



**OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**PETER J. ORPUT** COUNTY ATTORNEY

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## Press Release

Contact: Pete Orput  
Phone: 651-430-6115

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: August 2, 2018

### **CHARGES FILED IN JOSEPH GOMM HOMICIDE**

County Attorney Pete Orput today announced the filing of a complaint charging Edward M. Johnson with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Intentional Murder of Joseph Gomm in MCF-Stillwater.

Johnson will have his first court appearance at 10:00 a.m. on August 3, 2018. The county attorney's office will have no further comment to the media until after the first appearance. County Attorney Pete Orput and staff will be available in his office after the first appearance.

#### (criminal complaint follows)

State of Minnesota  
County of Washington

District Court  
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.  
Court File No.

CR-2018-1299  
82-CR-18-3167

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**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**EDWARD MUHAMMAD JOHNSON DOB: 06/14/1976**

5329 N Osgood Avenue, MCF-Oak Park Heights  
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Warrant

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The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**COUNT I**

**Charge: Dangerous Weapon – Non-Firearm Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated**

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.19.1, 609.11.4

Maximum Sentence: 40 years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/18/2018

Control #(ICR#): 20180516

Charge Description: cause the death of Joseph Brian Gomm with intent to effect the death of the victim or another, but without premeditation

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Dangerous Weapon – Non-Firearm Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon**

Minnesota Statute: 609.222.1, with reference to: 609.222.1, 609.11.4

Maximum Sentence: 7 years and \$14,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/18/2018

Control #(ICR#): 20180516

Charge Description: assault another, to-wit: Victim 2, with a dangerous weapon, to wit: a hammer

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

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Your complainant is a licensed peace officer employed by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. In that capacity, your complainant states the following to establish probable cause:

At 1:34 p.m. on July 18, 2018, correctional officers and medical personnel responded to a call of a staff assault in the M Shop located on the third floor of Building 20 at the Minnesota Correctional Facility – Stillwater, located in the City of Bayport, Washington County, Minnesota. These responders found Correctional Officer Joseph Gomm on the floor of the M Shop with substantial injuries to his head and face. The responders provided emergency medical care until Officer Gomm could be transported by ambulance to Regions Hospital. Despite the best efforts of the responders and medical staff, Officer Gomm died from his injuries. A subsequent autopsy conducted by the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Officer Gomm's death was caused by multiple blunt force injury to his head. The autopsy also revealed that Officer Gomm had suffered two puncture wounds to his chest.

Investigators from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Bayport Police Department and Washington County Sheriff's Office responded to the prison to investigate the events leading to Officer Gomm's death. Over 50 witnesses were interviewed and investigators learned that Officer Gomm had been attacked by EDWARD MUHAMMAD JOHNSON, an inmate currently serving a sentence for having murdered his former girlfriend in 2002.

Investigators spoke with Victim 2, a Minnesota Department of Corrections employee who is a shop foreman at the prison. Victim 2 told investigators that he was approached by an inmate who told him that "[Officer Gomm] needs help." Victim 2 went into the M Shop and saw JOHNSON striking Officer Gomm in the head with a hammer. Victim 2 ordered JOHNSON to stop and then called for help on his portable radio. Victim 2 said that JOHNSON then stopped striking Officer Gomm, stepped towards Victim 2 and swung the hammer at Victim 2. Fearing for his life, Victim 2 retreated from the shop to a nearby stairwell. JOHNSON then shut the door leading from the stairwell into the shop and barricaded it shut.

Several inmates reported to investigators that they saw JOHNSON running around the M Shop, wearing no shirt. Multiple inmates reported JOHNSON telling them, "You guys are fine," which they interpreted to mean that JOHNSON did not intend to harm them. JOHNSON opened a back door to the shop, activating an alarm. JOHNSON then came back into the shop.

Numerous correctional officers told investigators that when they arrived at the M Shop very soon after the call for help, they found the door leading from the stairwell to the shop barricaded shut, so they went back down the stairs to the second floor of Building 20, over to another stairwell, and were then able to make entry to M Shop through a different door. Several correctional officers saw a shirtless JOHNSON, who put up his hands and told them that he was surrendering. JOHNSON was taken into custody. Several correctional officers told investigators that inmates will often remove their shirts after they are involved in a fight or other aggressive or assaultive conduct.

Investigators learned that a hammer had been checked out to JOHNSON when he reported for work that afternoon. On the floor not far from where Officer Gomm was found, investigators located a bloody hammer matching that which had been checked out to JOHNSON and that which Victim 2 saw JOHNSON use to repeatedly strike Officer Gomm in the head. Investigators also located two homemade "knives," one or both of which were used to stab Officer Gomm.

JOHNSON remains imprisoned in connection with a previous murder conviction.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: YOU MUST APPEAR FOR EVERY COURT HEARING REGARDING THIS CASE. FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR COURT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE AND MAY RESULT IN ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES BEING IMPOSED AND PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 609.49.

## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:  
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or  
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

**Complainant**

Michelle M Frascone  
Special Agent  
1430 Maryland Avenue E  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
Badge: 81

Electronically Signed:  
08/02/2018 01:12 PM  
Ramsey County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Marc Berris  
PO Box 6  
15015 62nd Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
(651) 430-6115

Electronically Signed:  
08/02/2018 09:27 AM

**FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

**SUMMONS**

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM before the above-named court at 14949 62nd Street N PO Box 3802, Stillwater, MN 55082-3802 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

**WARRANT**

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

*Execute in MN Only*

*Execute Nationwide*

*Execute in Border States*

**ORDER OF DETENTION**

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$1,000,000.00  
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: August 2, 2018.

**Judicial Officer**

Gregory G Galler  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 08/02/2018 01:29 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Edward Muhammad Johnson**

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE  
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant  
upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

## DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

**Name:** Edward Muhammad Johnson  
**DOB:** 06/14/1976  
**Address:** 5329 N Osgood Avenue, MCF-Oak Park Heights  
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

**Alias Names/DOB:**

**SID:**

**Height:**

**Weight:**

**Eye Color:**

**Hair Color:**

**Gender:** MALE

**Race:** Black

**Fingerprints Required per Statute:** Yes

**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:** No

**Driver's License #:**

**Alcohol Concentration:**

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

<b>Cnt Nbr</b>	<b>Statute Type</b>	<b>Offense Date(s)</b>	<b>Statute Nbrs and Descriptions</b>	<b>Offense Level</b>	<b>MOC</b>	<b>GOC</b>	<b>Controlling Agencies</b>	<b>Case Numbers</b>
1	Charge	7/18/2018	609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated	Felony	H2047	N	MNBCA0000	20180516
	Modifier	7/18/2018	609.11.4 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Use Dangerous Weapon	Felony	H2047	N	MNBCA0000	20180516
	Penalty	7/18/2018	609.19.1 Murder - 2nd Degree	Felony	H2047	N	MNBCA0000	20180516
2	Charge	7/18/2018	609.222.1 Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A244C	N	MNBCA0000	20180516
	Penalty	7/18/2018	609.222.1 Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A244C	N	MNBCA0000	20180516
	Modifier	7/18/2018	609.11.4 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Use Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A244C	N	MNBCA0000	20180516