

County/District Court

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO  
City and County of Denver, Colorado

Offense Case No. 2020-405239



**AFFIDAVIT AND APPLICATION FOR A SEALED ARREST  
WARRANT FOR THE PERSON OF:**

**Jose Maria SANDOVAL-ROMERO 05/03/1996, a Hispanic male, as depicted below, who stands approximately 6'00" and weighs 165 lbs., with brown eyes and brown hair;**



for the crime of CRS 18-3-102(1)(a), First Degree Murder, a class 1 felony.

I, Detective Daniel Tregembo, 05041, of the Denver Police Homicide Unit, the Affiant, state under oath that the facts known to the Affiant which establish probable cause to believe that a criminal offense was committed, and that the offense was committed by the above named person, are the following:

On Friday, July 3, 2020, at 9:27 p.m., [REDACTED] called Denver 911 from 15 [REDACTED] N. Oneida St. ([REDACTED]) to report that a male, later identified as [REDACTED], knocked on her door to say that a woman in the upstairs unit was dead. Denver Police, Fire and Paramedics responded. A woman, later identified as Ariana WOLK 09/26/1979, was found unresponsive in the only bedroom of the upstairs unit. Ms. WOLK was in a pool of blood, and possibly suffered sharp force injuries to her neck. Paramedic Jacob CASTILLO, Denver Health Medical Center ambulance #64, assessed the victim and then pronounced her deceased, on scene, under the authority of Dr. Kevin MCVANEY.

Denver Police Officer Matthew VAN PORTFLIET was among those who responded, secured the scene and notified investigators. Night Shift Unit Detective Ryan TUGGLE responded and examined the scene. He was uncertain if the evidence was consistent with a self-inflicted injury and therefore elected, in an abundance of caution, to request the assistance of a homicide investigator.

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Detective TUGGLE notified Homicide Unit Sergeant Scott MURPHY of the suspicious death at about 10:45 p.m. Sergeant MURPHY then notified Homicide Unit Detectives Daniel TREGEMBO, 05041, and Daniel ANDREWS, 96015. Detective TREGEMBO was assigned as the lead investigator and directed to respond to Denver Police Headquarters to conduct witness interviews. Det. ANDREWS was assigned as the secondary investigator and tasked with initiating the scene investigation.

Det. ANDREWS arrived on scene at 11:54 p.m. Both Officer VAN PORTFLIET and Detective TUGGLE were present. Detective TUGGLE stated that Ariana WOLK, DOB: 09/26/1979, was known to live in the upstairs unit, alone for the past couple of months, following an incident of domestic violence wherein she was the victim. Ms. WOLK'S [REDACTED] [REDACTED], was arrested and given a protection order barring him from contact with Ms. WOLK. Further, Mr. [REDACTED] was fitted with a GPS enabled ankle monitor as part of his pre-trial release.

Det. ANDREWS conducted a brief examination of the scene to determine if the victim's injuries could have been self-inflicted, or if it was more likely that she was the victim of foul play. Det. ANDREWS noticed probable blood drops on the floors in the kitchen and living room, a folding knife with suspected blood in the kitchen sink, and blood on the kitchen faucet, as if someone with bloody hands had touched it. Det. ANDREWS also observed the victim, who was in the bedroom, rolled onto her back, leaving a blood pool where she'd initially been found. A possible sharp force injury was observed on her neck. No sharp instruments were observed nearby. Officer Bryan HAYES pointed out a black cell phone in the backyard, obviously not having been there long, based on the fact that it was clean, and laying on top of the grass-like vegetation.

Det. ANDREWS obtained a search warrant, approved by the Honorable Judge LOMBARDI, for 15 [REDACTED] N. Oneida St. Personnel from the Denver Police Department Crime Scene Unit processed the scene and collected evidence.

Det. ANDREWS communicated with Detective TREGEMBO, who started interviewing parties at DPD Headquarters, among them [REDACTED], who reported that around 4:00-5:00 p.m. she heard her upstairs neighbor fall or get pushed down the half flight of stairs leading to the side door. This stairwell is shared by the upper and lower apartments. When [REDACTED] looked at the landing she observed a young male she didn't recognize, standing in the doorway. [REDACTED] described the male as having black hair, shaved on the side and protruding on top with facial hair limited to his chin area. Ms. WOLK was on the ground and needed assistance getting back into her apartment. [REDACTED] [REDACTED], assisted Ms. WOLK to her feet and also observed the same White or Hispanic male standing nearby. Ms. WOLK and the male returned to Ms. WOLK'S apartment. A short time later, the young male knocked on [REDACTED] door, asked her to smoke (marijuana) and reported the woman who lived upstairs was threatening to hurt herself. [REDACTED] declined the offer to smoke and the male returned to the apartment. Several hours later [REDACTED] observed the same male, now shirtless, walking in the backyard. About 30-45 minutes after this observation [REDACTED], DOB [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] in her downstairs unit and told her to call 911 because he believed the woman who lived upstairs, who he knew as Ariana, was dead.



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██████████ participated in a recorded interview with Detective TREGEMBO. ██████████ reported he met Ariana within the last two weeks through a mutual friend and began staying at the house on Wednesday and Thursday night, July 1-2, to help Ariana battle her alcohol addiction. Friday morning, July 3, 2020, ██████████ said he decided to return home to clean up. ██████████ said he left the residence before noon and returned after 9 p.m. when he found Ariana unresponsive. ██████████ reported in his short time with Ariana he observed she would become intoxicated and invite random transients to come to the house.

Det. TREGEMBO met with ██████████ for a video interview. ██████████ said on Friday, July 3, 2020 he was at his mother's residence, 15 ██████████ N. Oneida St., hanging out and drinking beer. ██████████ heard someone fall on the side stairwell and saw Ariana facedown. ██████████ also saw a "Mexican" male with a box haircut and facial hair around the chin and mouth area standing nearby. ██████████ thought the male may have pushed Ariana. ██████████ helped Ariana up and she went back into her apartment with the unknown male. Later in the day ██████████ saw the same male hanging out with Ariana in the backyard. ██████████ left his mom's in the late afternoon and returned home.

Det. TREGEMBO met with ██████████, ██████████ to Ariana WOLK, for a video interview. ██████████ confirmed he was on ankle monitor as a result of pre-trial release for a domestic violence related issue with Ariana from late May 2020. Since that time ██████████ had been living in his car, away from the residence. ██████████ said he did meet up with Ariana on Friday, July 3, 2020 in the afternoon at a Walgreens store, 6200 E. Colfax Ave. ██████████ said Ariana was in the company of a young (twenties), Hispanic male with black hair, shaved on the side and chin hair. ██████████ parted company with Ariana and saw that she was still in the company of the same young male.

Det. TREGEMBO contacted Pre-Trial services who confirmed through GPS tracking points that ██████████ was not at 15 ██████████ N. Oneida St at any time on July 3, 2020.

Det. TREGEMBO reviewed DPD HALO footage from a camera at E. Colfax Ave. and N. Monaco St. On July 3, 2020 at approximately 5:15 p.m. the victim, Ariana WOLK, is observed walking eastbound on the south side of the street in the company of a male with black hair, wearing black pants, a black t-shirt and red shoes. The two are seen crossing to the north side of E. Colfax Ave. and continue walking eastbound toward the area of Ms. WOLK'S residence.

Det. ANDREWS responded to Frosted Leaf Marijuana Dispensary, 6302 E. Colfax Ave., and obtained still photographs from internal video surveillance footage on July 3, 2020.

Ms. WOLK was observed in the company of a Hispanic male, with black hair, shaved on the sides and chin hair. The male is wearing a black t-shirt, black jeans and wearing red shoes. In video footage the male is observed holding a clear plastic Starbucks cup with reddish/pink liquid inside.

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A clear, plastic Starbucks cup with reddish/pink liquid was recovered from the front lawn of 15███ N. Oneida St. Still pictures from the video footage show the same male with a distinctive red tattoo on his left forearm.

On July 3, 2020 Forensic Scientist Elizabeth ENNENGAL processed the clear, plastic Starbucks cup recovered from the front yard of 15███ N. Oneida St. A recovered print from the cup was identified to Jose SANDOVAL-ROMERO 05/03/1996. Historical photographs from law enforcement agencies were consistent in physical appearance to the male observed on video surveillance footage recovered from Frosted Leaf Marijuana Dispensary. In addition, Jose SANDOVAL-ROMERO was identified as having a distinct red tattoo on his left forearm, consistent with that seen on the video footage.



Still picture 07/03/20



Historical law enforcement picture

On July 3, 2020 Det. ANDREWS responded to the Denver Office of the Medical Examiner to attend the postmortem examination for Ariana WOLK. Ms. WOLK was found to have several stab wounds to her neck and apparent defensive stab wounds to her arms and hands. Based on the wounds and examination of the blood on scene at 15███ N. Oneida St., it is likely the assailant suffered an injury during the course of the stabbing. In your Affiant's experience, suspects frequently cut themselves in the course of stabbing a victim.



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Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO was found to have an active warrant, Statewide Extradition, for a traffic offense out of teller County, Colorado.

On July 5, 2020 your Affiant obtained a search warrant for the body of Jose SANDOVAL-ROMERO 05/03/1996 to collect a saliva sample and document with digital photographs any injuries to Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO. The warrant was approved by the honorable Kerry LOMBARDI.

On July 5, 2020 the Denver Police Department Fugitive Unit began operations to locate Jose SANDOVAL-ROMERO per a search warrant for his body. This included gathering address and phone information for Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO. Historical law enforcement records and the Colorado Department of Motor Vehicles listed his address as 1124 N. Boston St. Detectives also found a phone number, 719-666-2535, believed to belong to Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO.

On July 5, 2020 Det. Jimmy WAIDLER obtained a search warrant to obtain tracking information from Verizon Wireless for telephone number 719-666-2535. On July 6, 2020 law enforcement personnel were provided with information that the phone (719-666-2535) was last active on July 5, 2020 at approximately 11:00 p.m. at the location of 1124 N. Boston St.

ON July 7, 2020 law enforcement personnel obtained further information from Verizon Wireless showing phone number 719-666-2535 to be active in Colorado Springs. The DPD Fugitive Unit located information showing a family connection to Jose SANDOVAL-ROMERO in the area of Colorado Springs where the phone was active. Police Officers from Denver coordinated with law enforcement partners and initiated surveillance operations in Colorado Springs.

On July 7, 2020 at approximately 3:09 p.m. law enforcement officers located Jose SANDOVAL-ROMERO at [REDACTED] Veracruz Ct. [REDACTED] and took him into custody per a search warrant for his body. During execution of the warrant to collect a saliva sample and to inspect Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO for potential injuries, Det. TREGEMBO and Det. ANDREWS with the Denver Police Department Homicide Unit observed two separate, partially healed cuts to Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO'S right hand, either of which appear consistent with depositing blood drops observed at the murder scene. Det. ANDREWS spoke with Jose SANDOVAL-ROMERO'S mother, [REDACTED], who said her son Jose was not in Colorado Springs on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This type of injury is consistent with a knife slipping in an assailant 's hand as he makes repeated stabbing motions.

On July 7, 2020 at approximately 3:53 p.m. Det. TREGEMBO and Det. ANDREWS met with Jose SANDOVAL-ROMERO at the Colorado Springs Police Department Sand Creek Substation for a video interview. Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO was advised of his Miranda Rights in writing and agreed to provide a statement. During the interview Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO provided details of meeting the victim, Ariana WOLK, and identified an unmarked photo of the victim. Mr. SANDOVAL-ROMERO then admitted to stabbing the victim multiple times in her bedroom, fleeing the scene, discarding his bloody clothes in the trash and fleeing to Colorado Springs.

Therefore, your Affiant respectfully requests your Honor issue an arrest warrant for Jose Sandoval-Romero 05/03/1996 for the murder of Ariana Wolk 09/26/1979.

# AFFIDAVIT AND APPLICATION FOR A SEALED ARREST WARRANT 20-405239

Jose Maria SANDOVAL-ROMERO 05/03/1996, a Hispanic male, as depicted below, who stands approximately 6'00" and weighs 165 lbs., with brown eyes and brown hair;



for the crime of CRS 18-3-102(1)(a), First Degree Murder, a class 1 felony.

FURTHER, pursuant to Crim. P. 41 and §16-3-304(2), your Affiant requests that this Court seal this arrest affidavit. The affidavit establishes grounds to believe that disclosure at this time could potentially endanger those who are cooperating with the investigation, and would inhibit the ongoing investigation. Such order for sealing does not apply to representatives of the Denver Police Department, Denver District Attorney's Office, and other law enforcement officers, but those individuals are precluded from further dissemination prior to expiration of this order without an order of the court handling the case.

I affirm this information to be true and correct, /s/ Detective Daniel Tregembo, 05041.

Subscribed under oath before me on

07/07/20 5:40pm  
 Date Time  
 Judge or Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

## ARREST WARRANT

To all Sheriffs, Peace Officers and Police Officers with the said State:

You are hereby commanded to take the person of the defendant and bring him without unnecessary delay before a Judge of the County Court to be dealt with according to law.

Bail fixed at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ at 1st appearance

Date 07/07/20

Signature of Judge

Lombardi

Printed name of Judge

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I executed the above warrant on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ by taking

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of person arrested) into custody and placing said person in the \_\_\_\_\_ Jail for safekeeping until further order of the court.

Signature of Arresting Officer \_\_\_\_\_