

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF BOULDER

Walk-Through Authorized ☐
DA _____

COUNTY/DISTRICT COURT, BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Criminal Action Number D007 2025 CR 00158

WARRANT FOR ARREST UPON AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE THE HONORABLE Thomas F. Salvendy

The People of the State of Colorado,
To: Any person authorized by law to execute arrest warrants.

You are hereby commanded to arrest the person of:

West, Jimmy Leroy

DOB:	07-23-1972	HAIR:	Black
HEIGHT:	6'03"	EYES:	Brown
WEIGHT:	250 lbs.	RACE/SEX:	White / Male
DL #:		SSN:	
ALIAS:	James L West	ALIAS D.O.B.:	N/A

OFFENSE DATE: 07-14-2024

And take the person above-named without unnecessary delay before the nearest judge of the Court of Record; to be advised that the person is being held for the alleged commission of the following crime(s), to-wit: In violation of C.R.S., 1973 revised:

Charge #	CRS #	Charge	Classification
1	18-3-102(1)(a)	Murder in the first degree	F1

That this warrant for arrest is issued upon affidavit sworn to and affirmed before this court and relating facts sufficient to establish probable cause that the above-named offense has been committed and probable cause that the person named in this warrant committed that offense. Warrant and Affidavit are returned until Defendant is arrested.

BAIL IS SET AT \$ 10,000 WITH CONDITION(S) _____

DATE: 1/30/25

T. Salvendy
Judge's Signature

Boulder Police Case # 24-06910
Detective S. Byars 303-441-1970

RETURN OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have duly executed this warrant on this _____ day of _____, 20____,
by _____ as I am herein commanded.

SHERIFF FEES:

Service \$ _____
Mileage \$ _____
Return \$ _____
Total \$ _____

By: _____
Deputy

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT

The Affiant, Detective Scott Byars, is a duly commissioned Police Officer for the City of Boulder, located in the County of Boulder, State of Colorado, being duly sworn, deposes and states:

Your Affiant has been in law enforcement for nearly 6 years, is currently assigned to the Detective Section of the Boulder Police Department and investigates crimes occurring within the City of Boulder, County of Boulder, State of Colorado. The associated Boulder Police Department case number is 24-06910. As part of this investigation I have reviewed all supplemental reports, interviewed suspects and witnesses, and completed extensive evidence processing to include lab testing.

On 07-14-2024, I responded to 1855 Goss St. for an unattended death. I initially learned of the incident from Sgt. B. Graff and responded as the on-call Detective. Upon arrival at the scene, I was briefed by Sgt. B. Graff, Sgt. A. Wise and Officers M. Lopez and J. Phares where Officer M. Lopez worked as a crime scene investigator collecting photos.

The scene had been secured with yellow crime scene tape, as well as an inner perimeter which was designated with red crime scene tape. The location of the decedent was just east of 1855 Goss St., approximately 20ft. from the northeast corner of the building, where a small trailer, such as one which would be pulled behind a bicycle was located. The trailer appeared to be aluminum, silver in color with large white wheels that had sprockets attached to them with protruding axles. It appeared to be homemade and on the trailer there were a multitude of blankets and various tarp like materials which fully enclosed what was later determined to be a deceased female.

The trailer was facing to the left while facing it, and there was what appeared to be a black bedding comforter laying on the ground near what would be the front of the trailer. On the mound of materials covering the decedent, what appeared to be a canvas covering was torn. I learned from the initial responding Officers that the reporting party had moved the black comforter and torn the canvas covering, immediately backing away due to the smell of putrefaction. Due to that I spoke directly with the reporting party, Claire Vanwieren [REDACTED] who stated she had been taking her recycling to the complex trash dumpster, which was located to the south of the decedent, with the decedent situated along the path where Claire walked. According to Claire, she noticed a "wagon or trailer," which was in the same place for four or five days, when she went to take out her recycling. Claire stated she noticed "a lot of flies" believing something was "decomposing." She stated she became scared and returned to her residence at [REDACTED] before returning to the trailer with her friend Nick Elrod [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Nick joined our conversation and stated once he arrived at the trailer, he used a paper towel to pull back the black comforter and tore the thin tan canvas covering the decedent finding "a bunch of maggots" causing them to immediately call the police. I asked Nick about the covering, and he described it as being "neatly wrapped on top" prior to him moving it. I asked Nick or Claire if they had taken any photos of the trailer prior to moving any of the blankets, which they had not. I also asked if they had noticed any smells coming from the area to which Claire stated she had noticed a "bad smell" for a couple of days, believing the smell was coming from a nearby dumpster which may have contained rotting food in the sun. I also asked Nick and Claire if they noticed anything around the trailer which may have stood out to them, which they did not. Claire explained it was not unusual for items to be where the trailer was located, as the unhoused often leave items in the area. This information was also provided by the property manager Les Madson [REDACTED]

I met Les at his apartment, [REDACTED] where he invited myself and Officer M. Lopez in to speak. When asked what he recalled, Les stated he recalled seeing the trailer first on what he believed was Wednesday, 07-10-2024, describing it as *"not uncommon."* Les added he left town the next day and returned on 07-14-2024 when he started hearing tenants speak about the trailer which he described as having *"a lot of flies and smelling."* Because it was not unusual for items to be left in that area, Les stated he normally leaves them alone for several days and they move along. Les further explained after he parked his vehicle and approached where the trailer was, he was able to smell it, adding he obtained some *"rubber gloves"* a bit later and kind of moved one of the blankets. He indicated he was afraid of what he would find, stating, *"it was pretty obvious something was rotting."*

Upon arrival of a Deputy District Attorney, we then waited for a Coroner supervisor and discussed how best to preserve the decedent in her current state. It was then decided that the trailer in its entirety would be moved within an oversized body bag to preserve evidence and would only be opened in the autopsy suite.

After the decedent was identified as Zaria Hardee [REDACTED] I began investigating those who had seen her or been with her last. I learned from interviews that Zaria was taken to a nearby camp located just north of 1631 17th St. in Boulder, Colorado which was later identified as belonging to Jimmy West (DOB 07-23-1972). The straight-line distance from the camp to the location where the decedent was located was approximately 523ft, or roughly just over one city block away. This was confirmed via video surveillance systems displaying Zaria walking with Karrine Willis [REDACTED] east bound on Canyon Blvd. nearing 15th St. at 1300 hours on 07-10-2024. Karrine was interviewed and admitted to taking Zaria to the camp of Jimmy West (DOB 07-23-1972) to help Zaria clean herself [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During a later interview with West on 07-17-2024, he stated he last saw Zaria *"a week and a half ago,"* adding he had not seen her in some time.

During the interview West was displayed photos of the bike trailer Zaria was found on, and admitted that it was his trailer, but it had been stolen *"two weeks ago."* West stated he also rode a yellow Cannondale bicycle, which was also stolen. When asked when the bike was stolen, West stated *"it's been gone since the same time."* West was captured on surveillance systems riding the yellow Cannondale on 07-11-2024 at 10:40am. When asked if he recognized any of the blankets on the trailer, he stated his blankets had also been stolen. West did confirm that Zaria was taken to his camp, where he admitted the two had *"a little bit"* of sex. West stated he recalled Zaria leaving the camp on that day (07-10-2024), and she left behind a small purse. West was also able to describe what Zaria was wearing nearly perfectly when she was located deceased, which was a different outfit from what she is seen on video wearing while being escorted to his camp on 07-10-2024. Through this investigation, it was determined that Zaria was last seen alive on 07-10-2024.

I also received information from Nickolas Shepherd [REDACTED] Zaria's boyfriend at the time of her death, who confessed to *"selling"* Zaria to West, likely accepting drugs as payment on the last day she was seen alive (07-10-2024). Given the tumultuous past between Nick and Zaria which included several domestic violence issues, he was questioned about his location during the time frame of the homicide. Nick provided an alibi which was researched and confirmed as best as possible given that all those that spoke on his whereabouts were unhoused as well. No other evidence within the investigation tied Nick to the crime.

Based on West being the last known person to be with Zaria prior to her death, the unhoused camp which belonged to West was searched and several items were collected. Within those items was a cellular phone which was analyzed but contained no useful information, and in later searches a rope was located that matched the rope Zaria was bound to the cart with, as well as a piece of tent material which was an exact fit match according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation analysis, which was completed, to the larger matching tent material Zaria was concealed in.

The tent item which was cut from the larger portion Zaria was wrapped in, also had the DNA of West on this material when analysis was completed by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the autopsy, the medical examiner wrote her opinion as the following. *"It is my opinion that Zaria Hardee, a 19-year-old female, died as the result of blunt force head injuries with probable asphyxia. The manner of death, in my opinion, is homicide."* It should be noted that, at the time of autopsy, Zaria was listed as 4' 11" and 87 pounds.

Within the autopsy report, information was provided describing the blunt force trauma to the head, which is written below.

- Lateral left forehead abrasion
- Multifocal abraded lacerations of the scalp with surrounding contusion, edema, and abrasion
- Scalp and subgaleal tissue hemorrhages/edema
- Left temporalis muscle laceration
- Skull fractures including a 1 1/4 x 1 1/8-inch depressed fracture in the left temporal bone, diastatic fracture, and apparent hairline fracture in the left basilar skull.

Based upon the above findings, and my observations at the postmortem examination, it appeared that Zaria was struck repeatedly in the head, using either a blunt object or a tooled device. Probable asphyxia was also listed within the cause of death, which the medical examiner described as *"Various materials enwrapping the body, to include a motorcycle cover around the head secured with strings around the neck and showing a previously cut opening over the mouth/lower face."* Along with *"Tape on the mouth/lower cheeks."*

During the search of West's camp, several rolls of tape were also located, one of which could not be eliminated as the tape which was found on Zaria's mouth and the other two rolls were eliminated as possible matches. Three rolls were found, two of which were eliminated. Regarding the third roll and according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *"The tapes have similar widths and backing construction. Items 5.2 and 5.3 are presumed to have the same physical, microscopic, and chemical properties based on their previously reported physical fit relationship."*

Below is a summary of some of the evidence supporting that West completed the homicide.

- West lied about the last time he had seen Zaria.
- West lied about his bike being stolen, which he stated occurred prior to the homicide.
- West identified the bike trailer the decedent was bound to as his.
- Two witnesses identified the bike trailer as his.
- West described the clothing Zaria was found deceased in nearly perfectly.

- The rope Zaria was bound to the cart with was found in West's camp. (Please see photo below for comparison. Rope found at camp on the left, Rope found binding the decedent to the bike trailer on the right.



- One roll of the tape found in West's camp during the search had similar physical, microscopic and chemical properties upon analysis, as the tape which covered the decedent's mouth and was discovered at autopsy. (associations with limitations according to CBI).
- West denied having a tent, although Zaria was wrapped in a green tent, and a piece of that tent was found in West's camp, which was analyzed and found to have West's DNA on it. (Tent wrapped around decedent with yellow rope pictured left. Piece of tent cut from larger piece which was analyzed by Boulder Police Criminalists.)



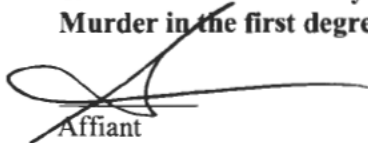
- The tent piece found in West's camp was a perfect fit match, (refer to the above analysis) to the larger piece which Zaria was wrapped in.
- West admitted to having "a little bit of sex" with Zaria and trace DNA was found in her vaginal canal at autopsy.
- Karrine stated she took Zaria to West on the last day she was seen alive by any witnesses, as she was taking her there to clean her up.
- Access to the body dump site to the camp contained concealable routes and was a very short distance as listed above.

Based upon the above information, I believe there is substantial probable cause to complete the arrest of Jimmy West.

West has an extensive criminal history, and the information listed below is from his Colorado Driver's License which was issued in 2025. License which was issued in 2025.

Based on the above information, your Affiant believes sufficient probable cause exists to believe that **Jimmy Leroy West**, with a date of birth of **07-23-1972**, and further described as a **white male**, who is approximately **6'03"** tall, **250** pounds, with **black hair** and **brown eyes**, and with social security number of [REDACTED] committed the crimes of **Murder in the first degree**, as outlined in **C.R.S 18-3-102(1)(a)**.

I respectfully request that a warrant be issued for **Jimmy Leroy West**, with a date of birth of **07-23-1972**, and further described as a **white male**, who is approximately **6'03"** tall, **250** pounds, with **black hair** and **brown eyes**, and with social security number of [REDACTED] committed the crimes of **Murder in the first degree**, as outlined in **C.R.S 18-3-102(1)(a)**, a **Felony 1**


Affiant

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 30 day of January, 2025 in the City of Boulder, County of Boulder, and the State of Colorado.


Judge