

CRIMINAL REPORT AFFIDAVIT/HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

☐ Supplemental Page
 ☐ Plant City Courthouse
 ☐ Notice To Appear
 CRA #: TP17010339

☒ Fel
 ☐ Misd
 ☐ (APAD) Adult Pre-Arrest Div
 ☐ Traffic
 ☐ Tampa Ord
 ☐ Juv Delinq
 ☐ JAAP
 Booking #: 17042592

Arrest Type: ☒ PC
 ☐ Warrant
 ☐ PC VOP/VOCC
 Request: ☐ Warrant
 ☐ SAO Review Direct File
 ☐ JUV Pick-Up Order

Court Case #
 Family #
 SOID #

Agency: ☐ HCSO
 ☒ TPD
 ☐ PCPD
 ☐ TTPD
 ☐ FHP
 Report # 17-524122
 Report Written ☒ Yes
 ☐ No

Offense Location: 15TH ST N / FRIERSON AVE E, TAMPA, FL 33603
 Offense Date: 10/09/2017
 Offense Time: 2100

Arrest Location: 411 N. FRANKLIN ST, TAMPA, FL 33602
 Arrest Date: 11/28/2017
 Arrest Time: 2030

Defendant: Last Name **DONALDSON, III**
 First Name **HOWELL**
 Middle Name **EMANUEL**
 ☐ Gang Name:

Race **Black**
 Gender ☒ M
 ☐ F
 DOB **01/26/1993**
 DL# **D543325930260**
 State **FL**
 POB (City, State) **CHARLOTTE, NC**

Address Street: **8321 MILLWOOD DR**
 City: **TAMPA**
 State: **FL**
 Zip: **33615**

School (JUV)
 Parent/Guardian (JUV)

No Co-defendants Found

| Statute | Level | Degree | Charge | Count | Citation # | DV |
|---------------|-------|--------|---|-------|------------|-----------------------|
| 782.04(1)(a)1 | Fel | C | HOMICIDE MURDER FIRST DEGREE PREMEDITATED FIRST DEGREE PREMEDITATED MURDER WITH A FIREARM, CAPITAL FELONY | 1 | | <input type="radio"/> |

The undersigned swears there are reasonable grounds to believe that the above named defendant in Hillsborough County, Florida, did:

On October 9, 2017, at approximately 2100, Benjamin Mitchell was shot four times and died as a result of his wounds. Mitchell was waiting at a Hartline bus stop, on North 15th Street, south of the East Frierson Avenue intersection, at the time. Two fired SIG brand Smith and Wesson .40 caliber cartridge casings were recovered from the scene. Video surveillance footage recovered from a nearby residence captured a person walking eastbound along the 1300 block East Frierson Avenue, toward North 15th Street, approximately 8-10 minutes before the murder. The video surveillance footage shows the person manipulating an apparent mobile device in his right hand while he walks. Footage from the same video surveillance system captured the same individual running westbound in the 1300 block of East Frierson Avenue, within twenty-five seconds of the murder. Witness 1 phoned 911 immediately after the murder, and she provided a sworn statement to law enforcement that she had seen a black male running westbound in the 1300 block of East Frierson Avenue away from the scene of the murder.

On October 11, 2017, at approximately 2047 hours, Tampa Police responded to 911 calls in reference to gunshots in the area of North 11th Street, at the intersection of East New Orleans Avenue. On October 13, 2017, Monica Hoffa was found shot to death in an overgrown lot on the southwest corner of East New Orleans Avenue, at the North 11th Street intersection. Hoffa was shot three times. Five fired SIG brand Smith and Wesson .40 caliber cartridge casings were recovered from the area. A friend of Hoffa's provided a sworn statement to law enforcement that he was on his way to meet Hoffa, on October 11th, at around the same time of the reported gunfire. The same friend stated that he never met up with Hoffa, and he never heard from her.

On October 19, 2017, at approximately 1957 hours, Anthony Naiboa, was shot and killed by a single fired round into his head. Naiboa was northbound, walking along the east side of the 5100 block of North 15th Street, when he was killed in the driveway of [REDACTED] which was the residence of [REDACTED]. A single SIG brand Smith and Wesson .40 caliber fired cartridge casing was located at the scene.

On November 14, 2017, at approximately 0450 hours, Ronald Felton was shot and killed while crossing North Nebraska Avenue, in the 5100 block. Four SIG brand Smith and Wesson .40 caliber fired cartridge casings were recovered from the scene. Witness 2 provided a sworn statement to law enforcement that she had seen a black male shoot the victim. The same witness stated that the suspect then ran eastbound in the 900 block of East McBerry Street. The witness described the male as approximately six-feet tall with a thin, strong build. Video surveillance footage recovered from a nearby business captured a single suspect shoot the victim as the victim crossed Nebraska Avenue.

Central Booking/Detention Center

(SERVICE OF COURT DOCUMENTS may be served on the State Attorney's office at IMailProcessingStaff@sao13th.com)

Agency
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**CRIMINAL REPORT AFFIDAVIT/
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CRA #: TP17010339

All four murders occurred within the Southeast Seminole Heights neighborhood of Tampa. The F.D.L.E. and A.T.F. analysis of the fired cartridge casings, which were recovered from all four scenes, identified the casings as being fired in the same firearm. The casings were further identified as being fired in a Glock .40 caliber handgun.

On November 28, 2017, at approximately 1438 hours, Witness 3 approached a Tampa Police officer, while the officer was at the McDonald's restaurant, located at 2101 East 13th Avenue. Witness 3 stated to the officer that an employee, Howell Donaldson, handed Witness 3 a McDonald's food bag, which, pursuant to the Tampa Police officer's check of the bag's contents, revealed a .40 caliber Glock firearm loaded with SIG brand Smith and Wesson ammunition. Witness 3 further stated that Donaldson expressed his intention to leave the state. Donaldson was an employee at the same McDonald's restaurant. Donaldson had since departed the restaurant, prior to the firearm's discovery, and he returned shortly thereafter. Pursuant to Donaldson's return, Tampa Police detained Donaldson to conduct the subsequent investigation.

Subsequent to his detention, your Affiants -Tampa Police Detectives Kenneth Nightlinger and Austin Hill- introduced themselves to Donaldson. Donaldson agreed to meet with your Affiants at Police Headquarters to provide a statement regarding the firearm. During our conversation, where your Affiants repeatedly advised Donaldson of his right to leave and / or end our conversation, Donaldson provided consent to conduct a search of his motor vehicle and cellular phone, as well as permission to examine his firearm at the F.D.L.E. laboratory. Donaldson also admitted to purchasing the Glock firearm and ammunition from Shooter's World, located at 116 East Fletcher Avenue, in September of this year. Donaldson further attested to the fact that no one, except for himself had control of the Glock firearm, since his purchase. In addition, Donaldson stated, pursuant to your Affiants' inquiry, that he was unfamiliar with the area identified as the Seminole Heights neighborhood, and he did not have any association with anyone in the area.

The subsequent consensual search of Donaldson's cellular phone revealed storage of location data, known as "significant locations," which further revealed an address in the 1300 block of East Frierson Avenue. The location data corresponding to the Frierson Avenue location indicated only three days of recorded times / activities. Those three dates and times were as follows: October 19, 2017, 7:51-7:58 p.m.; October 11, 2017, 8:18-8:42 p.m.; and October 9, 2017, 8:47-9:02 p.m. The significance of the dates and times are that they correspond with the dates and times of the first three murders.

The subsequent consensual search of Donaldson's motor vehicle led to the recovery of clothing, which was similar in appearance to the clothing worn by the subject in the East Frierson Avenue footage, on October 9, 2017. Additionally, observation of the clothing indicated the apparent presence of a suspected blood stain on an area of the clothing.

The subsequent F.D.L.E. direct comparison examination of the Glock firearm to the cartridge casings revealed that the fired cartridge casings, which were recovered in the first three murders, were fired in the Glock firearm. The casings in the fourth murder were unavailable for comparison, but had been previously identified as being fired in the same firearm as the first three. The Glock firearm, as recovered, was loaded with a magazine, which contained five unfired rounds of SIG brand Smith and Wesson .40 caliber ammunition.

Latent investigation of the firearm's purchase revealed that Howell Donaldson purchased the Glock firearm on October 3, 2017, and he picked it up on October 7, 2017, pursuant to the mandatory wait period. Receipts of purchase further revealed that Donaldson purchased a 20-round box of SIG brand Smith and Wesson ammunition on October 7th. During the ongoing investigation related to the pattern of homicides, call detail records were obtained from AT&T. The records showed that within minutes of the murders on October 9, 2017, October 11, 2017, and October 19, 2017, Howell Donaldson's cell phone device, bearing phone number [REDACTED], was geographically associated with the AT&T cell tower providing coverage for the areas that include all the homicide locations. Donaldson, pursuant to being read his Miranda rights, and when confronted with the aforementioned evidence, denied your Affiants' requests for an explanation. Donaldson then requested the presence of an attorney.

Pursuant to Florida Statute §92.525 and under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing document and the facts stated in it are true to the best of my knowledge. For Notices to Appear, I also certify that a complete list of witnesses and evidence known to me is attached.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------|-------|---|-----------|
| Affiant: | Officer # | DIST: | MCB | SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS DATE | Officer # |
| DET a hill | 49249 | SQD: | SQ551 | SGT G Van Heyst | 27368 |
| Digitally signed on 2017.11.29 01:41:32 | | | | Digitally signed on 2017.11.29 01:47:28 | |

Judgment requested against defendant for agency investigative cost per Florida Statute 938.27: \$130.00

Central Booking/Detention Center

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