

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.) No. 20-1-06793-4 KNT
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)
 MELVIN LEWIS TAYLOR, JR,) INFORMATION
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)
 Defendant.)
)
)

I, Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney for King County in the name and by the authority of the State of Washington, do accuse MELVIN LEWIS TAYLOR, JR of the following crimes, which are of the same or similar character, and which are based on the same conduct or a series of acts connected together or constituting parts of a common scheme or plan: **Murder In The First Degree, Rape In The First Degree**, committed as follows:

Count 1 Murder In The First Degree

That the defendant MELVIN LEWIS TAYLOR JR in King County, Washington, during a time intervening between February 2, 2002 and February 4, 2002, while committing and attempting to commit the crime of Rape in the first or second degree, and in the course of and in furtherance of said crime and in immediate flight therefrom, did cause the death of Linetra Kelly aka Linetra Thornton, a human being, who was not a participant in the crime, and who died during a time intervening between February 2, 2002 and February 4, 2002;


Contrary to RCW 9A.32.030(1)(c), and against the peace and dignity of the State of Washington.

Count 2 Rape In The First Degree

That the defendant MELVIN LEWIS TAYLOR JR in King County, Washington, on or about May 27, 2018, by forcible compulsion did engage in sexual intercourse with another person named C.W. (DOB: 11/2/1966), under circumstances where the defendant used or threatened to use a deadly weapon or what appeared to be a deadly weapon, to wit: a handgun;

1 Contrary to RCW 9A.44.040(1)(a), and against the peace and dignity of the State of
2 Washington.

3 DANIEL T. SATTERBERG
4 Prosecuting Attorney

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6 By: Mary H. Barbosa, WSBA #28187
7 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
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CAUSE NO. 20-1-06793-4 KNT

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CASE SUMMARY AND REQUEST FOR BAIL AND/OR
CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

The State incorporates by reference the Certification for Determination of Probable Cause prepared by Detective Adam Howell of the Federal Way Police Department for case number 02-1764 and King County Sheriff's Office case number C18023683.

Pursuant to CrR 2.2(b)(2)(i)and(iv), the State requests bail set in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 because the defendant is likely to commit a violence offense if released and because the defendant is in custody serving a prison sentence for Attempted Robbery in first degree with a Firearm Enhancement and Assault in the second degree.

The allegations detailed in the Certification for Determination of Probable Cause combined with his criminal history reveal the threat the defendant poses to the safety of the community. The defendant is charged with two very violent crimes that have marked similarities despite being committed 16 years apart. In both instances, the defendant targeted vulnerable middle aged, small in stature women who were strangers to him and who lived and/or worked on the streets. The defendant is alleged to have raped both victims in alleys behind commercial buildings, in the late-night hours, removing their shoes and clothing in a very similar fashion.

Linetra Kelly was strangled and severely beaten about the head and face, presumably to overcome her resistance to being sexually assaulted. Her bloodied and partially naked body was left lying in the mud. Her pants and underwear had been pulled down and were left wrapped around her left leg while her right leg was left exposed.

In C.W.'s attack, a gun was used to overcome her resistance to being sexually assaulted and she was left lying on the stairs, partially naked after being raped. Like Linetra, C.W.'s pants and underwear had been pulled down and wrapped around her left leg, leaving her right leg exposed. C.W. identified the defendant as her attacker in a photo montage in 2020.

Semen collected from both women matched the defendant's DNA profile. The extreme violence in this case belies the defendant's claim that these were consensual acts.

The defendant was convicted in Washington in 2019 of Attempted Robbery in the first degree with a firearm enhancement and Assault in the second degree under King County Cause

Prosecuting Attorney Case
Summary and Request for Bail
and/or Conditions of Release - 1

Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney
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1
2 Number 18-1-04795-8. In that case, on August 14, 2018, less than 3 months after it is alleged
3 that he raped C.W. in Burien, the defendant attacked a 52-year old woman in a parking lot in
4 White Center. The defendant grabbed the woman's purse, put a gun to her head and pulled her to
5 the ground, causing an injury to her arm. The woman's co-worker came out to the parking lot
6 when he heard the woman screaming and the defendant ran away. As he ran, the defendant fired
7 his gun multiple times at the two victims. A witness saw the defendant toss a black 9mm
8 handgun in the bushes and this gun was recovered by police. In 2019, the defendant was
9 sentenced to 66 months at the Department of Corrections ("DOC") for these offenses.
10 According to DOC, his projected release is April 29, 2023.

11 The defendant also has a prior misdemeanor conviction in 1997 in California for
12 Inflicting Corporal Injury on a Spouse or Cohabitant.

13 The State further requests that the court prohibit the defendant from having any contact
14 with any family member of Linetra Kelly. The State requests that the court issue a pre-trial
15 Sexual Assault Protection Order protecting C.W.

16 Signed and dated by me this 21st day of December, 2020.

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18 Mary H. Barbosa, WSBA #28187
19 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
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CERTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

That A. Howell is a Detective with the Federal Way Police Department and has reviewed the investigation conducted in Federal Way Police Department **Case Number 02-1764** and King County Sheriff's Office **Case Number C18023683** ; There is probable cause to believe that **Melvin L. Taylor**, DOB: 4/19/1975, 16550 177th Ave SE, Monroe, Washington 98272 has committed the crimes of **Murder 1, RCW: 9A.32.030 and Rape 1, RCW 9A.44.040** on or about 2/4/2002 at 31217 Pacific Highway South, Federal Way, King County, Washington. There is also probable cause to believe that Taylor committed the crime of **Rape 1, RCW 9A.44.040** on 5/27/18 at 207 SW 152nd Street, Burien, King County, Washington.

This belief is predicated on the following facts and circumstances:

In May of 2019, Melvin L. Taylor was convicted in King County Superior Court of Attempted Robbery in the first degree with a firearm enhancement and Assault in the second degree for crimes he committed on August 14, 2018. These two convictions were Taylor's first felony convictions and he was sentenced to 66.75 months at the Department of Corrections. As a result of these felony convictions, Taylor was required to provide a biological sample for the purpose of DNA identification analysis. Taylor's biological sample was sent to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab ("WSPCL") for analysis and Taylor's DNA profile was entered into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System ("CODIS"). CODIS is a database that forensic scientists use to compare DNA profiles obtained from crime scene evidence against DNA profiles from other crime scenes and from convicted felons.

On May 26, 2020, the Federal Way Police Department received notification from the WSPCL that a routine search of the CODIS database found that Taylor's DNA profile matched a previously unidentified male DNA profile from a deceased victim's vaginal and anal swabs that were collected at the scene of a 2002 rape and murder investigation in Federal Way under case number 02-1764. On June 4, 2020, the WSPCL notified police that the DNA profile from the 2002 rape and murder scene also matched the DNA profile from a sexual assault kit collected by the King County Sheriff's Office during a rape investigation from May 27, 2018 under case number C18023683.

Your affiant reviewed the case file for Federal Way Police Department Case Number 02-1764 and learned that on February 4, 2002 a landscaping crew was trimming vegetation behind the Federal Way QFC, located at 31217 Pacific Hwy South, when they happened upon the remains of a deceased female, later identified as Linetra Thornton (10/25/58). Thornton's body was discovered in a small alcove near the store's loading dock in an alley behind the QFC. Thornton was lying supine, nude from the waist down, with her pants and underwear still wrapped around her left leg. Her shoes had been removed and she had a sock on only her left foot. Thornton had visible trauma to her face as well as a deep laceration to her forehead. Visible blood stains and strands of hair were located on the adjacent walls, suggesting that Thornton had been the victim of a violent assault. An autopsy was conducted by Dr. Richard Harruff on February 5, 2002. Dr. Harruff noted that there were multiple blunt force injuries to her head, multiple abrasions and lacerations to her face, lips, knee, hip and back and evidence of sexual assault. Thornton had lacerations and injuries to her anus and blood was observed in her anal canal. Dr. Harruff concluded that Thornton was killed by asphyxia due to strangulation and classified the manner of death as homicide.

During their examination of the scene, investigators recovered multiple items of evidence to include a variety of cans, bottles and papers in and near the scene as well as two used condoms that appeared to be discarded together with one being inside the other, two Lifestyles brand condom wrappers and another Lifestyles brand condom, still sealed in its wrapper. Vaginal and anal swabs were taken from the victim at the scene and during the autopsy. Investigators also took castings of shoe impressions found in the scene and recovered surveillance video from area businesses. The condoms and the swabs were sent to the WSPCL for analysis. Semen was identified on the vaginal and anal swabs collected from the victim and on the inside of one of the used condoms. An indication of blood was found on the other used condom. A single source male DNA profile was found on the vaginal and anal swab and the inside of one of the condoms. However, a search of the CODIS database did not produce any potential suspects at that time. The male DNA profile was identified by the WSPCL as "Individual A."

Through interviews with her family and associates, detectives learned that Ms. Thornton was actively working as a prostitute along the Pacific Highway corridor and had last been seen at around 11:00 pm the previous night. Ms. Thornton was described as 4 feet 11 inches tall and weighed less than 100 pounds. A witness, Tierney Young, told detectives that she saw a female matching the victim's description in the area of 312th and PHS at approximately 2:00 am either the previous Saturday (2/2/02) or Sunday (2/3/02) morning. Young said that the female met up with a black male who was also walking in the area. Young described the male as being approximately 5'10" tall and wearing a white track suit and said she last saw the two walking toward the QFC across the street.

During the course of the investigation, detectives interviewed and obtained DNA samples from a number of Thornton's male associates, none of whom were found to be a match for the male profile identified by the WSPCL as "Individual A". A review of video evidence from the area did not provide any potential suspects. The investigation was eventually inactivated due to a lack of investigative leads.

In the summer of 2020, additional DNA testing was completed. Your affiant submitted Thornton's underwear that was found hanging off of her left leg to the WSPCL for analysis. While semen was found in Thornton's vaginal and anal swabs and in one of the used condoms, no semen was found in her underwear. Your affiant also requested that the blood that was detected in the other attached condom be analyzed for DNA in light of the advances in DNA technology between 2002 and 2020. The DNA profile obtained on this condom matches the DNA profile of Linetra Thornton.

Your affiant reviewed the investigative reports and materials in King County Sheriff's Office case number C18023683. A review of that case revealed that on May 27, 2018, the victim, C.W. approached a bystander near the Burien City Hall, located at 400 SW 152nd Street and told him that she had just been raped. C.W. asked the bystander to call 911 and told him she needed to go to the hospital. In her statement to police that night, C.W. explained that she was sitting on a bench outside the library / City Hall when she was approached by an unidentified black male who pressed a pistol to her side and ordered her to come with him. C.W. described the suspect as being a black male in his thirties, thin and bald, with glasses and said that he led her to a nearby alleyway where he forced her onto a staircase and raped her at gunpoint. C.W. was taken to the hospital and a sexual assault examination was performed. The single source male DNA profile obtained from C.W.'s vaginal swab would later match Taylor's DNA profile that was entered into CODIS following his conviction in 2019.

Your affiant conducted a search of Taylor's Department of Licensing records and employment records. Taylor is a black male, approximately 5'10" tall and weighing approximately 175 pounds. Taylor's Washington State driver's license photo, taken in 2018, also depicts him as being bald and wearing wire framed glasses. Your affiant also obtained records from the Washington State Employment Security Department which confirmed that Taylor was employed throughout 2002 and 2018 by various private companies in King County, Washington.

On July 14, 2020, Federal Way Police detectives met with C.W. at her Seattle residence to talk to her about the incident in 2018. C.W. was 51 years old at the time of the rape and is 5 foot 1 inches tall. She was homeless at the time and stayed at a women's shelter or in a tent. C.W. was shown a photo montage that included a photograph of Taylor. C.W. positively identified Taylor from the montage, describing him as the individual who *"raped me at gunpoint"*. During her interview with detectives, C.W. described how Taylor, who was a stranger to her, confronted her outside the Burien Library, pointed a dark colored pistol at her and told her, *"come with me."* C.W. recalled that her attacker was bald with a light complexion, with freckles and had been wearing rimless eyeglasses at the time. Fearing for her safety, C.W. complied with Taylor's demands and followed him across the street, eastbound, toward a nearby Dollar Tree store. As they made their way across the parking lot, C.W. said she attempted to engage the suspect in conversation and asked him his name, to which he replied, *"Michael."* As they entered a small alley adjacent to the Dollar Tree, Taylor said something to the effect of *"not here"* before ordering her to cross the street at SW 152nd Street.

After crossing the street, they entered an alley where Taylor grabbed C.W. by both shoulders and forced her to lie down on a stairway. When she asked him what he was doing and told him to *"stop"*, Taylor told C.W. to *"shut up."* C.W. said that he then pulled off her right shoe and pulled down her right pant leg, leaving her pants and underwear hanging off her left leg. As he pulled her pants down, Taylor dropped his gun on the stairs. At that point, C.W. said she attempted to run away but Taylor grabbed her by the back of her shirt and forced her back onto the stairs where he removed his penis from his fly and forced it into her vagina. C.W. said that after ejaculating inside her, Taylor stood up, zipped up his fly and told C.W. *"thanks"* before walking away, eastbound through the alley. C.W. said that she had never seen or met her attacker before and had not seen him since the assault. As she recalled details of her assault, C.W. seemed visibly anxious and her hands began shaking involuntarily. When asked, C.W. said that the event left her emotionally traumatized and that she had been prescribed medication to help her deal with the resulting depression and anxiety.

On November 19, 2020, Federal Way Police detectives met with Melvin Taylor at the Monroe Correctional Complex and explained that he was a person of interest in Thornton's death and C.W.'s rape. Taylor denied committing either crime. During his post Miranda interview, Taylor was shown a photograph of Thornton and told that his DNA had been collected from her body. Taylor replied that she didn't look familiar but admitted that he must have had sex with her if his semen was inside her. He told detectives, *"she might have been a prostitute, I used to sleep with prostitutes"*. Taylor went on to explain that he would occasionally patronize prostitutes along the Pacific Highway corridor in Federal Way. When asked, Taylor said that he had never had a *"trick"* get violent and never had any type of rough encounter with a prostitute. When asked why Thornton's blood was found on the outside of his used condom, Taylor could offer no explanation, stating: *"I don't know. That I can't explain, sir. I know I don't never hurt nobody. I've never put my hands on nobody. I don't do that kind of stuff"*.

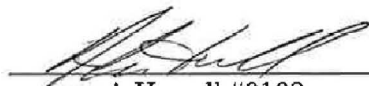
During the course of the interview, Taylor was shown photographs of the loading dock where Thornton's body had been discovered. Taylor examined the photos closely and commented: *"I think I did turn a trick back there years ago"*. Taylor then went to recall, with striking clarity, how he had encountered a black female prostitute near the Chevron station at 312th and Pacific Highway late one evening. Taylor said the unidentified female asked him if he could spare a cigarette and that he asked her if she wanted to make some money to purchase her own cigarettes. According to Taylor, the female led him to the loading dock depicted in the photos where he gave her thirty or forty dollars for sex. He also recalled that the female initially squatted down and performed fellatio on him prior to standing up, bending over, pulling her pants down and allowing him to vaginally penetrate her from behind. Taylor also recalled that he initially ejaculated in her vaginally and that he then asked her for anal intercourse, which she initially agreed to do. Taylor said that she complained of pain and made him stop, before allowing him to vaginally penetrate her and ejaculate a second time. Taylor said he remembered that area because that was the first time that he ever had anal sex. When asked, Taylor was very vague about what happened after the encounter, explaining that he *"just took off"* and did not see what the female did or where she went afterward. When asked if he could explain how his semen could be inside the victim and in the condom but not on her underwear, Taylor had no explanation.

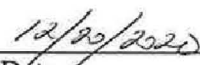
Taylor was also shown a photograph of C.W. and claimed that he did not recognize her either. When told that she had been raped and that his semen had been collected from her, Taylor replied: *"probably a prostitute, I probably paid."* When told that CW had identified him from a montage and claimed that he raped her at gunpoint, Taylor said: *"Maybe she's mad at me or something.... Maybe something happened during the encounter that she didn't like..."*

A cheek swab was taken from Taylor during this interview pursuant to a search warrant and for the purpose of confirming the CODIS match to "Individual A" on the vaginal swabs and the condom. Both items contained mixed profiles. The female component of the swabs and the condom matches the DNA profile of Linetra Thornton. The male component of the swabs and condom matches Melvin Taylor. The estimated probability of selecting an unrelated individual at random from the U.S. population with the same profile as Taylor is 1 in 8.6 quadrillion.

Based on the aforementioned facts and circumstances, probable cause exists to believe that Melvin Taylor engaged in sexual intercourse with Linetra Thornton through forcible compulsion and, during the commission of the crime, violently assaulted the victim and caused her death. Probable cause also exists to believe that Melvin Taylor, while armed with a deadly weapon, engaged in sexual intercourse with C.W. through forcible compulsion.

Under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, I certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed and dated by me, at Federal Way, Washington.


A. Howell #0108


Date 12/22/2020

SUPERFORM

CCN/JCN NUMBER

B/A NUMBER

PCN NUMBER

AGENCY: ☐ UNINCORPORATED KING COUNTY☒ CITY OF FEDERAL WAY

02-1764

CASE NUMBER

FILE NUMBER

S U S P E C T D A T A	DATE OF ARREST/TIME		BOOKING DATE/TIME		ARREST LOCATION					
	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE/JR., SR., 1 ST , 2 ND) Taylor, Melvin Lewis					ALIAS, NICKNAMES				
	IDENTITY IN DOUBT? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		DOB 04/19/75	SEX M	RACE B	HGT 5'10"	WGT 170	EYES Brn	HAIR Blk	SKIN TONE
	SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS, DEFORMITIES								ARMED/DANGEROUS YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS 16550 177 th Ave SE Monroe WA. 98272			CITY	STATE	ZIP	RESIDENCE PHONE	BUSINESS PHONE	CITIZENSHIP US	
	OCCUPATION Incarcerated		EMPLOYER, SCHOOL (ADDRESS, SHOP/UNION NUMBER)					SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		
	DRIVER'S LICENSE #		STATE	AFIS #		FBI # 891233DB8		STATE ID # WA25264973		
	VEHICLE LICENSE #	STATE	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VEHICLE LOCATION		TOW COMPANY		
	PERSON TO BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY			RELATIONSHIP		ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	PHONE
	O F F E N S E D A T A	1) OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV Murder 1				RCW/ORD# 9A.32.030		COURT/CAU#		CITATION #
2) OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV Rape 1				RCW/ORD# 9A.44.040		COURT/CAU#		CITATION #		
3) OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV				RCW/ORD#		COURT/CAU#		CITATION #		
4) OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV				RCW/ORD#		COURT/CAU#		CITATION #		
ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL CHARGES			CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CITATION ATTACHED? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		ACCOMPLICES					
P R O P E R T Y	LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY LEFT FOR ARRESTEE AT JAIL									
	LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> IF YES DESCRIBE: (SIMPLE DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFYING MARKS, SERIAL #)									
	TOTAL CASH OF ARRESTEE \$		WAS CASH TAKEN INTO EVIDENCE? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> AMOUNT: \$				SIGNATURE OF JAIL STAFF RECEIVING ITEMS/SERIAL #			
	ARRESTING OFFICER/SERIAL #			TRANSPORTING OFFICER/SERIAL #			SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE/SERIAL #			
O F F	SUPERFORM COMPLETED BY (SIGNATURE/SERIAL #) <i>[Signature]</i>					CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NAME/SERIAL #/PHONE) Detective A. Howell 0108 253-835-6723				
	MISDEMEANOR BOOKINGS: Complete to this line. FELONY BOOKINGS: Complete both sides. OBJECTION TO RELEASE (MISDEMEANOR OR FELONY) IS ON REVERSE SIDE.									
C O U R T F I L E	SUPERIOR COURT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		IN CUSTODY		COURT CAUSE (STAMP OR WRITE) 20-1-06793-4 KNT n/c victim or wits					
	FILING INFO. <input type="checkbox"/>		AT LARGE							
	MCC-WCR MSU <input type="checkbox"/>		OUT ON BOND							
W A R R A N T I N F O. /	COURT/DIST. CT.NO.		DIST. CT. BOND \$		SUP. CT. DATE 1/7/2021		WARRANT NUMBER			
	WARRANT DATE		OFF CODE OFFENSE Murder 1, Rape 1			AMOUNT OF BAIL \$ 3,000,000		FELONY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BENCH <input type="checkbox"/> MISD <input type="checkbox"/> ARREST <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
E X T R A D I T E	POLICE AGENCY ISSUING Federal Way		COURT Superior		WARRANT RELEASED TO: SERIAL UNIT DATE TIME					
	PERSON APPROVING EXTRADITION MB		SEAKING-LOCAL ONLY WACIC-STATE WIDE <input type="checkbox"/>		NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM ID & OR ONLY <input type="checkbox"/>		NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM OR, ID, MT, WY, CA, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM, HI, AK <input type="checkbox"/>		NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM ALL 50 STATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	CCN# 1965206		DOE _____		C L E A R A N C E		DOC _____			
	WAC# _____		TOE _____				TOC _____			
NIC# _____		OP# _____				OP# _____				