

**SEARCH WARRANT**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF  
FLORIDA IN AND FOR ESCAMBIA COUNTY**

**IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:**

**TO: THE SHERIFF OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA AND HIS  
LAWFUL DUPUTIES:**

**WHEREAS**, complaint on oath and in writing, incorporated by affidavit has this day been made before me, the undersigned, Michael Jones, Judge, Circuit Court of the First Judicial Circuit of Florida in and for Escambia County, by Leonard Roger Tyree II. That affiant has reason to believe and does believe that on the persons of Leonard Patrick Gonzalez W/M, DOB: 01/31/1974 and those premises located in Escambia County, Florida, described as follows, to-wit:

From the intersection of Lenox Parkway and Palm Court, travel north on Palm Court to the 4th structure on the east which is a single wide trailer, light blue over white in color with a small wooden porch with steps leading to the white in color door. A metallic in color mail box with the numbers 318 are located in front of this chain length fenced in residence. Also located on this property is a travel trailer, white in color with brown and orange strips on the side and a wooden grey in color work shed. Located behind the work shed is a red color Dodge van bearing VIN number 2B7HB23E7CK113611.

being the vehicle occupied by or under the control of Leonard Patrick Gonzalez W/M, DOB: 01/31/1974 and or persons unknown to your affiant and there is now being kept on said vehicle certain

A briefcase black in color belonging to the victim  
A handgun along with 9mm ammunition  
A small safe  
Any zipties  
Evidence pertaining to the murder of the murder victims, Byrd Billings and  
Melanie Billings, to include but not limited to hair, blood, saliva, semen, micro

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ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FL

suspects.

Masks used to cover the faces of the suspects  
two long guns, one being a shotgun

which is/are being kept and used in violation of the Laws of the State of Florida, to-wit: The  
Laws prohibiting

FS 782.04 - Homicide

FS 812.135(2a) - Home Invasion Robbery w/ firearm

That the facts tending to establish the grounds for this application and the probable cause of the  
affiant believing that such facts exist are as follows:

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CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY FL  
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On 7/09/2009, Deputies responded to the scene of a Home Invasion double Homicide. Upon arrival the bodies of Byrd and Melanie Billings were located in their bed room obviously dead from multiple gun shot wounds. Two of the doors leading into the residence appeared to have been forced open and review of the video surveillance from the residence revealed three intruders entering the residence after exited in red in color dodge van. All three suspects were armed and wearing masks, two carrying long guns, one possibly being a pump shotgun and the third carrying a handgun. Spent shell casings recovered at the scene were 9mm shell casings. The video showed the invasion taking approximately 4 minutes from start to finish. Eight children all with varying degrees of disability were also in the residence at the time of the incident, although none of the children were later found to be injured.

From the video it was determined the Dodge van was an older model, faded red in color possibly a fifteen passenger van with what appears to be spots of a different color, possibly bondo or primer color on the right rear section of the van. The video indicted the at least one of the suspects exited the rear of the van indicating the rear doors of the van both opened outward from the center. The video also indicated windows on the side of the van which do not reach to the end of the van which is not a usual configuration for a passenger van of his make.

A picture of this van was released to the media and then published on 7/11/09. Jon Hartsfield contacted the sheriff's office advising he recognized the picture publish in the Pensacola News journal as being a van he had owned for a number of years and recently sold to a subject, Terri Poff. Hartsfield provided photographs of this van which were then compared to the video surveillance from the crime scene and appeared to be a match. The four primer spots on the right rear quarter panel, the unusual windows and the center opening back doors were all matches to the ones from the video surveillance. The front grill was compared and matched, this was another unusual feature as Hartsfield indicated he had replaced the front grill on his 1982 van a number of years ago a 1989 front grill.

Hartsfield also indicated that the front bumper and rear view mirrors were both changed to a

chrome version which also appears to be a match to the van observed in the video surveillance from the scene. Hartsfield reported that when selling the van to Poff, she had advised him that she was buying the van for her son, Leonard Gonzalez who had recently had his vehicle repossessed.

Leonard Gonzalez in a recorded interview advised that the van is his, but is not running. Gonzalez reported knowing the victims and having received financial support in the past for the opening of a martial arts studio.

A check of the records for Leonard Gonzalez indicated he resided at 318 Palm Court. Your affiant made contact at this residence after seeing the van described by Hartsfield parked in the back of the property behind a wooden work shed. Carol Brant indicated that she was the step mother of Leonard Gonzalez who resided in a small travel trailer located beside her residence. The van parked behind the shed had a VIN number matching the VIN number provided by Jon Hartsfield of 2B7HB23E7CK113611.

In a recorded statement Frank Gonzalez of 303 Palm court and the uncle of Leonard Gonzalez reported that the van was parked for the past few weeks behind the shed on the back of the property, but that earlier this week the van was parked in front of the residence up until Friday when it again was parked behind the residence.

Your affiant is a sworn Deputy of the Escambia County Sheriffs Office and has been a law enforcement officer for the past 11 years and 11 months. Your affiant is currently assigned to the Major Crimes Unit as an Investigator. As an Investigator, your affiant has been assigned to the Homicide Unit - Major Crimes for the past 3 years and 6 month. Your affiant has conducted or assisted in over 300+ investigations involving violations of Florida State Statutes. Your affiant's participation in these investigations include, but are not limited to, the preparation of search warrant affidavits, arrest warrant affidavits, search warrant execution and processing of seized evidence. Your affiant has received over 2000+ hours of formal investigation training to include Basic Law Enforcement Academy, Homicide Investigations Basic and Advanced and including several conferences on Homicide investigation, Interviews and Interrogations Course, Narcotics Investigation, Sex Crimes Investigation, Infant Death Investigations, Gang Related Homicide Investigations, Cyber Crime Investigations as well as certification in teaching Law Enforcement courses to include General Law Enforcement as well as Law Enforcement Driving, Fire Arms Instruction and a variety of Law Enforcement Certifications of training.

For the foregoing reasons, your Affaint has reason to believe, and does in fact believe the facts and circumstances and information shown above constitutes the grounds for application and probable cause for offenses(s) in violation of Florida Statutes. Further, that on the vehicle described herein, the property listed above is being kept and used in violation of Florida Statutes.

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