

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN**

**DISTRICT COURT  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

COURT FILE NO. 27-CR-16-23563  
PROSECUTOR CASE NO. 16A10420  
SILS ID. 534199  
SILS TRACKING. 2894133  
CONTROLLING AGENCY. MN0271100  
CONTROL NO. 16323815

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

v.

**SHERMAN DEWHITE ALEXANDER (DOB:  
09/03/1985)**  
5312 PONDS DR N

Brooklyn Center, MN 55429,  
Defendant.

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

Summons  Warrant

Order of Detention

Amended

Tab Charge Previously Filed

The Complainant, being duly sworn, makes complaint to the above-named Court and states that there is probable cause to believe that Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**Count I**

Charge: **Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated**

Minnesota Statute: **609.19.1(1)**, with reference to: 609.11.5(a), 609.19.1

Offense Level: **Felony**

Maximum Sentence: **40 YEARS**

Offense Date (on or about): **09/05/2016**

Charge Description: That on or about September 5, 2016, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, SHERMAN DEWHITE ALEXANDER, while using a firearm, caused the death of J.H., a human being, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation.

**Count II**

Charge: **Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated (A)**

Minnesota Statute: **609.19.1(1)**, with reference to: 609.11.5(a), 609.17.4(2), 609.19.1

Offense Level: **Felony**

Maximum Sentence: **20 YEARS**

Offense Date (on or about): **09/05/2016**

Charge Description: That on or about September 5, 2016, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, SHERMAN DEWHITE ALEXANDER, while using a firearm, attempted to cause the death of

J.S., a human being, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation.

### **Count III**

Charge: **Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated (A)**

Minnesota Statute: **609.19.1(1)**, with reference to: 609.11.5(a), 609.17.4(2), 609.19.1

Offense Level: **Felony**

Maximum Sentence: **20 YEARS**

Offense Date (on or about): **09/05/2016**

Charge Description: That on or about September 5, 2016, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, SHERMAN DEWHITE ALEXANDER, while using a firearm, attempted to cause the death of S.H., a human being, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation.

### **Count IV**

Charge: **Possess Ammo/Any Firearm - Conviction or Adjudicated Delinquent for Crime of Violence**

Minnesota Statute: **624.713.1(2)**, with reference to: 609.11.5(b), 624.713.2(b), 609.11.9

Offense Level: **Felony**

Maximum Sentence: **15 YEARS AND/OR \$30,000**

Offense Date (on or about): **09/05/2016**

Charge Description: That on or about 9/5/2016, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, SHERMAN DEWHITE ALEXANDER possessed ammunition or a firearm and SHERMAN DEWHITE ALEXANDER has been convicted or adjudicated delinquent in this state or elsewhere of a crime of violence, Second Degree Assault on February 28, 2014, for which the sentence or court supervision expired on or after August 1, 1993.

## **STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

**COMPLAINT AMENDED: PROBABLE CAUSE AMENDED TO BE READ AS FOLLOWS; OFFENSE AMENDED TO DELETE ALL FOUR ASSAULT CHARGES AND REPLACE WITH 1 COUNT OF 2ND DEGREE MURDER AND 2 COUNTS OF ATTEMPTED 2ND DEGREE MURDER; AND BAIL IS INCREASED.**

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

On or about September 5, 2016, at approximately 1:58 a.m., Minneapolis Police Officer Schliesing was working off-duty at the Pourhouse Bar and heard the sound of shots fired directly behind him on the surface lot located at 509 Hennepin Avenue South, city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Officer Schliesing observed a black male, later identified as SHERMAN DEWHITE ALEXANDER, DOB: 09/03/1985, Defendant herein, fire an unknown number of rounds toward a group of people from a stationary position, then run west through the lot and continue to shoot. Officer Schliesing gave chase and eventually located Defendant attempting to lay down in the backseat of a white Subaru, MN license 763MRB. Defendant was ordered from the vehicle and placed under arrest. Officer Schliesing observed a blood-like substance on Defendant's hands and pants. It was later discovered that Defendant's hand was bleeding. A .45 caliber handgun was located in the area behind the front passenger seat of the vehicle in the area where Defendant was attempting to hide. It was similarly covered in a blood-like substance.

### **THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN AMENDED:**

Officers spoke with a known adult male, J.S. herein, the intended target of the shots, who stated that he had been inside the Pourhouse with his girlfriend, J.H., a known adult female, when someone from the Defendant's group attempted to steal a bottle of alcohol from his table. A physical fight ensued and J.S. and J.H. left the bar. J.S. sustained a minor injury from the fight inside the bar and was bleeding from his ear. J.S. reported that just as they were getting into their car multiple shots rang out. J.S. stated that he saw one person running toward them shooting.

Officers processing the scene observed a bullet hole in J.S.'s vehicle and recovered at least 10 discharged shell casings from the parking lot. Officers also spoke to Witness 1, a known adult male, who stated that he was exiting the Pourhouse when he observed the Defendant pull a gun from his waistband and start shooting. A show-up was conducted and Witness 1 positively identified Defendant as the shooter.

A known adult male who was standing in the line of fire, S.H., was shot twice in the buttocks. J.H. sustained a gunshot wound to her hip and was taken from the scene via ambulance. J.H. remained in critical condition for over 6 weeks and died as a result of her injuries on October 29, 2016. The preliminary autopsy report reveals the manner of death was homicide, with cause of

death being complication from her gunshot wound.

On February 28, 2014, Defendant was convicted of Assault in the Second Degree in District Court File No. 27-CR-12-41831 and is therefore prohibited from possessing a firearm.

Defendant is presently in custody.

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'S NAME:**

**COMPLAINANT'S SIGNATURE:**

<Name>

Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

**NAME/TITLE:**

**SIGNATURE:**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S SIGNATURE:**

Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Assistant County Attorney  
C2100 Government Center  
300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55487

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Attorney Registration # [Click here to enter text.](#)

