



**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney
Date: August 2, 2023

JOHN L. VANCE JR. AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE RELEASED

Muncie Indiana – On today's date, pursuant to Indiana law the Honorable Judge Linda Ralu Wolf of the Delaware County Circuit Court No. 3 made a judicial finding that there was probable cause for the arrest of John L. Vance Jr. Judge Wolf set bail in the amount of \$105,000, cash only. Now that the Court has adjudicated probable cause and set bail, I believe that pursuant to Indiana law, the Affidavit of Probable Cause is now a public document. Therefore, a copy of the Affidavit of Probable Cause for Arrest Without a Warrant is attached. The Prosecutor's Office is currently reviewing the case and anticipate filing formal charges in the coming days.

It is important to remember that any accusation that someone has committed a crime, an arrest and/or the filing of a criminal charge is simply an allegation and is not evidence of guilt. All suspects are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

Based on what we have learned, the "block party" that took place at Willard and Hackley was NOT part of the official Muncie Homecoming Festival. Rather, the decision to have this particular "block party" was made and ultimately hosted by a Muncie resident.

At this time, the offenses for which Vance was arrested do not include charges relating to the killing of Joseph Bonner. The investigation into his death and the events of July 30 is rapidly evolving and ongoing. This is a wide ranging investigation that includes, but is not limited to: the homicide, the shooting, injuries sustained by a victim from being hit by a vehicle, as well as violations relating to hosting loud and late night parties. It will all take time to complete and is far from over.

Indiana's ethical rules for prosecutors prohibit further comment on this pending case. Unless and until additional arrests are made or additional criminal charges are filed there will be no further comment on the specific facts and circumstances of the investigation.

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STATE OF INDIANA)
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IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURTS
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AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

COMES NOW, **Mariah Copeland**, a police officer of the Muncie Police Department, and being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that the following described person was arrested, without Warrant, upon the charge(s) and circumstances hereinafter stated, and makes this affidavit for the purpose of establishing probable cause for said arrest.

MPD CR # 23-29188

NAME OF ARRESTEE: **John L. Vance Jr.** D.O.B.: 04/29/1987

ADDRESS OF ARRESTEE: **2812 S. Walnut St. Yorktown, IN 47396**

DATE OF ARREST: **8/1/23** TIME OF ARREST: **1640**

CHARGE 1: **Aggravated Battery** A Level 3 FELONY

CHARGE 2: **Aggravated Battery** A Level 3 FELONY

CHARGE 3: **Possession of a Firearm Serious Violent Felon** A Level 4 FELONY

CHARGE 4: **Criminal Recklessness** A Level 5 FELONY

Habitual Offender

p.c. established

The basis and reasons why this officer believes that said Arrestee committed the aforesaid offense (s) are as follows:

I affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my information and belief.

On 07/30/2023 at approximately 01:14am, officers of the Muncie Police Department were dispatched to the area of E. Willard St. and S. Hackley St. in reference a shooting. It was previously known there was a large gathering of people at this location attending a block party. Photos and video footage of the party showed an enormous amount of people in the area. Dispatch received multiple calls reference the shooting stating one male had been shot and was bleeding. As dispatch continued to receive calls they advised multiple people had been shot. Officers and EMS personnel arrived on scene and began rendering aid and transporting victims to Ball Memorial Hospital. Several other agencies responded to the incident due to the large amount of people in the area and at BMH.

Members of the Muncie Police Department, responded to BMH to assist in identifying who suffered injuries during the shooting. During this time, Victim 1 and Victim 2 were identified as individuals who suffered gunshot wounds.

On 07/31/2023, Victim 1 and 2 were interviewed while at BMH. Victim 1 suffered a gunshot wound to the right arm which was said to have traveled through the body causing a lung injury, 2-3 broken ribs and exited the upper left part of the body. Victim 1 was still receiving treatment at BMH during the time of this interview. Victim 1 advised, the damage caused to their right arm resulted in impairment of the function of the arm. I observed Victim 1 to have difficulty raising their arm and was unable to write. Victim 1 advised, they arrived at the party at Willard and Hackley at approximately 11pm. Victim 1 advised, they were 2-3 feet away from the DJ booth which was set up in the parking lot right in front of,

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900/904 E. Willard St. At approximately 1am, Victim 1 was looking around the large crowd and observed “Bubby”, who Victim 1 later identified as, John L. Vance Jr. (04/29/1987) physically fighting another subject, later identified as Joseph Bonner, who is now deceased. Victim 1 knows “Bubby” as Bubby Vance. Victim 1 had seen Vance earlier in the night and was able to identify him by his clothing and his face realizing he was actively involved in the altercation.

During the altercation, Victim 1 saw punches being thrown and Vance brandished a firearm. Victim 1 described the firearm as having similar features as a Glock style handgun. Victim 1 stated the gun was in Vance’s hand, in between him and Bonner, pointed in the direction of the crowd. The firearm was discharged and Victim 1 saw the flash from the gun then got shot. During this time, Victim 1 heard approximately 5-6 gun shots. Victim 1 advised, they walked a couple feet forward, away from the DJ booth then fell to the ground.

Victim 1 described themselves as being in the middle of the crowd when the gun was brandished and discharged.

Victim 1 was also accompanied by Victim 2, arriving at the party together. Victim 2 was standing next to Victim 1 near the DJ booth, in the middle of the parking lot. Victim 2 advised they were standing in close proximity behind Bonner and Vance, close enough they could have reached out and touched them. Victim 2 advised, the music was loud but observed Bonner and Vance verbally arguing. Victim 2 then observed Bonner swing at Vance, which is when a physical altercation ensued. Victim 2 felt as if something bad was going to happen and began to walk away. Victim 2 attempted to run away, heard several gun shots and felt a burning sensation in their arm, realizing they had been shot. Victim 2 heard Victim 1 yelling their name so they ran back to where Victim 1 was at and observed Victim 1 to be on the ground.

Victim 2 was brought to BMH by a family member to receive medical treatment. While speaking with Victim 2 at the hospital, Victim 2 had gauze wrapped around the area of their arm which needed to be periodically changed due to continuous bleeding.

Both Victim 1 and 2 were in close proximity to the altercation and both sustained gunshot wounds during the initial shots fired.

Victim 1, along with Victim 2, both positively identified Joseph Bonner and John L. Vance Jr. (04/29/1987) during a photo lineup.

A criminal history for Vance was completed which revealed the following previous convictions” 18C03-2010-F5-150 Domestic Battery, Level 5 Felony, 18C04-0603-FA-06 Dealing in Cocaine, Class B Felony, 48C06-1302-FB-384 Unlawful Possession of Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon, B Felony, 48D05-1105-FD-964 Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury, D Felony. Vance is a Habitual Offender as defined by Indiana law in that he has accumulated at least 2 prior unrelated felony convictions, those being Dealing in Cocaine and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon as described in more detail above. Therefore your Affiant is asking the Court to add an additional \$50,000 cash only bail to the bail the Court sets for counts 1-3.

DATE: 07/31/2023 OFFICER: _____ \s\ Mariah Copeland  #1889

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JUDICIAL DETERMINATION

The undersigned, being a Judicial officer of Delaware County, and having reviewed the foregoing affidavit, now determines that probable cause existed for the arrest of said arrestee, and now fixes bond in the penal sum of \$ 105,000.00 cash bond only

DATED: 08/02/2023 SIGNED: *Zane M. Rudy*, Judge of Delaware
Circuit #3

CHARGES TO BE FILED BY: _____

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT