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IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT, SALT LAKE DEPARTMENT

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALT LAKE, STATE OF UTAH

THE STATE OF UTAH, Plaintiff, vs. **LAURA DARLENE NORTHRUP,** **DOB: 04/03/1964** **8955 South 255 West** **Sandy, UT 84070** **OTN#: 65401424** **SO#: 196845** **SID#/BCI#: 436066** **Booking#: 24023796** Defendant.	Screened by: HOMICIDE TEAM Assigned to: TO BE ASSIGNED **INFORMATION** DAO # 24.009540 BAIL: NO BAIL WARRANT WARRANT/RELEASE: IN JAIL PRD 06/03/2024 Case No.

The undersigned Detective M. Rapela - Sandy City Police Department, Agency Case No. SY2024-24577, upon a written declaration states on information and belief that the defendant, LAURA DARLENE NORTHRUP, committed the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1
MURDER (DV), 76-5-203, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about May 26, 2024, at 8955 South Harrison Street, 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.
Furthermore, the defendant was a cohabitant of the victim.

COUNT 2
OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE, 76-8-306(1), a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about May 26, 2024, at 8955 South Harrison Street, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did, with intent to hinder, delay, or prevent the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person regarding conduct that constituted a criminal offense, prevent by force, intimidation, or deception, any person from performing any act that might aid in the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person; alter, destroy, conceal, or remove any item or other thing; make, present, or use any item or thing known by the actor to be false; harbor or conceal a person; provide false information regarding a suspect, a witness, the conduct constituting an offense, or any other material aspect of the investigation; and the conduct which constituted a criminal offense would be a capital felony or first degree felony.

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

Detective M. Rapela, Officer K. Colvin, Brenda Despain, Travis Clifton, and Dr. Justin Lohmann

DECLARATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your affiant bases probable cause on information and evidence collected by Sandy Police Department, Case No. SY24-24577 and the following:

The statement of Sandy Police Officer K. Colvin that on May 26, 2024, officers were dispatched to an agency assist for the fire department at 8955 South Harrison Street, Room 222, in Salt Lake County. Stephanie Lynne Haskett-Carrasco was found in her bedroom in the prone position on the floor, underneath her bed. Stephanie had an injury to the back of her head. A red substance was observed splattered across the AC vent and on the door frame. Officer Colvin learned that Stephanie shared a room with LAURA DARLENE NORTHRUP and Brenda Despain. Stephanie was pronounced deceased.

The statement of Brenda Despain that she has been roommates with NORTHRUP and Stephanie for about two weeks. Brenda stated that they each had their own twin-size bed set up in 3 of the 4 corners of the room. Brenda stated that NORTHRUP and Stephanie did not get along and they would “bicker” a lot.

Brenda stated that she last saw Stephanie alive on May 25, 2024, when she left the room around 3:00 pm. Brenda stated that she returned to the room around noon on May 26, 2024, and described the room as a mess, as if there had been a scuffle inside the room. Brenda stated that she was in and out of the room and then took a nap from about 1:30 pm to about 3:50 pm. Brenda stated that after she woke up, she blew her nose and walked over to the garbage can which was at the foot of Stephanie’s bed. Brenda stated that she saw Stephanie’s foot hanging out from the bottom of the bed, from behind blankets and other items that had been gathered in

front of the bed. Brenda stated that she yelled out, "Stephanie, why are you under the bed," and reached down to shake Stephanie's leg and it was cold to the touch. Brenda stated that she ran out of the room to get help at the front desk.

The statement of Travis Charles Clifton that he lives in room #221, next to room #222. Travis stated that between 1:00 am and 2:00 am on May 26, 2024, he was awakened by arguing coming from room #222. Travis stated that he went downstairs and told employees working at the front desk, "they are not getting along," and went back to his room. Travis stated that the occupants of room #222 were yelling at each other.

The statement of Sandy Police Detective M. Rapela that he reviewed video surveillance from outside room #222. Detective Rapela observed that on May 25, 2024, Brenda left room #222 at 6:29 am. NORTHRUP was in and out of the room all day and returned to the room at 11:26 pm wearing a white pair of shoes. On May 26, 2024, Stephanie arrived at the room at 12:41 am, left for about 2 minutes and returned back to the room. At 1:48 am, Travis Clifton (neighbor in room #221) came out of his room to report arguing in room #222. At 1:57 am, NORTHRUP left the room carrying blankets and miscellaneous items. Detective Rapela noticed that NORTHRUP's face is red, and she wiped her forehead and looked at her hands. NORTHRUP then turned around and returned to room #222 and then left at 1:59 am and did not return. Detective Rapela noted that NORTHRUP was wearing a dark colored pair of shoes instead of the white shoes she had been wearing earlier. Brenda returned to the room at 12:22 pm. At 4:35 pm, Brenda is seen coming out of the room in a hurry. At 4:36 pm Brenda returned with the swing shift manager, Angela Edge. At 4:40 pm Angela left the room and was seen on her phone calling 911.

A search warrant was executed on Room #222. Detectives located a black plastic tote under NORTHRUP's bed that contained a 14.1 ounce can of Ensure nutrition powder. The bottom of the Ensure can had what appeared to be human blood and hair stuck to it. Additionally, by Stephanie's head was a white shoe covered in blood. The shoe is believed to belong to NORTHRUP. Further testing on these items is pending.

When NORTHRUP was taken into custody, she was wearing a shirt that had what appeared to be blood on the sleeve. Further testing is pending.

Dr. Justin Lohmann with the Office of the Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy on Stephanie Lynn Haskett-Carrasco. Dr. Lohmann observed Stephanie had cuts and contusions to the back of head, a contusion with cut below and behind her right ear, a contusion to left eye, chin and front of neck, a contusion and cuts to forehead, a contusion to the back of neck, a cut to left ring finger below her ring, and a cut to left leg below knee. Several of the contusions and cuts were crescent shaped, consistent with the metal edge of the Ensure can. Dr. Lohmann ruled the cause of death as blunt force trauma to the head and the manner of death as homicide.

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 felony and there is substantial evidence supporting the charge 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.

In this case, the victim and the defendant were roommates. The victim and the defendant did not get a long and were always bickering. The victim was last seen alive around midnight the day before her body was discovered. A witness described hearing arguing coming from the victim and defendant's room about 1:00 am. Video surveillance shows the defendant leaving the room, looking disheveled and looking at her hands. The victim was found several hours later deceased, concealed under her bed, with contusions to her head. According to video surveillance, the defendant was the only one inside the room with the victim. The defendant is a danger to the community. Due to the serious nature of the allegations, the defendant should be held without 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: 31st day of May, 2024.

/s/ MARCELO RAPELA
Declarant

Authorized for presentment and filing:
SIM GILL, District Attorney

/s/ Breanne Miller
Deputy District Attorney
31st day of May, 2024
BM / MM / DAO # 24.009540

OTHER PENDING CASES FOR THE DEFENDANT

Court	Court Case #	Trial Judge	DAO #	Charge