51-2022-CR-00421

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)	
)ss	AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
COUNTY OF WARD)	

- 1. Mikali Talbott, being first duly sworn and under oath, deposes and states that she is a law enforcement officer employed in the investigations division in the City of Minot Police Department, located in Minot, North Dakota.
- 2. On June 4, 2007, at approximately 5:12pm, officers with the Minot Police Department were dispatched to a deceased person call at 2420 4th Street NW, Apt. #5 in Minot, North Dakota, located in Ward County. It was learned this was the residence of Anita Knutson and Nichole Thomas (n/k/a Rice).
- 3. The deceased individual was identified as Anita Knudson, 18 years of age. She was discovered when her father, Gordon Knudson, came over to find out why she had not been responding to calls and why she had failed to show up for work. Her death was ruled a homicide as a result of two stab wounds that caused her to bleed out.
- 4. Gordon saw Anita laying on her bed through her open window. He reached in and touched her and she was cold. Laura Knapp, Anita's landlady ultimately unlocked the door for Gordon and then called the police. Ms. Knapp indicated that when they opened the apartment door it was locked and she was required to use her key to get in. The nature of the lock was such that a key was needed to both lock and unlock the door.
- 5. Nichole was not home when Anita's body was discovered.
- 6. Four individuals were known to Law Enforcement to have keys to the apartment. One key was in Anita's possession, one was in Nichole's possession, Laura Knapp, the landlady had one, and Marty Annell, apartment maintenance had one.
- 7. Cell phone records and forensic analysis of Anita's phone indicates that she was texting with a friend in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 3, 2007. At 4:43 a.m. the friend sent a text message to Anita stating, "I thought you were gonna reply to last text." To which, at 4:48, Anita responded, "I didn't know what to say to it." At 4:53 a.m., the friend sent his last text, "You don't say anything" which was never 'read' by Anita. No other communication by Anita was reported after that final text from her.
- 8. Multiple items of value such as cash in Anita's purse, her laptop, her cell phone and a digital camera, were located within her bedroom, and nothing was disturbed suggesting theft was not a motive. The single window in Anita's room, which was located just past the foot of her bed, was wide open and missing a screen. A pocketknife with dried blood on it was found on the bed, close to the wall and open window.

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- 4. Gordon saw Anita laying on her bed through her open window. He reached in and touched her and she was cold. Laura Knapp, Anita's landlady ultimately unlocked the door for Gordon and then called the police. Ms. Knapp indicated that when they opened the apartment door it was locked and she was required to use her key to get in. The nature of the lock was such that a key was needed to both lock and unlock the door.
- 5. Nichole was not home when Anita's body was discovered.
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- 5. Nichole was not home when Anita's body was discovered.
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