

1 SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY

2 STATE OF WASHINGTON,

3 Plaintiff,

INCIDENT NO. 09-333-0363

4 vs.

5 LETRECIA NELSON,

DECLARATION FOR DETERMINATION OF  
PROBABLE CAUSE

6 Defendant.

7 MARK LINDQUIST, declares under penalty of perjury:

8 That I am the Prosecuting Attorney of Pierce County and I am familiar with the police  
9 investigation conducted by the Pierce County Sheriff Incident No. 09-333-0363.

10 That the police reports and investigation and/or briefings with Pierce County Sheriff's Detectives  
11 Benson, Kobel, Merod, Kobel, and Karr and Tacoma Police Detectives Quillio and Griffiths provided the  
following information;

12 That in Pierce County, Washington, on or about the 29th day of November, 2009, the defendant,  
13 LETRECIA NELSON, did commit the crime of Rendering Criminal Assistance in the First Degree.  
This is an on-going investigation into the crimes of four counts of Aggravated Murder in the First  
Degree.

14 On November 29, 2009, at approximately 08:16 hours, Pierce County Sheriff's Deputy Ammann  
15 responded to a report of a shooting at the Forza coffee shop at 11401 Steele Street South in  
unincorporated Pierce County. Deputy Ammann arrived and described seeing four Lakewood Police  
Officers who had been shot and were non-responsive.

16 Pierce County Detective Anderson contacted two employees of the Forza shop. The two employees had  
17 fled from the Forza shop and called 911. The first employee reported that there were four police officers  
in the shop when a black male entered the store. The employee said she greeted the black male as he  
18 entered and he had a blank look on his face. The male walked into the store and when he got near where  
officers were sitting, he pulled out a gun and started shooting toward the officers. The employee said she  
and the other employee fled through the back door of the business and left in a car. The two employees  
19 described the gunman as a black male, about 5'7" to 5'10" wearing a black jacket and blue jeans.

20 The two employees drove away from the store and they drove past the front of the store to get to a nearby  
gas station to use the phone. As the Forza employees passed the front of the business and they saw the  
21 suspect "wrestling" or "struggling" with one of the officers in the doorway. The Forza employees stopped  
near the intersection of 112<sup>th</sup> Street and Steele and borrowed a phone to call 911. While the employees  
22 were contacting 911, they saw a male who looked like the gunman walking on foot. That man walked to  
a white pickup truck that was parked at a car wash near the intersection of 112th Street and Steele Street.  
23 A male was driving the truck and the black male suspect got into the passenger side and the truck left at a  
high rate of speed.

24 DECLARATION FOR DETERMINATION  
OF PROBABLE CAUSE -1

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1 A short time later, a similar vehicle was located parked unoccupied in a parking lot in the 13300 block of  
2 Pacific Avenue South. The vehicle is registered to a business with an address in the 1100 block of 131<sup>st</sup>  
3 Street South. Detective Benson reports that the residential property at that address is owned by Maurice  
4 Clemmons. During a search of the vehicle, detectives located what appeared to be blood on an arm rest  
5 inside the vehicle. The substance was tested and presumptively found to be blood.

6 Detective Benson reports that the Washington State Patrol and Pierce County Sheriff's Department  
7 examined the crime scene and confirmed there were four Lakewood Police Officers who appeared to have  
8 been shot and were deceased. The deceased officers were identified as Lakewood Police Officers Mark  
9 Renninger, Tina Griswold, Greg Richards, and Ronnie Owen. The Pierce County Medical Examiner's  
10 Office has reported that Dr. Menchel has conducted examination of the bodies and has determined that  
11 Officer Richards died of a gunshot wound to the head, Officer Owen died of a gunshot wound to the neck,  
12 Officer Griswold died of a gunshot wound to the head, and Officer Renninger died of a gunshot wound to  
13 the head.

14 There was a .38 caliber revolver found at the scene containing six spent shell casings. The revolver does  
15 not appear to be associated with any of the deceased officers. There was a 9 mm handgun at the scene  
16 and one spent 9 mm casing at the scene. The 9 mm handgun was reported stolen from Seattle and is not  
17 associated with any of the deceased officers. There were two spent shell casings from a .40 caliber Glock  
18 handgun at the scene, and a .40 caliber Glock handgun associated with one of the officers was not located  
19 at the scene and is believed to have been taken by Clemmons.

20 Detectives showed a montage of six photographs to the two Forza employees that included a photograph  
21 of Clemmons. Detective Merod reports that one employee excluded five of the people depicted in the  
22 photographs and she said the sixth photograph, the one depicting Clemmons, looked the most like the  
23 gunman; the employee reported that on a scale of one to ten, ten being very certain of the identification,  
24 she felt her confidence level of the identification was a seven. The second employee was not able to  
25 identify anyone in the photographs.

26 Pierce County deputies and detectives continued following up on information they received throughout  
27 the day and noted Clemmons was associated with an address in Seattle in the 3800 block of East Superior  
28 Street. Seattle Police Officers arrived in the area and saw a black male on foot near a residence. The  
29 officers also saw a vehicle leaving the area and they conducted a traffic stop and contacted the female  
30 driver of the vehicle, who was identified as Quiana Williams.

31 Williams was interviewed by Pierce County Detectives Kobel and Karr. Williams identified herself as a  
32 friend of Clemmons. She said Clemmons called her Sunday morning and asked that she meet him at a  
33 Seattle location. Williams met Clemmons and took him to her residence. Clemmons told her he had been  
34 shot and that he had killed a police officer or officers at a Tacoma coffee shop. Williams said she went to  
35 two different stores to purchase peroxide and gauze and bandage material. When she returned home, she  
36 helped treat Clemmons' gunshot wound to the torso. Williams said Clemmons changed into different  
37 clothing at her house and washed and dried a load of laundry. Williams then drove the defendant to the  
38 area of 3800 East Superior Street and he got out of the car. When Clemmons got out of the car, Williams  
39 drove away and stopped by Seattle Police officers.

40 Pierce County Detectives Kobel and Karr searched William's car and residence and located a piece of  
41 clothing that has a hole in the front and appears to have a stain pattern consistent with a bleeding wound.  
42 The detectives also located evidence of gauze and bandage material and peroxide.

43 Residents at a house located in the 3800 block of East Superior Street drove to the Seattle Police precinct  
44 office and reported that they had been contacted by Maurice Clemmons, who is known to them.

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1 Clemmons had telephoned them and said he needed a place to stay, and they initially agreed to allow him  
2 to stay with them. Clemmons told the residents he was armed with a gun, which concerned them. The  
3 residents then contacted Letrecia Nelson who informed them that Clemmons had shot some police  
officers in Tacoma and he himself had been wounded. The East Superior Street residents vacated their  
house before Clemmons arrived and they drove to the police precinct and reported this information.

4 Law enforcement officers developed information that Clemmons may be related to an Auburn address. In  
the late afternoon of November 30, 2009, a vehicle with four occupants left that address. Officers stopped  
5 the vehicle and identified three of the occupants as Douglas Davis, Eddie Davis, and Rickey Hinton.  
6 Detectives interviewed Hinton who reported that he is a half brother to Clemmons and they live in  
separate residences on the same property at 774 132nd Street S. Hinton reported that on Saturday night  
7 Clemmons asked Hinton to give him the keys to the white pick up truck, which Clemmons said he needed  
the next morning. Hinton gave Clemmons the keys to the truck. Hinton said that early Sunday morning  
8 he was out in the yard at his residence and Clemmons appeared on foot. Clemmons had been shot and  
said the cops had shot him. Clemmons awoke Douglas Davis and Eddie Davis who were sleeping in one  
9 of the residences on the property. Hinton threw the car keys to a white Pontiac to Eddie and told Eddie  
and Douglas to use the Pontiac to get Clemmons out of there. Hinton gave his own cell phone to his 12  
year old son or grandson, and told the child to start deleting Clemmons' phone numbers from his cell  
phone.

10 Eddie and Douglas Davis were separately interviewed by detectives. The interviews establish that Eddie  
and Douglas Davis left the address at 774 132nd Street South on Sunday morning in the white Pontiac  
11 with the wounded Clemmons in the back seat. Clemmons told them he had been shot by police and he  
had shot some police officers. Both reported that Clemmons said he had "taken care of his business."  
12 Douglas and Eddie Davis both understood this to mean that he had shot or killed police officers. Douglas  
and Eddie Davis both reported that on Saturday night, in the presence of Hinton, Clemmons showed them  
13 two handguns and told them he was going to shoot police. While in the car northbound, Clemmons asked  
Douglas to make some phone calls for him and Douglas made at least two calls to a number provided by  
14 Clemmons. Douglas, Eddie and Clemmons arrived at a residence in the Algona/Pacific area; the  
residence of Letrecia Nelson and Cicely Clemmons. They went into the residence with Clemmons and  
15 Letrecia Nelson assisted in cleaning and treating Clemmons' gunshot wound. Clemmons changed clothes  
and put his own clothing into a bag.

16 From the Algona/Pacific address, Clemmons got into a car driven by Letrecia Nelson and Eddie and  
Douglas got back into the Pontiac. The two cars then drove to the Auburn Super Mall parking lot and met  
17 up with a third vehicle, a small white car, believed to be driven by Williams. Clemmons spoke briefly to  
the female driver and then all three cars drove to an apartment complex where Clemmons got into the  
18 small white car with the female driver and then left the area.

19 On November 30, 2009 Tacoma Police Detective Quillio interviewed Letrecia Nelson and Cicely  
Clemmons. Both individuals denied having seen or heard anything from Clemmons. On December 1,  
20 2009, Detective Quillio re-contacted Letrecia Nelson who again denied having seen the defendant.  
Detective Quillio interviewed Cicely Nelson who reported that on Sunday, November 29, 2009,  
21 Clemmons woke them up banging on the door and/or window at about 9 a.m. Clemmons and the Davis  
brothers came into their residence. Clemmons was directing Letrecia and the Davis brothers to get him t-  
22 shirt, to treat to his wound, to get a plastic bag. Letrecia told Cicely to turn over her car keys and money  
for Clemmons. Cicely said she did give her keys and \$60 to Clemmons. Clemmons and the Davis  
23 brothers left taking the Pontiac and Cicely's car. Cicely said she did not see who was in which car, but she  
knew they were planning to meet a girl at the super mall. Cicely said after they left, she and Letrecia  
24 talked about whether they should report this information. Cicely reported that before he left Clemmons  
said he was going with a girl, he was going to rest and he was going to heal, but he wasn't done. Letrecia

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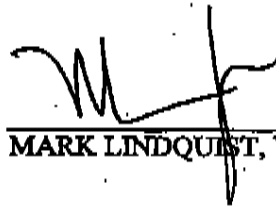
1 told Cicely they would not call the police because family was more important. Cicely said, "It ain't  
2 right." Letrecia said, "It ain't right, but family's more important." About 10 minutes later the Davis  
brothers returned her car and they both left the Pontiac.

3 Cicely also reported that on Thanksgiving day, Clemmons ate dinner at her house and he was telling  
4 everyone, including Letrecia, Darcus Allen and Cicely, that he planned to kill cops, he planned to kill  
children at a school, and he planned to kill as many people as he could in an intersection.

5 Early on December 1, 2009, Clemmons was shot and killed by a Seattle Police Officer.

6 I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF  
WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

7 DATED: November 30, 2009  
8 PLACE: TACOMA, WA

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MARK LINDQUIST, WSB# 25076

DECLARATION FOR DETERMINATION  
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930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 946  
Tacoma, WA 98402-2171  
Main Office (253) 798-7400