regina Chu  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 06/04/2019 02:12 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF HENNEPIN  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**NOUH OMAR ELMI**

Defendant

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE**  
*I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this  
Summons upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

## DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

**Name:** NOUH OMAR ELMI  
**DOB:** 05/20/1996  
**Address:** 416 31ST AVE N  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55411

**Alias Names/DOB:**

**SID:**

**Height:**

**Weight:**

**Eye Color:**

**Hair Color:**

**Gender:** MALE

**Race:** Black

**Fingerprints Required per Statute:** Yes

**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:** No

**Driver's License #:**

**SILS Person ID #:** 807827

**SILS Tracking No.** 3103958

**Alcohol Concentration:**

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

<b>Cnt Nbr</b>	<b>Statute Type</b>	<b>Offense Date(s)</b>	<b>Statute Nbrs and Descriptions</b>	<b>Offense Level</b>	<b>MOC</b>	<b>GOC</b>	<b>Controlling Agencies</b>	<b>Case Numbers</b>
1	Charge	5/16/2019	609.576.1(3)(iii) Negligent Fires-Value of Property \$2,500 or More	Felony	F505E		MN0271100	19138141
	Penalty	5/16/2019	609.576.1(3)(iii) Negligent Fires-Value of Property \$2,500 or More	Felony	F505E		MN0271100	19138141