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SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, )  
 )  
 ) Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 ) v. ) No. 20-1-04537-0 SEA  
 )  
 ) DAWIT KELETE, ) INFORMATION  
 )  
 ) Defendant. )  
 )  
 )  
 )

I, Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney for King County in the name and by the authority of the State of Washington, do accuse DAWIT KELETE of the following crimes: **Vehicular Homicide, Vehicular Assault, Reckless Driving**, committed as follows:

Count 1 Vehicular Homicide

That the defendant DAWIT KELETE in King County, Washington, on or about July 4, 2020, did drive a motor vehicle which proximately caused injury to Summer Taylor, a person who died within three years on or about July 4, 2020, as a proximate result of said injury; and that the defendant at said time was operating the vehicle in a reckless manner;

Contrary to RCW 46.61.520(1)(b), and against the peace and dignity of the State of Washington.

Count 2 Vehicular Assault

That the defendant DAWIT KELETE in King County, Washington, on or about July 4, 2020, did drive or operate a vehicle in a reckless manner and caused substantial bodily harm to Diaz Love;

Contrary to RCW 46.61.522(1)(a), and against the peace and dignity of the State of Washington.


1 And further do charge that the injuries of the victim of the current offense substantially  
2 exceeded the level of bodily harm necessary to satisfy the elements of the crime, under the  
3 authority of RCW 9.94A.535(3)(y)

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Count 3 Reckless Driving

That the defendant DAWIT KELETE in King County, Washington, on or about July 4,  
2020, did drive a motor vehicle with willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons and  
property;

Contrary to RCW 46.61.500, and against the peace and dignity of the State of  
Washington.

DANIEL T. SATTERBERG  
Prosecuting Attorney

By:   
Amy J. Freedheim, WSBA #19897  
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

1  
2 CAUSE NO. 20-1-04537-0 SEA

3 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CASE SUMMARY AND REQUEST FOR BAIL AND/OR  
4 CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

5 The State incorporates by reference the Certification for Determination of Probable Cause  
6 prepared by Detective Todd W Early of the Washington State Patrol for case number 20-010671.

7 In the early morning hours after midnight on Saturday July 4, 2020, 24yO Summer  
8 Taylor and 32yO Diaz Love were both participating in a demonstration in which they and several  
9 others had blocked the SB lanes of I-5. The protest was part of the Black Femme March and for  
10 the past several nights, protesters have marched from the Capitol Hill area of Seattle down to the  
11 West Precinct of the Seattle Police Department and then returned eastbound and blocked the  
12 highway, before generally returning to Capitol Hill. The demonstrators were part of the Black  
13 Lives Matter protest movement. This group is demonstrating, among other reasons, against  
14 systemic racism.

15 Washington State Patrol (WSP) has closed I-5 between SR 520 and I-90 during the hours  
16 that the demonstrators have been on the highway. This is accomplished by placing marked  
17 patrol cars at the entrance ramps and preventing vehicles from entering the highway.

18 The evening of July 3 into the early morning hours of July 4, 2020 was no different. The  
19 entrance ramps to SB and NB I-5 were blocked between SR 520 and I-90. Exit ramps in that  
20 stretch were not blocked by patrol but are replete with warnings to alert any driver that they  
21 would be going the Wrong Way and to Not Enter were it to be used to enter the highway. The  
22 highway had been closed for several hours by the time this event occurred.

23 The Stewart Street exit ramp from the mainline of I-5 connects the SB mainline down a  
24 ramp, past the lower level of I-5 (containing the Express lanes), running parallel to Eastlake Ave  
Prosecuting Attorney Case  
Summary and Request for Bail  
and/or Conditions of Release - 1

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1  
2 E (which is along the east side of REI) as it continues to slope down until it merges onto Eastlake  
3 Ave E just before the intersection with Stewart St. Stewart St is a one-way street that travels SW  
4 into downtown Seattle (away from I-5). The closest entrance ramp for SB I-5 in that area is the  
5 Yale Street entrance ramp. The Yale Street entrance ramp is at the intersection of Yale St and  
6 Howell Street. Howell St is a one-way street from downtown Seattle (towards I-5) that is a block  
7 away and parallel to Stewart St. Howell St continues past Yale St and curves north (left) to  
8 become Eastlake Ave which several yards later arrives at the intersection with Stewart St (and  
9 the exit ramp).

10           It was a clear night and the roadways were dry. The temperature was approximately  
11 55°F. The weather was fair. There is ample ambient lighting in the areas involved in this  
12 incident. I-5 at the area of the collision is composed of five SB lanes of travel separated by white  
13 painted skip lines (except the far-left lane which is the HOV lane and separated by a solid white  
14 painted line). The shoulders are separated by solid painted lines. The posted speed limit is  
15 60mph and the roadway is in good repair.

16           Just before 1:36AM, the defendant, 27yO Dawit Kelete, was driving his white Jaguar  
17 XJL. He was captured on REI security video driving the wrong-way up the Stewart Street I-5  
18 exit ramp. There are numerous red signs warning that the driver is going the Wrong Way and  
19 Do Not Enter. Since this is an exit ramp from the SB lanes, a driver must make a deliberate and  
20 sharp right U-turn in order to drive SB on I-5.

21           The demonstrators, including the two who would be struck, had returned from downtown  
22 and had predominately used the Yale Street entrance ramp to enter I-5. Three vehicles had been  
23 placed by the demonstrators perpendicular across the SB lanes of I-5 just north of the gore point

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2 marking the entrance ramp as it merges onto I-5. Most of the group was directly south of these  
3 vehicles in the travel lanes. On this night the group had performed a group dance and by  
4 1:36AM, they were standing and sitting deciding their next move. Onlookers lined the  
5 overpasses watching the group. Several people were live-streaming or videoing the events both  
6 from the overpasses and in the group on the highway. The investigation includes many of these  
7 videos.

8           The defendant was first noticed by the demonstrators as he drove at freeway speeds in  
9 lane one toward the barricade of three vehicles. He was approximately half-way between the  
10 Stewart St exit and the Yale St entrance. I-5 makes a slight right curve in this stretch and the  
11 Stewart St exit is not visible from this area.

12           As the demonstrators yelled “car” and began running off the SB lanes westbound, the  
13 defendant drove onto the right shoulder. He did not slow but continued driving at freeway  
14 speeds on the shoulder. He passed the barricade of cars. The shoulder ends in the gore point  
15 (the paint identified triangular area between the merging entrance lane and the main travel lanes).  
16 Before him were running pedestrians with most of the persons to his right in the merge lane. The  
17 defendant veered sharply left and directly into Summer Taylor and Diaz Love, who were not able  
18 to run off the road.

19           Mx. Taylor and Mx. Love were struck in the center of the of the car and were thrown up  
20 and over the car. Mx. Taylor suffered catastrophic injuries. With their family by their side, Mx.  
21 Taylor died at 6:32PM.

1  
2 Mx. Love suffered multiple fractures of her legs and arm and internal injuries. She was  
3 in the Intensive Care Unit for several days and remains hospitalized at least 4-days after the  
4 crash.

5 The defendant stopped several hundred yards from the scene. He was approached by  
6 witnesses who yelled at him to exit the vehicle. After the witness began hitting and pushing his  
7 vehicle, the defendant drove away at a high speed. He was immediately followed by a vehicle  
8 driven by a man who later advised he was informally providing security to the demonstrators.  
9 He was able to maneuver in front of the defendant's car and get the defendant to stop after two  
10 attempts, was finally able to block the defendant's ability to drive further. Police arrived minutes  
11 later, and the defendant was still in the vehicle. He exited the vehicle, the sole occupant, at the  
12 police instruction and was taken into custody. The defendant later asked, "are they ok?"  
13 presumably referring to the victims he had struck.

14 A responding Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) officer arrived to contact the defendant.  
15 The DRE performed roadside Field Sobriety Tests. The defendant provided a portable breath  
16 test showing no alcohol consumption. He denied taking any medication. He told the DRE that  
17 he had worked until 10:00PM and indicated that he remained after work since it was a family  
18 business. The DRE did no other drug detection testing and opined that the defendant was not  
19 impaired. However, the defendant told Jail personnel that he would be withdrawing from  
20 Percocet and that he struggles with an untreated addiction. A search warrant authorizing the  
21 collection and testing of the defendant's blood was approved several hours after the crash and  
22 those results are pending.

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2 A search warrant was approved to enter the defendant's car. Several implements  
3 commonly used to smoke illegal substances and a substance that appears similar to crystal  
4 methamphetamine were recovered from the car. The substance is pending testing at the Crime  
5 Laboratory.

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8 The State requests bail set in the amount of \$1,200,000.00 (this is the amount Ordered by the 1<sup>st</sup>  
9 Appearance Court). Additional conditions requested include no possession or consumption of  
10 any drug, no driving without a valid license and insurance, no moving violations.

11 The defendant has criminal history that includes a **minor intoxicated in a public place**  
12 (3/3/2012) and a **peace and order violation** (8/29/2015). Both of these occurred in Pullman,  
13 WA when he was 19yO and 22yO respectfully. He has at least one FTA (6-18-2019 citation)  
14 since 2016. He has been involved in two collisions that noted no injuries and both were two car  
15 collisions (8-9-17, 12-27-13).

16 According to Court Services the defendant lives with his parents. He told Court  
17 Services that he works as a cashier at an Arco and that he was a full-time student. A man  
18 identified as the defendant's brother verified the defendant's address and employment to Court  
19 Services. The defendant denied having any known mental health issues or being concerned  
20 about mental health issues. He stated that he was struggling with an addiction to Percocet and  
21 had never received treatment. He had no mental health concerns.

22  
23 Signed and dated by me this 8th day of July, 2020.

24 Prosecuting Attorney Case  
Summary and Request for Bail  
and/or Conditions of Release - 5

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Amy J. Freedheim, WSBA #19897  
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



Cause Number:

**CERTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

23 That I, Detective Todd W. Early, with the Washington State Patrol, have reviewed the  
24 investigation conducted in the Washington State Patrol case number **20-010671**; There is  
25 probable cause to believe that **Kelete, Dawit** DOB: **12-27-1992** committed the crime(s) of:  
26 **Vehicular Homicide - R.C.W. 46.61.520, Vehicular Assault – R.C.W. 46.61.522**  
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29 This belief is predicated on the following facts and circumstances:  
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31 On Saturday, July 4, 2020, at 1:36 a.m., Washington State Patrol (WSP) Communications  
32 received reports of a collision involving a white sedan and two pedestrians. The collision  
33 occurred southbound (SB) on Interstate 5 (I-5) near Olive Way. I-5 was closed between State  
34 Route 520 and Interstate 90 (I-90) because a group of protesters had entered the freeway. WSP  
35 had been closing this section of I-5 for the past several nights while the demonstrations occurred  
36 on I-5 by utilizing patrol vehicles and Department of Transportation vehicles to block entrance  
37 ramps to I-5. Detectives' recovered video from REI located at 222 Yale Ave N in Seattle which  
38 showed a white vehicle entering the Stewart off ramp in the wrong direction at 1:34 a.m.  
39 Detective Early recognized the vehicle as what he thought was the suspect vehicle based on the  
40 time of the event, shape, color, and dark tinted windows of the vehicle. The exit ramp from I-5 to  
41 Stewart Street was not blocked however it is marked with clear signage of Wrong Way and Do  
42 Not Enter at the base of the off ramp. There is a second set of Wrong Way signs farther up the  
43 ramp. Additionally there are red reflectors facing to the south and painted arrows indicating the  
44 direction of travel. All of which would have been visible to the driver. The vehicle then  
45 proceeded onto southbound I-5, as seen on provided witness video, travelling toward the  
46 protesters. The public video showed the white vehicle approached the Yale on-ramp initially in  
47 lane one with its emergency flashers activated. There is a white van parked on I-5 perpendicular  
48 to the lanes of travel, oriented to the east. The van is blocking lanes one and two. The van was  
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1 one of three protestor vehicles utilized to block the lanes of travel north of where the  
2 demonstrators were congregated. The white vehicle drove on the right shoulder to pass the white  
3 van while at the same time a large group of protestors were running from the lanes of travel  
4 towards the Yale ramp to get out of the way of the oncoming vehicle. The white vehicle veered  
5 to the left while applying its brakes, indicated by the illumination of brake lights, and re-entered  
6 the lanes of travel oriented southwest. Summer Taylor, DOB: 07/26/1995 and Diaz Love, DOB:  
7 01/18/1988 were standing in the roadway south of the blocking vehicles. At approximately 1:36  
8 a.m. the white Jaguar XJL, bearing Washington registration: BPA6961, struck Taylor and Love,  
9 sending them airborne, coming to rest on the roadway. Both Taylor and Love were transported  
10 from the scene to Harborview Medical Center with fractures and internal injuries they sustained  
11 from the impact by the Jaguar and landing at rest. Kelete initially stopped a few hundred yards  
12 south of the scene. His vehicle was approached by protestors who could be heard on video  
13 telling him to exit his vehicle. After protestors started hitting his vehicle, he drove southbound at  
14 a high rate of speed. One of the protesters driving a gray Toyota Tundra followed the fleeing  
15 Jaguar and attempted to block it.  
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18 Seattle Police Department officers and Washington State Patrol troopers were able to locate and  
19 stop the fleeing Jaguar. The driver, Mr. Dawit Kelete (DOB: 12/27/1992), was taken into  
20 custody SB on I-5 (JS) of the I-90 interchange. He was the registered owner of the Jaguar and  
21 the sole occupant in the vehicle.  
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24 The Jaguar had visible contact damage to its front end. The hood was dented, and the windshield  
25 shattered. It was evident the damage was fresh. The driver was provided with his constitutional  
26 rights and he stated he understood them. The driver was asked if he would perform voluntary  
27 field sobriety tests (SFSTs) and he agreed. These tests were performed by a drug recognition  
28 expert (DRE). The trooper conducting the test made the initial assessment that Kelete was not  
29 displaying signs of intoxication. Additionally, he provided a preliminary breath test (PBT) which  
30 indicated a field BAC of 0.00. The driver was reserved and appeared sullen throughout his time  
31 in custody. At one point he asked if the injured pedestrians were okay.  
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34 Kelete was contacted by detectives for an interview and invoked his rights. During the  
35 preliminary screening process for booking into the King County Jail, Kelete was asked the  
36 screening admission screening questions. These questions were asked in an open area and in the  
37 presence of Trooper Alejandro Sanchez. Trooper Sanchez heard Kelete tell jail staff he would be  
38 going through withdrawal for Percocet. Trooper Sanchez later relayed this information to  
39 Detective Early.  
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42 On July 4, 2020, at 8:32 a.m. King County Superior Court (KCSC) Judge Matthew Williams  
43 authorized a telephonic warrant for Detective Todd Early to enter the vehicle and secure a  
44 cellular device in Faraday paper. On July 4, 2020, at 8:40 a.m., Detective Early, your Affiant,  
45 while accompanied by Detective Vik Mauro, entered the white Jaguar bearing Washington  
46 registration BPA6961 per court authorization to retrieve a cellular phone and place it in Faraday  
47 paper. This was accomplished by opening the driver's door and reaching into the vehicle across  
48 the driver's seat. It turned out what appeared to be the phone was actually a phone case and  
49 another electronic device, no phone was located. As Detective Early was preparing to close the  
50 vehicle, he noticed a small piece of plastic or glass on the driver' floor area. It appeared to be in  
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1 the shape of straw. Detective Early knows devices such as this are called “tubers” and are  
2 common smoking devices for illicit drugs. Detective Early did not manipulate or remove the  
3 item as it was outside the scope of the current authorization. Detective Early sealed the vehicle  
4 and departed the area.  
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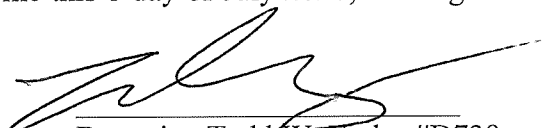
6 On July 4, 2020, at 4:46 p.m., (KCSC) Judge Williams authorized a search warrant for a legal  
7 blood draw of Kelete. The blood draw was executed pursuant to the warrant. Those results are  
8 pending.  
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11 On July 4, 2020, at 6:32 p.m., Summer Taylor succumbed to their injuries from the collision and  
12 died in the presence of their family.  
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14 On July 7, 2020, Detective Early applied for a search warrant to search Kelete’s vehicle. The  
15 warrant was authorized by (KCSC) Judge Williams at 3:13 p.m. Detective Early, accompanied  
16 by Detective Mauro began the search of the vehicle at 3:26 p.m. In the driver’s compartment  
17 area Detective Early photographed and removed a plastic smoking device (tuber) from the driver  
18 area floorboard. Detective Early also photographed and removed from the driver floorboard,  
19 0.7grams of a white crystalline substance believed to be methamphetamine and a small piece of  
20 foil. In the pocket of the driver’s door Detective Early removed a small metal tin which  
21 contained three additional smoking devices (tubers). On the passenger’s side floorboard  
22 Detective Early photographed and removed a wallet containing the identification of Kelete and  
23 several credit cards with his name on them.  
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28 Under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, I certify that the foregoing is  
29 true and correct. Signed and dated by me this 8 day of July 2020, in King County, Washington.  
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Detective Todd W. Early, #D739  
Washington State Patrol, CID

AGENCY: <b>Washington State Patrol</b>	<b>WAWSP0000</b>	CASE NUMBER <b>20-010671</b>	FILE NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	<b>SUPERFORM</b>
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<b>ARREST INFORMATION</b>		
DATE & TIME OF VIOLATION <b>7/4/2020 1:50 AM</b>	CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CITATION ATTACHED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	ACCOMPLICES
DATE OF ARREST/TIME <b>7/4/2020 1:50 AM</b>	ARREST LOCATION <b>SB I-5 at Olive Way</b>	

<b>SUSPECT INFORMATION</b>			
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE/JR, SR, 1st, 2nd) <b>Kelete, Dawit</b>		DOB <b>12/27/1992</b>	ALIAS, NICKNAMES
ARMED/DANGEROUS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	IDENTITY IN DOUBT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	CITIZENSHIP <b>N/A</b>	
<b>PHYSICAL DETAILS</b>			
SEX <b>M</b>	HEIGHT <b>507</b>	WEIGHT <b>130</b>	SKIN TONE <b>B</b>
RACE <b>B</b>	EYE <b>BRO</b>	HAIR <b>BLK</b>	SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS, DEFORMITIES
<b>IDENTIFICATION DETAILS</b>			
CCN	PRIOR BA # <b>0</b>	AFIS #	FBI #
STATE ID #	DRIVER'S LICENSE #	STATE	SSN
RESIDENCE		EMPLOYMENT / SCHOOL	
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS <b>1711 S Pearl ST Seattle, WA 98108</b>		EMPLOYER, SCHOOL (ADDRESS, SHOP/UNION NUMBER)	
RESIDENCE PHONE <b>2065813738</b>		BUSINESS PHONE	OCCUPATION
<b>EMERGENCY CONTACT</b>			
PERSON TO BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY		RELATIONSHIP	Address
			PHONE

<b>CHARGE INFORMATION</b>			
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE	<b>I - VEHICULAR ASSLT INV</b>	RCW / ORD# <b>1398</b>	COURT / CAUSE # <b>/</b>
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE	<b>I - VEHICULAR ASSLT INV</b>	RCW / ORD# <b>1398</b>	COURT / CAUSE # <b>/</b>
OFFENSE <input type="checkbox"/> DV <input type="checkbox"/> FUGITIVE		RCW / ORD#	COURT / CAUSE #

<b>WARRANT / OTHER</b>			
WARRANT DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	OFFENSE	AMOUNT OF BAIL
ORIGINATING POLICE AGENCY	ISSUING AGENCY	WARRANT RELEASED TO: (SERIAL # / UNIT / DATE / TIME)	

<b>PROPERTY INFORMATION</b>		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY LEFT FOR ARRESTEE AT JAIL		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE (SIMPLE DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFYING MARKS, SERIAL #)		
LIST ITEMS ENTERED INTO SAFEKEEPING		
TOTAL CASH OF ARRESTEE <b>\$0.00</b>	WAS CASH TAKEN INTO EVIDENCE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO AMOUNT: <b>\$0.00</b>	SIGNATURE OF JAIL STAFF RECEIVING ITEMS / SERIAL #

<b>OFFICER INFORMATION</b>		
ARRESTING OFFICER / SERIAL # <b>Maquire, James 694</b>	TRANSPORTING OFFICER / SERIAL #	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / SERIAL #
SUPERFORM COMPLETED BY (SIGNATURE/SERIAL #) <b>Maquire, James</b>		CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NAME/SERIAL#/PHONE)

<b>COURT FILE</b>		
SUPERIOR COURT FILING INFO <input type="checkbox"/> IN CUSTODY <input type="checkbox"/> AT LARGE <input type="checkbox"/> OUT ON BOND	COURT CAUSE (STAMP OR WRITE)	
COURT/DIST. CT. NO.	DIST. CT. BOND \$	SUP. CT. DATE

<b>EXTRADITE</b>			
PERSON APPROVING EXTRADITION	SEAKING-LOCAL ONLY WACIC-STATE WIDE <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM ID & OR ONLY <input type="checkbox"/>	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM FROM ALL 50 STATES <input type="checkbox"/>
E N T R Y	CCN _____ WAC _____ NCIC _____	DOE _____ TOE _____ OP _____	C L E A R A N C E DOC _____ TOC _____ OP _____

<b>PROBABLE CAUSE INFORMATION</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE: NON-VUCSA</b>