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IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT, SALT LAKE DEPARTMENT  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALT LAKE, STATE OF UTAH

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THE STATE OF UTAH,  
Plaintiff,

vs.

**JOHN VEA UASIKE, JR.,**  
**DOB: 10/19/1994**  
**AKA: Tiny Sa Dogg**  
**2363 Montana Way**  
**Elverta, CA 95626**

Defendant.

TAI, EZEKIEL ISAIAH  
DOB: 10/15/2003

TOUTAI, RYAN DANIEL  
DOB: 02/22/1993

Co-Defendant(s)

Screened by: HOMICIDIE TEAM  
Assigned to: TO BE ASSIGNED

**INFORMATION**

DAO # 26.012671

BAIL: NO BAIL WARRANT

WARRANT/RELEASE: NOT BOOKED

Case No.

Co-Defendant DAO# 26.003222

Co-Defendant DAO# 26.002121

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The undersigned Detective S. Bigelow - Salt Lake City Police Department, Agency Case No. SL26-5498, upon a written declaration states on information and belief that the defendant, JOHN VEA UASIKE, JR., committed the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1

MURDER, 76-5-203, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 7, 2026, at 660 North Redwood Road, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did intentionally or knowingly cause the death of another; intending to cause serious bodily injury to another, commit an act clearly dangerous to human life that caused the death of another; acting under circumstances evidencing a depraved indifference to human life, knowingly engage in conduct which created a grave risk of death to another and thereby caused the death of another; engage in the commission, attempted commission, or immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of any predicate offense, to wit: Felony Discharge of a Firearm, or was a party to the predicate offense; and a person other than a party as defined in Utah Code Section 76-2-202 was killed in the course of the commission, attempted commission, or immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of any predicate offense; and the actor acted with the intent required as an element of the predicate offense.

COUNT 2

MURDER, 76-5-203, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 7, 2026, at 660 North Redwood Road, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did intentionally or knowingly cause the death of another; intending to cause serious bodily injury to another, commit an act clearly dangerous to human life that caused the death of another; acting under circumstances evidencing a depraved indifference to human life, knowingly engage in conduct which created a grave risk of death to another and thereby caused the death of another; engage in the commission, attempted commission, or immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of any predicate offense, to wit: Felony Discharge of a Firearm, or was a party to the predicate offense; and a person other than a party as defined in Utah Code Section 76-2-202 was killed in the course of the commission, attempted commission, or immediate flight from the commission or attempted commission of any predicate offense; and the actor acted with the intent required as an element of the predicate offense.

COUNT 3

FELONY DISCHARGE OF FIREARM - CAUSING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, 76-11-210(2)+(3C), a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 7, 2026, at 660 North Redwood Road, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons; (b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or (c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle; and caused serious bodily injury to an individual.

COUNT 4

FELONY DISCHARGE OF FIREARM - CAUSING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, 76-11-210(2)+(3C), a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 7, 2026, at 660 North Redwood Road, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did knowingly or having reason to believe that any person may be endangered by the discharge of a firearm, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or persons; (b) with the intent to intimidate or harass another or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of any person or habitable structure; or (c) with the intent to intimidate or harass another, discharged a firearm in the direction of any vehicle; and caused serious bodily injury to an individual.

COUNT 5

FELONY DISCHARGE OF FIREARM - CAUSING BODILY INJURY, 76-11-210(2)+(3B), a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 7, 2026, at 660 North Redwood Road, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did discharge a firearm in the direction of one or more individuals, knowing or having reason to believe that any individual may be endangered by the discharge of the firearm; (b) with intent to intimidate or harass another individual or with intent to damage a habitable structure, discharged a firearm in the direction of an individual or a habitable structure; or (c) with intent to intimidate or harass another individual, discharged a firearm in the direction of a vehicle; and caused bodily injury to any individual.

COUNT 6

PROHIBITED DANGEROUS WEAPON CONDUCT - CATEGORY I, 76-11-305(2)+(3B), a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 7, 2026, at 660 North Redwood Road, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did being then a Category I restricted person, intentionally or knowingly agreed, consented, offered, or arranged to purchase, transfer, possess, use, or have under the person's custody or control, or intentionally or knowingly purchased, transferred, possessed, used, or had under the person's custody or control a firearm.

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES:

Detective S. Bigelow, Witness #1, Witness #2, Witness #3, and Dr. Brent Davis

DECLARATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your affiant bases probable cause on information and evidence collected by Salt Lake City Police Department, Case No. SL26-5498 and the following:

The statement of Salt Lake City Police Detective S. Bigelow that on January 7, 2026, dispatch received multiple 911 calls regarding a shooting with multiple victims at an LDS church at 660 North Redwood Road, in Salt Lake County. Officers learned that a funeral service was being held with approximately 150-200 people in attendance. Officers located five people on scene with gunshot wounds. Victims #1 and #2 were pronounced deceased on scene. Victims #3, #4, and #5 were transported to the hospital. Additionally, dispatch was notified of two additional people with gunshot wounds who had been dropped off at the University of Utah Medical Center in a black SUV and another was dropped off at LDS Hospital in a gray Lexus sedan. Multiple 9mm & .40 caliber shell casings were found in the center area of the church parking lot and a small 9mm handgun was found on the ground near the back of the church.

The statement of Witness #1 that she was sitting in her van engaging in a zoom meeting. Witness #1's van was parked facing south in the north lane of the center aisle. A black SUV was one space in front and one space to the left of witness #1. Witness #1 observed several Polynesian males eating tacos next to a black SUV. Witness #1 stated that while focusing on her zoom call, she heard several people shouting. Witness #1 looked up through her windshield and observed a group of six or seven Polynesian males surrounding another Polynesian male. The male being surrounded was tall, skinny/lanky, wearing a black "wife beater", black pants, and a dark blue hat with a blue bandanna tucked under the right side of his hat. Witness #1 stated that the group of men that was around the tall male, appeared to be trying to tell him to stop arguing. Witness #1 watched the tall male open the front passenger door of the black SUV and return with a handgun. The men surrounded the tall male pinned him up against the car to get the gun out of his hand. Witness #1 stated that the tall male tried to aim the gun westward toward the church, but a shorter Polynesian male wearing a black hoodie was holding the tall male's hand, pushing the gun up into the air. At that point, the tall male fired one round into the air, and everyone ducked. The tall male then fired a second round, shooting in the air, because his hand was being held up. Everyone ducked and scattered. The tall male then moved around the driver's side of the black SUV, to the front of the SUV and began firing westward toward the church. Witness #1 also observed a second Polynesian male who was shorty/stocky, with a bald head, no facial hair, wearing a white pro club t-shirt, light blue jeans, and white Nike Cortez or Air Force Ones, with a blue Nike Swoosh, who also had a gun and began shooting towards the church. The male in the white shirt also began moving around the black SUV, in a shielding or covering manner while shooting. Witness #1 stated that the shorter male was aiming and estimates he fired approximately 8 rounds in two volleys of fire.

Witness #1 stated that both men continued shooting until they ran out of ammunition. The tall male then began to get into the black SUV, and witness #1, then decided to leave. Witness #1 stated that while she was backing out of her parking spot, she observed the shorter male wearing the black hoodie who was initially trying to stop the taller male from shooting, had gotten into the black SUV with the tall male. Witness #1 stated that she heard gunshots firing back at the two males but did not see who was firing back. Witness #1 clarified that the shorter male only fired his gun after someone else was firing back.

The statement of witness #2 that she attended the funeral. Witness #2 stated that when she arrived at the church, she observed a large group of males (15-20) that she referred to as “the boys” standing in the middle of the parking lot smoking and drinking. Witness #2 stated that “the boys” were dressed in black and blue, which she referred to as “gang attire”. Witness #2 stated that she went inside the church and when witness #2 walked outside, Ryan Toutai walked outside behind her. Ryan then walked up to the group of boys in the middle of the parking lot and started a fight with a male who was in the group. Witness #2 stated that the male pulled out a “strap” and held the gun to Ryan’s head. Witness #2 stated that a male swatted the male with the gun’s hand down and said, “hey don’t do that”. Witness #2 stated that the others in the group shoved Ryan out of the way and she started walking away toward the church. Witness #2 stated that she heard gun shots and then was struck. Witness #2 suffered a gunshot wound to the face and a gunshot wound to the lower back.

The statement of witness #3 that he was walking back toward the church from the taco trucks when he noticed Ryan Toutai in the middle of the parking lot, getting into an argument with a male he didn’t know. Witness #3 stated that he didn’t know what the argument was about but said they were standing close together, face-to-face by a vehicle. Witness #3 yelled at Ryan telling him to chill that they were at a funeral. Witness #3 stated that the male already had a gun in his hand. The male raised the gun, and everyone was trying to stop the male and hold Ryan back. Ryan’s hat was knocked off. Witness #3 stated that he went behind a car and heard gunshots. Witness #3 started running back to the church and he was hit with a bullet in the back of the shoulder. Witness #3 stated that he saw witness #2 fall and saw a bullet strike a church window. Witness #3 stated that the only person he saw shooting was the male from California that had raised the gun. The male was shooting toward the church. After the shooting, witness #3 observed a dark colored vehicle, peel out in the parking lot. Witness #3 stated that the male firing the gun was wearing a hat, with a blue bandana hanging from the side of the hat. Witness #3 said that he did see the male with the gun inside the church prior to the shooting. Witness #3 said the male was leaning against the wall by the kitchen watching people speak at the funeral. Witness #3 was shown a cell phone video taken from inside the church and he immediately pointed at the male leaning against the wall, saying he was the one arguing with Ryan and shooting towards the church. The male was later identified as JOHN VEA UASIKE, JR, AKA “Tiny Sa Dogg”. Witness #3 suffered a gunshot wound (graze) to upper right back shoulder.

Witness #1 was also shown the same cell phone video and noted that the male later identified as UASIKE appeared similar to her recollection of how the shooter appeared. Specifically, she said the shooter was tall and wearing a crisp blue baseball hat, with a similar blue bandana over his right ear.

Dr. Brent Davis with the Utah Office of the Medical Examiner conducted autopsies on victims #1 and #2. Victim #1 had a penetrating gunshot wound to the chest. Dr. Davis stated that victim #1’s cause of death was a gunshot wound to the chest and the manner of death was homicide. Victim #2 had a perforating gunshot wound to the torso causing injuries to the heart and lungs. Dr. Davis stated that victim #2’s cause of death was gunshot wound to the back and manner of death was homicide.

Notice is hereby given that the defendant is a Category I restricted person having been convicted of Assault Person with Semi-Automatic Firearm, a felony in the State of California.

**MOTION FOR NO BAIL HOLD:**

Pursuant to Utah Code 77-20-201(1) the State requests that the defendant be held without bail until further notice in this matter on the following grounds:

The defendant is charged with a First-Degree felony and multiple other felony counts, and based upon the above probable cause statement, there is substantial evidence supporting the charges and clear and convincing evidence that the defendant would constitute a substantial danger to any other individual or to the community or is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court, if released on bail.

The defendant has prior convictions in the State of California, one of which he served 7 years in prison for assaulting someone with a semi-automatic firearm. Additionally, the defendant is a flight risk. The defendant is originally from California and as soon as he was discharged from the hospital for his gunshot wounds, he returned to California. The State believes the defendant will not return to Utah given the severity of the charges.

In this case, a funeral was taking place when a fight broke out in the parking lot. Witnesses stated that the defendant was seen retrieving a gun from a black SUV and pointing it at a man's head. Other males standing around the defendant tried to calm him down and another male held the defendant's hand in the air so he wouldn't shoot anyone. The defendant fired one round into the air, which caused the crowd to duck. The defendant then fired a second round into the air causing people to scatter. The defendant went around the black SUV and while standing in front of the black SUV on the driver's side, he began firing his gun towards the church and many funeral attendees. Multiple people were hit by gunfire, two of whom were declared deceased on scene. The defendant then got into a black SUV and was taken to the hospital with a gunshot wound. As soon as the defendant was released from the hospital, he fled the State of Utah.

The defendant had no regard for the safety or welfare of the victims, witnesses or bystanders. The defendant is a danger to the community. Due to the severity of the charges, and the defendant fleeing the State of Utah, the State requests that the defendant be held with no bail.

Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated § 78B-18a-106 (2018) I declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

Executed on: 9th day of April, 2026 .

/s/ STEVEN BIGELOW

Declarant

Authorized for presentment and filing:

SIM GILL, District Attorney

/s/ Brett Keeler

Deputy District Attorney

9th day of April, 2026

BK / MM / DAO# 26.012671

**OTHER PENDING CASES FOR THE DEFENDANT**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Court Case #</b>	<b>Trial Judge</b>	<b>DAO #</b>	<b>Charge</b>