File No.

SEARCH WARRANT

IN THE MATTER OF

Honda Accord, YZW6967

Date Issued	Time Issued
09/11/2012	4:55 ☐ AM ☒ PM

Name Of Applicant: Investigator J. Britt

Name Of Additional Affiant:

Name Of Additional Affiant:

RETURN OF SERVICE

I certify that this Search Warrant was received and executed as follows:

Date Received	Time Received
09/12/2012	☐ AM ☐ PM
Date Executed	**Time Executed**
9/12/12	12:49 ☐ AM ☒ PM

☒ I made a search of White 1997 Honda Accord, NC Plate YZW-6967 VIN 1HGCE6676VA015269

_____ as commanded.

☒ I seized the items listed on the attached inventory.

☐ I did not seize any items.

☐ This Warrant WAS NOT executed within forty-eight (48) hours of the date of issuance and I hereby return it not executed.

Signature Of Officer Making Return: John Britt

Department Or Agency Of Officer	Incident Number
Chapel Hill Police Dept.	12-20848

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Durham County

In The General Court Of Justice
District/Superior Court Division

To any officer with authority and jurisdiction to conduct the search authorized by this Search Warrant:

I, the undersigned, find that there is probable cause to believe that the property and person described in the application on the reverse side and related to the commission of a crime is located as described in the application.

You are commanded to search the premises, vehicle, person and other place or item described in the application for the property and person in question. If the property and/or person are found, make the seizure and keep the property subject to Court Order and process the person according to law.

You are directed to execute this Search Warrant within forty-eight (48) hours from the time indicated on this Warrant and make due return to the Clerk of the Issuing Court.

This Search Warrant is issued upon information furnished under oath by the person(s) shown.

Date	Signature	
11 Sept. 2012	Robert H. Hobgood	☐ Deputy CSC ☐ Assistant CSC ☐ CSC ☐ Magistrate ☐ District Ct. Judge ☒ Superior Ct. Judge

This Search Warrant was returned to me on the date and time shown below.

Date	Time	Signature	
09/26/12	10:46 ☐ AM ☐ PM		☐ Deputy CSC ☐ Assistant CSC ☐ Clerk Of Superior Court

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(Over)

APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANT

I, Investigator J. Britt, Chapel Hill Police Department,
(Insert name and address; or if law enforcement officer, name, rank and agency)

being duly sworn, request that the Court issue a warrant to search the person, place, vehicle, and other items described in this application and to find and seize the property and person described in this application. There is probable cause to believe that *(Describe property to be seized; or if search warrant is to be used for searching a place to serve an arrest warrant or other process, name person to be arrested)*

See attached.

constitutes evidence of a crime and the identity of a person participating in a crime, *(Name crime)* See attached.

and is located *(Check appropriate box(es) and fill-in specified information)*

☐ in the following premises *(Give address and, if useful, describe premises)*

(and)

☐ on the following person(s) *(Give name(s) and, if useful, describe person(s))*

(and)

☒ in the following vehicle(s) *(Describe vehicle(s))*

See attached.

(and)

☐ *(Name and/or describe other places or items to be searched, if applicable)*

The applicant swears to the following facts to establish probable cause for the issuance of a search warrant:

See attached.

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME	Date 9/11/12
Date 11th Sept. 2012	Signature of Applicant
Signature Robert K. Hedgpeth	
☐ Magistrate ☐ Dep. CSC ☐ Asst. CSC ☐ Clerk of Superior Court ☒ Judge	

☐ In addition to the affidavit included above, this application is supported by additional affidavits, attached, made by

☐ In addition to the affidavit included above, this application is supported by sworn testimony, given by

This testimony has been *(check appropriate box)* ☐ reduced to writing ☐ tape recorded and I have filed each with the clerk.

NOTE: *If more space is needed for any section, continue the statement on an attached sheet of paper with a notation saying "see attachment." Date the continuation and include on it the signatures of applicant and issuing official.*

AOC-CR-119, Rev. 9/02
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Continuation of ***SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATION*** *of Investigator Johnnie Britt, Chapel Hill Police Department, Chapel Hill, North Carolina dated September 11, 2012, to search vehicle, white 1997 Honda Accord, NC registration YZW6967, VIN 1HGCE6676VA015269.*

Description of Evidence:

Any and all evidence that may relate to the suspicious death of Faith Hedgepeth on September 7, 2012, including, but not limited to, the following items:

Fingerprints, palm prints, footprints, shoeprints, weapons, and firearms including pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, hatchets, axes, cutting instruments, and cutting tools, blunt force instruments, bullets, cartridges, fired cartridges, casings and fragments, and items containing traces of any of the above mentioned articles. Moving pictures, video, still pictures to preserve the nature of the scene, documentary evidence indicating ownership, possession and control of the premises and any and all evidence that may relate to the crime in question, including, but not limited to, cellular or communication devices, and associated digital, magnetic, solid-state, or electronic storage media, saliva, physiological fluids, secretions, and hair samples.

Description of Crime:

Death Investigation

Description of Vehicle to be searched:

A white in color 1997 Honda Accord bearing NC registration plateYZW-6967, vehicle identification number 1HGCE6676VA015269, registered to Ronnie L. Edwards. The vehicle is in the custody of the Chapel Hill Police Department and will be searched in a controlled environment at a law enforcement facility.

Probable Cause Affidavit:

I, the undersigned, Johnnie Britt, hereinafter referred to as "Affiant," being duly sworn, say and depose as follows:

Robert H. Hobgood	
Judicial Official	Affiant
11 Sept 2012	9/11/12
Date	Date

Continuation of ***SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATION*** *of Investigator Johnnie Britt, Chapel Hill Police Department, Chapel Hill, North Carolina dated September 11, 2012, to search vehicle, white 1997 Honda Accord, NC registration YZW6967, VIN 1HGCE6676VA015269.*

Affiant is a sworn law enforcement officer in the State of North Carolina, currently employed by the Chapel Hill Police Department. Affiant has been a sworn officer since January of 2003. Affiant is currently assigned to the Investigations Division and has been since November of 2006. Affiant has investigated or assisted in investigating numerous felony cases including breaking and entering, fraud/financial crimes, various crimes against persons, and homicides. Before being assigned to Investigations, Affiant was assigned to the Patrol Division where Affiant answered calls for service, served arrest warrants, enforced general and traffic laws, and responded to automobile collisions. As an officer with the Chapel Hill Police Department, Affiant has attended a Police Law Institute class, Criminal Investigations, Crime Scene Investigations, Death Investigations, and, Interview and Interrogation, in addition to many other courses. Affiant also received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University. Affiant is a North Carolina Police Corps Scholarship Recipient and attended Basic Law Enforcement Training at The Justice Academy in Salemburg, NC.

In support of this Affidavit, the Affiant shows unto the court the following facts:

On September 7, 2012, Chapel Hill Police officers were dispatched to 5639 Old Chapel Hill Road, Durham NC 27707 in reference to a possible dead body located in apartment 1502. When officers arrived, they were greeted by the primary tenant, Karena Lynn Rosario (Rosario), who advised that she had seen the victim, Faith Hedgepeth, and that she was unresponsive. Rosario permitted officers to enter the apartment. Officers conducted an initial protective sweep and located Hedgepeth dead in a bedroom, on a bed face up. Ms. Hedgepeth's body was hanging off the bed over a pool of blood with her black shirt pulled up over her head; she had no clothes on from the waist down. There was blood spatter on the closet and a bloody tampon was lying beside her on the bed. On the center of the bed, there was also a small white paper bag with the words:

"I'M NOT STUPID
BITCH

Robert H. Hobgood
Judicial Official

11 Sept 2012
Date

Affiant

9/11/12
Date

JEALOUS"

The statement was written directly on the bag, in what appears to be ink.

Through the course of the investigation, the Chapel Hill Police Department has been interviewing any person that has had recent contact with Hedgepeth or Rosario or knew where their apartment was located. Investigators have also been asking those persons to voluntarily have their cell phones imaged.

On the morning of Saturday, September 8, 2012, Investigator L. Bostelman of the Chapel Hill Police Department interviewed Marisol Rangel. Rangel was a close friend of Hedgepeth's and was at the apartment with Rosario when Hedgepeth's body was discovered. Among other things, Marisol told Bostelman that a male by the name of Brandon Edwards, dated Rosario and had a physical relationship with her, but was currently just a friend. Bostelman researched Edwards name and obtained his phone number, 919-614-2818.

Investigator B. Walker imaged Hedgepeth's cell phone and printed text messages from her phone for the dates of September 6th and 7th, 2012. Affiant reviewed the printed text messages and discovered two that were sent from Hedgepeth's phone to the phone number, 919-614-2818, on the morning of her death. The first message was sent at 3:40:56 AM and said, "Hey b. Can you come over here please. Karena needs you more aha. You know. Please let her know you care." The second text message sent from Hedgepeth's phone to 919-614-2818 was at 3:43:06 AM and said, "Than." Hedgepeth's phone received an incoming text from this 919-614-2818 at 4:16:26 PM, which read, "Who is this?"

Through Affiant's training and experience, Affiant has probable cause to believe that the text messages to phone number, 919-614-2818 from Hedgepeth's phone were intended for Brandon Edwards.

Robert K. Hobgood
Judicial Official

11 Sept 2012
Date

Affiant

9/11/12
Date

Affiant also looked at Rosario's phone records and discovered that she called Edwards at 3:44:28 AM (duration 33 seconds), 3:52:19 AM (duration 38 seconds), 3:55:08 AM (duration 37 seconds), and 4:14:45 AM (duration 36 seconds). Affiant also learned through phone records and interviews that Rosario left the residence about 4:30 AM with Jordan McCrary.

Affiant made contact with Edwards via phone on September 9, 2012 at 5:36 pm. Affiant requested that Edwards come to the Chapel Hill Police Department and be interviewed about Hedgepeth's death. Edwards agreed and arrived at the police department about 10 am on September 10, 2012. He was interviewed about his relationship with Rosario and Hedgepeth. Edwards told Affiant that he was with Rosario and Hedgepeth on September 5, 2012 and actually spent the night on the couch in their apartment that evening. According to Edwards, he left the residence around 11 am on September 6, 2012. Edwards had contact with Rosario and Hedgepeth again on the evening of September 6, 2012 into the morning hours of September 7th at Thrill, a night club in Chapel Hill. Edwards alleges that he did not have any contact with Hedgepeth after leaving Thrill that morning.

Through Affiant's training and experience, Affiant believes that by processing Edwards' vehicle, Affiant/Investigators can determine whether there is trace evidence (Hedgepeth's blood) that Edwards entered the vehicle after the crime was committed. Processing Edwards' vehicle is necessary to corroborate his story of having no involvement in the death of Hedgepeth.

Based upon the above stated facts and circumstances, the undersigned has probable cause to believe that the search and seizure of the aforementioned property is necessary for a full and complete and thorough investigation of one or more of the above stated criminal offenses and that evidence of at least one of the criminal offenses contained herein will be located in the aforementioned property. The undersigned further avers that it would be in the best interest of the administration of justice that all evidence be collected and preserved pending

Robert H. Hobgood
Judicial Official

11 Sept. 2012
Date

Affiant

9/11/12
Date

further action of the court.

REQUEST TO HAVE WARRANT SEALED

In support of this request, the Affiant submits that there is a preponderance of evidence to show that due to the sensitive nature of this case, the release of the information contained in the court order at this time would undermine the ongoing criminal investigation, jeopardize the prosecution's right to prosecute its case relating to the criminal investigation, and jeopardize the right of the suspect to be charged in this matter from receiving a fair trial.

In further support of this request, the Affiant shows unto the court that release of the information contained herein, could also hinder the state's ability to bring the responsible parties to justice. Finally, there is evidence in this case that is yet to be collected that is essential to the resolution of this matter and if the information contained in the warrant is made public, it could jeopardize both the criminal investigation and prosecution of this case.

Robert H. Hobgood
Judicial Official

11 Sept 2012
Date

Affiant

9/11/12
Date

Continuation of ***SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATION*** *of Investigator Johnnie Britt, Chapel Hill Police Department, Chapel Hill, North Carolina dated September 11, 2012, to search vehicle, white 1997 Honda Accord, NC registration YZW6967, VIN 1HGCE6676VA015269.*

I, the undersigned judicial official, find that there is a preponderance of evidence to believe that the release of the information contained in this warrant would undermine the ongoing criminal investigation, jeopardize the prosecution's right to prosecute its case and/or compromise the criminal investigation, and jeopardize the right of the suspect to be charged in this matter from receiving a fair trial. I therefore, ORDER that this warrant be sealed pending further order of the court.

11 Sept. 2012

Robert H. Hobgood
Judicial Official

Robert H. Hobgood
Judicial Official

11 Sept. 2012
Date

Affiant

9/11/12
Date

Original

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

File No.

~~Orange~~ Durham USP County

In The General Court Of Justice
☐ District ☐ Superior Court Division

IN THE MATTER OF:

Name
White 1997 Honda Accord
License plate Y2W-6967
VIN 1HGCE6676VA075269

INVENTORY OF ITEMS SEIZED PURSUANT TO SEARCH

G.S. 15A-223, 15A-254, -257

I, the undersigned officer, executed a search of:

Person, Premises Or Vehicle Searched	Date Of Search
White 1997 Honda Accord License plate Y2W-6967 VIN 1HGCE6676VA075269	9/12/12

This search was made pursuant to

☒ 1. a search warrant issued by: Judge Robert Hobgood.

☐ 2. consent to search given by: _____.

☐ 3. other legal justification for the search: _____.

The following items were seized:

two (2) swabs from back driver side interior bottom of door frame

two (2) swabs of driver side back seat seat cushion

(Over)

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Original - File Copy - Person Whose Property Seized

Items Seized Continued:

☐ 1. I left a copy of this inventory with the person named below, who is:

- ☐ a. the owner of the premises searched.
- ☐ b. the owner of the vehicle searched.
- ☐ c. the person in apparent control of the premises searched.
- ☐ d. the person in apparent control of the vehicle searched.
- ☐ e. the person from whom the items were taken.

☐ 2. As no person was present, I left a copy of this inventory:

- ☐ a. in the premises searched, identified on the reverse.
- ☑ b. in the vehicle searched, identified on the reverse.

Name And Address Of Person To Whom A Copy Of This Inventory Was Delivered, If Any

The law enforcement agency identified below will hold the seized property subject to court order.

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME	*Signature Of Law Enforcement Officer*
Date 09/26/13	*Title Of Law Enforcement Officer* Investigator
Signature	*Name And Address Of Agency* Chapel Hill Police Department 828 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. Chapel Hill NC 27514
☑ *Deputy CSC* ☐ *Assistant CSC* ☐ *Clerk Of Superior Court* ☐ *Magistrate*	

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

I, the undersigned, received a copy of this inventory.

Date	*Signature of Person Receiving Inventory*

AOC-CR-206, Side Two, Rev. 5/98

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