

Justice # ZS1030606
Data # 1397395

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA
Plaintiff,

CR# 21-5

vs.

ROSS S LORELLO, III,
Defendant.
D.O.B. 6 September 1977.
AR# S1030606
RB# M18393
CMS# S1030606 Z

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
(FELONY)**

The State of Nebraska hereby complains to the Court that ROSS S LORELLO III, is alleged to have violated the following laws of the State of Nebraska:

COUNT 1: MURDER 1ST DEGREE Class IA Felony

On or about 28 December 2020, in Douglas County, Nebraska, ROSS LORELLO did then and there purposely and with deliberate and premeditated malice kill MICHAEL SODORO, in violation of Neb.Rev.Stat. 28-303(1) or 28-303(2), a Class IA Felony.
10104
28-303-F1A

COUNT 2: USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (FIREARM) TO COMMIT A FELONY Class IC Felony

On or about 28 December 2020, in Douglas County, Nebraska, ROSS LORELLO did then and there use a firearm to commit any felony which may be prosecuted in a court of this state in violation of Neb. Rev. Stat. §28-1205(1)(a)&(c), a Class IC Felony.
21683
28-1205(1)(C)

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JAN 04 2021

I, MICHAEL W. JENSEN, Deputy County Attorney, allege that this Criminal Complaint is true based upon my information and belief.

DOUGLAS COUNTY COURT
OMAHA, NEBRASKA





MICHAEL W. JENSEN, # 23189
Deputy County Attorney

Witnesses for the State:
JASON V STEHLIK #S386
ROBERT D STERN #S403
JENNIFER A TINSLEY #S323
MICHAEL SODORO

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JAN 04 2021

Clerk of Court
DOUGLAS COUNTY COURT
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

**WARRANTLESS ARREST
AFFIDAVIT**

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Case # DCSO20200029209-002

Plaintiff

vs.

WARRANTLESS ARREST AFFIDAVIT

LORELLO, Ross S.

Defendant

I, **S323 - TINSLEY, JENIFER**, of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, being duly sworn under oath, state that on **12/30/2020**, within Douglas County, Nebraska, I arrested the following defendant, without a warrant, based on the following charge(s) and facts:

Name: **LORELLO, Ross S.**

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DOUGLAS COUNTY COURT
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

(Count)/Offense(s)/Statute Number(s)

Class(es) of Crime(s)

(1) 10107-CRIMINAL HOMICIDE 99

F

(1) 21683-WEAPON: USE TO COMMIT FELONY - GUN 28-1205(1)(C)

F1C

Facts:



1415539CRC01

The information contained within this affidavit is based upon information your affiant, Deputy J. TINSLEY, S323, has gained from my investigation, my personal observations, my training and experience, and/or information related to me by other law enforcement officers and/or agents. Your affiant has set forth the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that evidence of violation of Nebraska State Statute 28-303, 28-304, and/or 28-305.

On Tue, 29 Dec 20 at 0241 hours, DCSO Deputies responded to 19726 K St., Omaha, Douglas County, NE in reference to a missing adult. Upon arrival, Deputy O'NEILL, S462, contacted the Reporting Party, Michael SODORO II. SODORO II advised that his father, Michael SODORO, was missing. SODORO II advised he spoke to MICHAEL at 1710 hours on 28 DEC 20 over the phone. SODORO II stated MICHAEL advised that he was waiting at the office until 1800 hours, because he was going to meet a client, Ross LORELLO. SODORO II said MICHAEL was going to show LORELLO the property located at 19350 W St., Omaha, Douglas County, NE at 1830 hours. SODORO II advised MICHAEL was supposed to collect the deposit and first month's rent

from LORELLO. SODORO II stated LORELLO had set up times to meet MICHAEL twice before, but cancelled both times. SODORO II said MICHAEL advised him he would be home in about an hour and a half.

SODORO II stated that he later tried to contact and locate his father, but MICHAEL'S cellular phone went straight to voicemail. SODORO II also advised that MICHAEL typically carries a couple hundred dollars in cash on his person. SODORO II stated MICHAEL drives a dark grey 2019 Chevrolet Silverado (WBE122/NE). SODORO II said he drove to the rental house address and MICHAEL'S work address, but was unable to locate him or his vehicle. After deputies entered MICHAEL as missing, SODORO II advised MICHAEL'S vehicle was equipped with ONSTAR. SODORO II contacted ONSTAR, who provided deputies with the location of MICHAEL'S vehicle.

Dep. O'NEILL traveled to approximately 5308 South 191st Avenue and located MICHAEL'S unoccupied and locked Chevrolet Silverado. The interior of the vehicle showed no apparent signs of a struggle.

Your affiant, while assigned to the Major Crimes Unit with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO), contacted SODORO II by phone, for additional information. SODORO II explained that he recently purchased the property located at 19350 W Street, Omaha, Douglas County, NE as an investment property. SODORO II stated that his father was assisting him by renting out the listed property. SODORO II provided your affiant with the garage code to 19350 W Street and gave verbal permission for deputies to enter the home to search for MICHAEL and/or any information to indicate his whereabouts.

After entering the home, deputies observed a ground level crawl space, in the garage, that was partially obstructed by metal shelving. Deputies observed a deceased male located inside the crawl space, covered by loose carpeting remnants. Deputies observed the male party was wearing black dress slacks and the torso was primarily exposed.

Your affiant, as well as personnel with the Forensic Services Division, arrived at the residence and received a briefing from the on-scene deputies. In completing a cursory walk-through of the home, your affiant observed a blood smear on a stair railing, leading from the basement to the main entryway. Your affiant observed apparent blood on the carpet in the dining room and an orange sweatshirt on the floor, in the kitchen pantry closet. In the upstairs hallway bathroom, your affiant observed apparent blood on the white bathtub.

Deputies did not locate any other victims/persons inside the residence. The scene was secured, pending the authorization of a search warrant. The victim's vehicle, a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado (NE plate:WBE122), was towed to the DCSO West Office, located at 3601 North 156th Street, Omaha, Douglas County, NE, and stored in the secured K-9 Office sally port, pending forensic processing.

While at the scene, the previous owner of the home, arrived and indicated that neighbors had alerted him to law enforcement activity at the house. The witness briefly explained that he stopped at the house the previous evening and encountered the realtor, MICHAEL SODORO, and an unknown male. The witness agreed to proceed to the DCSO to speak with an investigator.

At 1300, Deputy B. M. O'Malley S-425, conducted an interview with the witness, the prior owner of 19350 W Street. The witness advised that on Mon, 28 Dec 20, at 1810 hours, the witness observed MICHAEL'S vehicle parked in front of 19350 W Street. The witness approached the vehicle and spoke to MICHAEL. The witness advised MICHAEL that he had additional keys for the house to provide to MICHAEL. The witness advised that he would return to his nearby home, retrieve the keys and come back to provide them to MICHAEL.

At approximately 1817 hours, the witness returned to 19350 W Street. At this point, MICHAEL'S truck was still parked in the street, with the engine running, but MICHAEL was not present. The witness also observed a Ford Edge, with partial Nebraska plate "WE", parked in the driveway.

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The witness observed a "bigger" unknown male, wearing an orange "Hi-Vis" sweatshirt, inside the house. From outside the house, it appeared that the unknown male was walking in the living room, behind the kitchen and in the main hallway where the bathroom is located. The witness rang the doorbell and the unknown male opened the garage door to speak with him. The witness asked if MICHAEL (the realtor) was there and the unknown male stated "he just jumped in a vehicle with one of his son's friends to look at a house" and "he'll be back in a little bit." The unknown male introduced himself to the witness as the new renter and asked the witness if he was the repair man coming over. The witness told him no, but did not identify himself as the previous homeowner.

Subsequent investigations determined that LORELLO's fiancé, Briana WIEGAND, owns a 2016 black Ford Edge, with NE plate WEY616. Video surveillance footage confirms that LORELLO was driving the 2016 black Ford Edge, on 28 Dec 20, at 1950 hours.

LORELLO was located by assisting deputies and he agreed to come to the DCSO to speak with investigators. During a post-Miranda interview, conducted by Deputy J. STEHLIK, S386, LORELLO confirmed that he met with the realtor, MICHAEL SODORO, at the residence, located at 19350 W Street. Du19350 W Street. During this time, LORELLO advised that he was wearing a maroon/brownish sweatshirt, which he inadvertently left at the house. LORELLO stated that he provided \$9700 in cash, to MICHAEL, and the leasing paperwork was signed. LORELLO stated that MICHAEL provided him with keys and garage door openers for the home. LORELLO stated that after approximately twenty (20) minutes, MICHAEL left the house to meet with someone else, leaving his pickup parked, with the engine running. LORELLO recalled speaking with the witness while in the garage. LORELLO indicated that he secured the house and drove away.

LORELLO provided written consent to allow a collection of his physical characteristics, including DNA and major case prints. LORELLO was later released from the Sheriff's Office.

During the execution of the court-authorized search warrant at the scene, an orange sweatshirt was located, with possible blood on it. The Forensic Services Division processed the scene for latent prints, locating two (2) partial left hand palm prints on the bathtub edge, in the hallway bathroom. One of the latent prints was partially contained in blood. On 30 Dec 20, both of the recovered latent prints were later identified to LORELLO.

MICHAEL'S body was examined and a small hole, consistent with a gunshot wound, was found on the backside of his head.

DCSO deputies also executed a court authorized search warrant upon WIEGAND's vehicle. In the trunk, where the spare tire is kept, deputies located a 22LR handgun revolver, wrapped in a towel. Upon clearing the revolver, five (5) loaded rounds and one (1) fired casing were removed from the weapon.

On Wed, 30 Dec 20, MICHAEL SODORO's autopsy confirmed that the cause of death was a small caliber, close contact gunshot wound to the back of the head.

On Wed, 30 Dec 20, deputies located LORELLO, at a friend's house, located at 3315 Charles Street, Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska. LORELLO was transported to the Correctional Center and booked on a charge of Criminal Homicide and Use of a Gun to Commit a Felony, F1C.

The actions constituting these crimes were committed in the county of arrest.

____ This is an assault based upon a domestic dispute.

____ This is a charge for violation of a protection order.

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OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Wherefore, I request that a determination be made that probable cause existed for a warrantless arrest and the pre-trial detention of the defendant.

Deputy J. Tinsley S323

Signature of arresting Officer/Deputy Sheriff/Prosecuting Attorney

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of December, 2020.

Robert A. Jones

Judge/Clerk/Magistrate/Notary Public



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