

WARRANT NO. PC 29483
D396
14M002005

THE STATE OF TEXAS)(
COUNTY OF TARRANT)(
)

WARRANT OF ARREST
TO ANY PEACE OFFICER OF THE STATE OF TEXAS;

The undersigned Magistrate having heretofore found that probable cause exists for the issuance of this warrant, you are hereby commanded to arrest

Johnson, Rachel Hardy

a black female, date of birth: 04/18/1979

hereinafter referred to as the suspect, and bring the said suspect before a Magistrate in and for Tarrant County, Texas, instanter, then and there to answer the State of Texas for an offense against the laws of the said State, to-wit

Abuse of Corpse PC 42.08

of which offense **HE** the said suspect, is accused by the written affidavit, under oath of **Detective M. Barron #3087** Fort Worth Police Department filed before me anterior to the issuance of this warrant. Herein fail not and due return make hereof at the place hereinafter named.

Witness my official signature this the 17 day of July, A.D., 2014.

TIME: _____
George Gallagher
MAGISTRATE IN AND FOR TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

Judge, 396th District Court
TITLE AND OFFICE HELD BY MAGISTRATE

RECOMMENDED BOND SET BY JUDGE: _____
#1,500.00

RETURN
Came on to hand on the 21 day of July, 2014, and executed on the 21 day of July, 2014.

[Signature] #2317
NAME OF PEACE OFFICER

[Signature]
DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

FILED
THOMAS A WILDER, DIST. CLERK
TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

JUL 23 2014

TIME 3:20
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

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JUL 17 2014

ARREST WARRANT AFFIDAVIT

THE STATE OF TEXAS)(
COUNTY OF TARRANT)(

TIME 3:50 AM
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared the undersigned affiant, who after being duly sworn on oath deposes and says; My name is DETECTIVE M. Barron #3087, FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT, and I have good reason to believe and do believe that on or about the 15th day of July 2014, in Tarrant County, Texas, Rachel Hardy Johnson, black female, date of birth: 04/18/1979 hereafter known as the suspect, did then and there commit the offense of Abuse of Corpse 42.08 PC, in that he did INTENTIONALLY OR KNOWINGLY TREAT A HUMAN CORPSE, TO WIT: DEBORAH WHITNEY, DATE OF DEATH: 05/11/2014, IN A SERIOUSLY OFFENSIVE MANNER, NAMELY BY RETAINING CUSTODY OF AND STORING THE HUMAN CORPSE IN AN UNREFRIGERATED BUILDING INSTEAD OF DELIVERING THE SAID HUMAN CORPSE FOR PROPER BURIAL OR CREMATION.

My belief is based upon the following facts and information:

This offense did occur in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

On July 15th, 2014 at approximately 0839 hours Officer P. Ji #4070 and assisting officers were dispatched to the Johnson Family Mortuary located at 1051 South Handley Drive reference an investigation meet complainant call. On arrival at the location Officer Ji made contact with the complainant who was subsequently identified as James Labenz. Officer Ji was provided with the following information by James Labenz.

- > Labenz is the owner of the building located at 1051 South Handley Drive. This building was being leased by the Johnson Family Mortuary.
> The owners of the Johnson Family Mortuary were seriously delinquent on the rent and Mr. Labenz was in the process of trying to evict the tenants.
> Labenz observed that the business appeared closed and that none of the tenants were present.
> Labenz entered the building and observed that several human corpses were situated in areas throughout the building. These corpses were not refrigerated and were in various states of decomposition.
> The building is not equipped with refrigeration beyond that of standard air conditioning. Labenz was unsure of what action should be taken so he notified police.

Officer Ji and Corporal M. Mapes entered the building and confirmed the above observations of James Labenz. The determination was made by the responding officers to notify homicide and the medical examiner's office.

At approximately 0900 hours I Detective M. Barron #3087, assigned to homicide was contacted by Corporal Mapes and briefed with the above information. I requested that Corporal Mapes contact crime scene personnel and I additionally told him that I would be responding to the location.

At approximately 0930 hours I, along with Homicide Detective K.C. Sullivan #2912, arrived at the location. I noticed that the odor of decaying flesh could be smelled in the parking lot outside of the building.

I briefly met with the landlord James Labenz to determine if an actual court processed eviction procedure had been initiated against the tenants. Mr. Labenz explained that he had not yet initiated a court ordered eviction. I made contact with Homicide Detective W.D. Paine #2884 and requested that he prepare a search warrant affidavit for the location.

At approximately 11:15 A.M. Detective Paine met with Tarrant County Magistrate R. Webb and presented a search warrant affidavit for the premises located at 1051 South Handley Drive. The warrant was signed and prescribed search warrant number SW 29473. The warrant was subsequently placed on file in the Tarrant County Clerk's Office.

At approximately 1200 hours I and Detective Sullivan arrived at 6339 Weaver Drive in Arlington to attempt to locate Dondre Johnson. Investigators from the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office had arrived at 1051 South Handley and were requesting his assistance in attempting to identify the decaying corpses. After repeated knocking at the door a female identified as Rachel Johnson responded to the door. Rachel is the wife of Dondre and the lessee on the contract for Johnson Family Mortuary. Rachel told me that she had heard that police were at the business and that Dondre was at the doctor's office. I asked that she have Dondre contact me and advised her that we needed him to respond to the business.

At approximately 1245 hours Detective Sullivan and I returned to 1051 South Handley Drive and assisted in the execution of the search warrant. We were joined at the location by Homicide Sergeant G. Loughman #2618, Homicide Detective W. Paine #2884, Crime Scene Officer S. Shore #3716, and Investigators John Briggs and Steve White from the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office.

When we entered the business there was a noticeable strong stench emanating from the decaying, non-refrigerated corpses. The stench became stronger as we moved toward a garage type storage area at the rear of the business. Officer Shore detailed the scene in her crime scene supplement of the offense report. The following information is a summary of what was observed inside of the business.

- Evidence of insect infestation and fly pupa was present on and near the corpses.
- Two of the corpses were those of decomposed children. One of the children was skeletonized and the other was melted into the container.
- Additional corpses were located in a garage area of the business. A body was in a casket and was infested with insect activity and was mummified. Evidence of insect activity covered the floor of the garage around the decomposing corpses.
- An additional corpse was located in a utility area near the garage. This body was simply wrapped in a sheet and placed on top of a wooden coffee table. The corpse appeared to be mummified.
- Additional bodies were placed on gurneys and were draining bodily fluids on to the floor. Buckets had been placed under the bodies in an attempt to contain the draining fluids.
- A shop vacuum was in the garage and appeared to have been used to vacuum up some of the draining fluid. Numerous bottles of cleaning chemicals and deodorizers were located throughout the building.
- Fluid stains consistent with bodily fluid were observed on the driveway entry to the garage area.
- A total of eight corpses were located in the business. Only one of these corpses appeared to have been properly cared for and was not severely decomposed. We later learned that this corpse was from a recent funeral and was being prepared for shipment to the family in Kenya.

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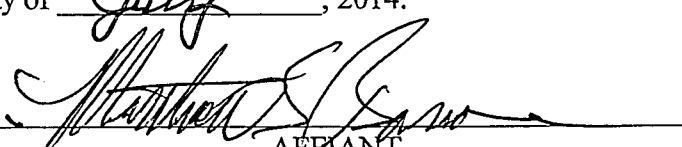
- Medical Examiner's transport employs utilized respirator devices during the course of removing the bodies.
- Subsequent examination and investigation by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office revealed that two of the adult corpses had not been embalmed. It was undetermined if the child corpses had been embalmed.

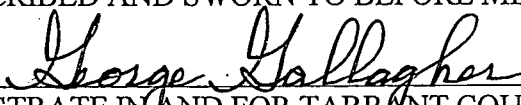
At approximately 1300 hours I and Detective Sullivan spoke with Dondre Johnson while we were all seated in Detective Sullivan's city vehicle. Dondre Johnson said that he and his wife Rachel own the funeral home, but she is in charge. Johnson indicated that the above conditions at the funeral home were not unusual saying that bodies belong in a funeral home. Johnson said that the body's had been at the funeral home for no longer than four months. He also told us that he was not licensed by any state agency and that he merely owns the funeral home.

At approximately 1400 hours Detective Sullivan and I spoke with Rachel Johnson. Rachel told us that she had not been aware that the bodies were in the funeral home. Rachel said that she holds a license through the state funeral home commission and that she had been in charge of taking care of the administrative functions of the business. She had been at the funeral home on the previous Friday and smelled the stench, but said she was unaware of the presence of the decaying corpses. Rachel indicated that she had been absent from the business due to a recent child birth and that Dondre was not good at keeping up with the necessary administrative paperwork needed to properly bury and cremate the corpses. She said that Dondre is more about the "pomp and circumstance" and the "show" associated with the funeral service and that this is what people call on him to do.

That based on the above facts and information being related to him, and as a result of his investigation, your affiant has reason to believe and does believe that **Rachel Hardy Johnson, date of birth: 04/18/1979**, knowingly and intentionally did then and there commit the offense of **Abuse of Corpse**

WHEREFORE, I request that an arrest warrant issue for the suspect hereinbefore designated according to the laws of this State.

WITNESS my signature this the 17 day of July, 2014.

 AFFIANT

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this the 17 day of July, 2014.

 MAGISTRATE IN AND FOR TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS
Judge, 396th District Court
 TITLE AND OFFICE HELD BY MAGISTRATE