



## **WASHINGTON MAN INDICTED FOR THE MURDER OF KETCHIKAN LOCAL**

(Ketchikan, AK) – On July 21, 2017, Jordan Joplin, 32, was indicted by a Ketchikan grand jury for the murder of Dr. Eric Garcia. Joplin was previously charged with theft in the first degree in April for allegedly stealing expensive items from Garcia's home and taking money from his bank account. In the most recent indictment, he is charged with murder in the first degree, murder in the second degree, and again with theft in the first degree.

According to the complaint filed on March 31, 2017, Joplin requested the Ketchikan Police Department ("KPD") conduct a welfare check on Dr. Garcia. Joplin identified himself as a close friend of Dr. Garcia when he contacted KPD. Dr. Garcia was found dead inside the home. Subsequent investigation revealed that multiple items had been removed from the home. KPD learned that Joplin had been in Ketchikan to visit Garcia on March 16, 2017, and that he left on March 17, 2017. KPD later discovered that Joplin shipped approximately 4,415 pounds of household goods and personal affects through a local Ketchikan freight company to a Maple Valley, Washington address. Joplin was listed as the sender of the materials. KPD officers were able to intercept Joplin's freight in route to Washington and apply for a warrant to search the containers. The containers held the missing items from Dr. Garcia's home as well as other documentation with Garcia's name. KPD also executed search warrants for Garcia's financial records. Those records revealed that approximately \$37,000 of bank transfers had been made out of Garcia's account beginning March 16, 2017, to accounts associated with Joplin.

If convicted of murder in the first degree, Joplin faces a sentencing range of 30 to 99, 20 to 99 years if convicted for murder in the second degree, and a maximum of 10 years if convicted of theft in the first degree. The charges in the indictment are only allegations and are not evidence of guilt. Joplin is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the prosecution must prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Joplin is currently being held on a total of \$200,000 bail and a court approved third-party custodian. Joplin is scheduled for arraignment before the Superior Court on July 24, 2017.

The charging documents for this case are attached.

CONTACT: Ketchikan District Attorney Ben Hofmeister at (907) 225-6128 or [ben.hofmeister@alaska.gov](mailto:ben.hofmeister@alaska.gov).

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IN THE DISTRICT/SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA  
AT KETCHIKAN

**COMPLAINT**

Related Search Warrant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

FILED in the Trial Courts  
State of Alaska First District  
at Ketchikan

**MAR 31 2017**

Clerk of the Trial Courts  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

State of Alaska,		Plaintiff,	
vs.		Defendant 1 of 1.	
Jordan Joplin			
Date of Birth: 05-02-1985	APVIN: 9020061		
Operator License Number: JOPLIJ*155KB			
State: <input type="checkbox"/> AK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WA CDL? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Mailing Address: PO Box 723			
City: Forks	State: WA	ZIP: 99331	

CASE NO. 1KE-17-135CR

STATEMENT OF CHARGES:

COUNT I

Defendant(s)	ATN	CTN	Date Offense	Offense Location
Jordan Joplin	115324902	001	03-27-2017	717 Summit Terrace
Statute/Reg/Ordinance (from DOC)	Offense Title		Modifier	
AS 11.46.120(a)	<b>THEFT IN THE FIRST DEGREE</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt - AS 11.31.100 <input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation - AS 11.31.110 <input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy - AS 11.31.120 <input type="checkbox"/> Gang-Related - AS 12.55.137	
Class: B Felony				
DV Related: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle Used in Commission of Offense - AS 28.15.181(a)			
If Traffic Offense: <input type="checkbox"/> Highway Work Zone <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Safety Corridor				
Commercial Vehicle? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, type: <input type="checkbox"/> >26,000 lbs. <input type="checkbox"/> >15 passengers <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials				

THE COMPLAINANT STATES that on or about the 17th day of March, 2017, at or near Ketchikan, in the First Judicial District, State of Alaska, the above named Defendant did unlawfully commit the offense of Theft in the First Degree, if the person commits theft as defined in AS 11.46.100 and the value of the property or services is \$25,000 or more.

Probable Cause Statement: On 3/27/17, officers of the Ketchikan Police Department, including your affiant, discovered the body of Dr. Eric Garcia in his home located at located at 717 Summit Terrace in Ketchikan, Alaska. This discovery was made during a welfare check initiated at the behest of Defendant, Jordan Joplin (DOB 5/2/85). Dr. Garcia's death is currently under investigation.

Mr. Joplin identified himself as a close friend of Dr. Garcia's who stays at Dr. Garcia's when he visits. Mr. Joplin indicated that he has never been employed in Ketchikan, never lived in Ketchikan, and only travels to Ketchikan to visit Mr. Garcia. On the date of that Dr. Garcia was discovered, Mr. Joplin was in

possession of a truck belonging to Mr. Garcia, the key to the vehicle, and a set of keys to Mr. Garcia's residence.

At Dr. Garcia's residence KPD officers noted that it appeared that multiple items were missing. In the area where the decedent was located, there were two computer tables with all of the wiring in place for computers but no computers were present. On one of the desks, a void in the dust that had accumulated that made it appear as though a computer had rested there and been removed.

Robert Jackson, a close friend of Dr. Garcia's and the owner of a local real estate company has informed KPD that Dr. Garcia possessed, in his home, a collection of gold and coins estimated to be valued at approximately \$500,000. He stated that he had personally carried the gold into Dr. Garcia's home and locked them in a closet under a set of stairs at Dr. Garcia's request. It was observed by officers that the gold and coins were no longer in the residence.

Robert Jackson also indicated that Dr. Garcia owned a collection of twenty to thirty watches, each worth an estimated \$2,000 to \$8,000, which were kept in displays in Dr. Garcia's home. He also said that Dr. Garcia maintained an extensive collection of expensive bottles of spirits. KPD officers were unable to locate these watches or the expensive bottles of spirits in the home.

KPD officers observed that Dr. Garcia's home was equipped with an alarm system which had been disabled and with its control box missing. It was apparent that additional items were missing from the residence including Dr. Garcia's wallet and his cellular phone.

Mr. Joplin, when interviewed in person by me, indicated that he had been in Ketchikan to visit Dr. Garcia on March 16, 2017 and had left town on March 17, 2017. He said that the last time he saw Dr. Garcia alive was on March 16, 2017. He made no reference to shipping any items from Ketchikan or having any business in Ketchikan besides visiting Dr. Garcia.

Subsequent to my interview with Mr. Joplin, KPD took custody of Dr. Garcia's vehicle, which Mr. Joplin had been in possession of upon first contact on 3-27-17. During a search of this truck, a receipt was located showing that Mr. Joplin had shipped three containers of property from Ketchikan via Lynden Transport to himself at 25325 SE 224th Street, Maple Valley, WA 98038. The receipt shows that these items were shipped by Mr. Joplin on March 17, 2017. Mr. Joplin lists in the AML shipping documents that the containers contain used household goods and personal affects and that Jordan Joplin is the sender. The freight company shipping these containers has informed Sgt. Eric Mattson of the Ketchikan Police Department that the weight of the items shipped by Mr. Joplin was 4,415 pounds. Sgt. Mattson was given access to surveillance footage from the shipping facility. This footage shows Mr. Joplin using Dr. Garcia's truck (the one that he was observed possessing and the one in which the receipt was located) to make four trips to the shipping location. Dr. Garcia was not in the truck with Mr. Joplin.

These shipping containers were intercepted and held at Alaska Marine Lines facility at 5615 West Marginal Way SW, Seattle, WA, 98106. On March 30, 2017, Det. Doug Carlton of the Port of Seattle Police Department made application and was granted search warrant #17-1646SW to search and seize the contents of the three containers shipped by Mr. Joplin.

On March 30, 2017 King County search warrant #17-1646SW was executed and officers recovered items identified as being stolen which included high value distilled spirits, a portion of the collection of watches inside a display case, a portion of the coin collection, a flat screen TV, a desk top monitor, two laptop computers, one tablet, and miscellaneous household items. During the search of all three containers the only name identified on boxes or documents was that of Eric Garcia.

Ketchikan Police Department officers have executed search warrants in Alaska for Dr. Garcia's financial records which showed that beginning on March 16, 2017, several electronic bank to bank financial transfers were made transferring money from Dr. Garcia's bank account to an account identified as Jordan Joplin's. Electronic money transfers have also been made to an account identified as belonging to Kristin Cowles-Nelson. As of March 30, 2017 nearly \$37,000 has been transferred out of Dr. Garcia's account with the funds being dispersed to both Mr. Joplin and Ms. Cowles-Nelson's accounts.

Due to the large amount of cash already disbursed to Mr. Joplin out of Dr. Garcia's account, and the fact that much of the valuable property missing from Dr. Garcia's residence has yet to be recovered, it is believed that Mr. Joplin currently has substantial resources at his disposal.

According to Craig Baier, with ABF UPack, Mr. Joplin indicated that he is planning to leave the country on April 4, 2017.

Your affiant believes that Mr. Joplin is a flight risk and considerable bail is necessary to secure his appearance.

VRA CERTIFICATION. I certify that this document and its attachments do not contain (1) the name of a victim of a sexual offense listed in AS 12.61.140 or (2) a residence or business address or telephone number of a victim of or witness to any crime unless it is an address used to identify the place of the crime or it is an address or telephone number in a transcript of a court proceeding and disclosure of the information was ordered by the court.

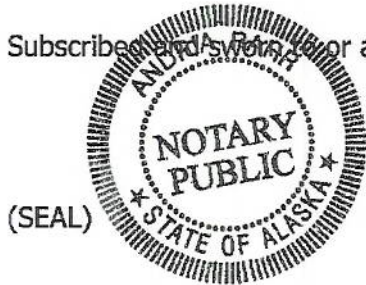
I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true.

3/31/17  
Date

*Robert L. Cheatam*  
Complainant's Signature

Robert L. Cheatam Sgt  
Type or Print Name and Title

Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me at Ketchikan, Alaska, on March 31, 2017



*Andria Kuler*  
Notary Public or other person authorized to administer oaths.

My commission expires: 2-14-2020

THIS MATTER IS  
FORMALLY ASSIGNED TO  
KEVIN G. MILLER  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT KETCHIKAN

STATE OF ALASKA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JORDAN JOPLIN  
DOB: 05/02/1985  
APSIN ID: 9020061  
DMV NO.: JOPLJ\*155KB WA  
ATN: 115-324-902

Defendant.

Case No. 1KE-17-00135CR  
KPD Agency No. 17-1634

INDICTMENT

I certify this document and its attachments do not contain the (1) name of a victim of a sexual offense listed in AS 12.61.140 or (2) residence or business address or telephone number of a victim of or witness to any offense unless it is an address identifying the place of a crime or an address or telephone number in a transcript of a court proceeding and disclosure of the information was ordered by the court. The following counts charge a crime involving DOMESTIC VIOLENCE as defined in AS 18.66.990:

Count I - AS 11.46.120 - Theft In The First Degree  
Jordan Joplin - 001

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

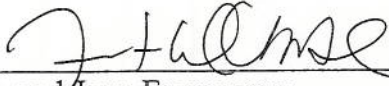
Count I

That in the First Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or between March 16, 2017 and March 30, 2017, JORDAN JOPLIN committed the crime of theft and the value of the property or services was \$25,000 or more, to-wit: money held at Wells Fargo and personal property from 717 Summit Terrace, Ketchikan, Alaska, belonging to Dr. Eric Garcia Llorens or his estate.

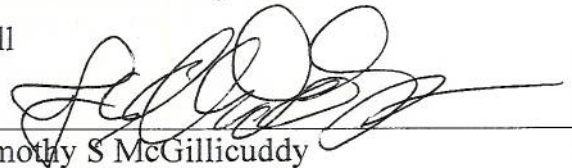
All of which is a class B felony offense being contrary to and in violation of AS 11.46.120 and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

DATED this 6 day of April, 2017 at Ketchikan, Alaska.

A true bill



Grand Jury Foreperson



Timothy S McGillicuddy  
Assistant District Attorney  
Alaska Bar No. 1605048

WITNESSES EXAMINED BEFORE THE GRAND JURY: Robert Todd Jackson,  
Stephanie Love; and Officer Devin Miller

Related Search Warrants: 17-1646SW, 17-S-452SW, 1KE-17-00037SW, 1KE-00038SW,  
1KE-17-00039SW, 1KE-17-00040SW, 1KE-17-00041SW, 1KE-17-00042SW, 1KE-17-  
00043SW, 1KE-17-00044SW, 1KE-17-0046SW & 1KE-17-00047SW

Department of Law, Criminal Division  
415 Main Street, Rm 304, Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Phone: (907) 225-6128 Fax: (907) 225-3917  
Email: LawKetchikanCriminalDAO@alaska.gov

1 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

2 FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT KETCHIKAN

3 STATE OF ALASKA,

4 Plaintiff,

5 vs.

6 JORDAN JOPLIN

7 DOB: 05/02/1985

8 APSIN ID: 9020061

9 DMV NO.: JOPLJ\*155KB WA

10 ATN: 115-324-902

11 Defendant.

12 No. 1KE-17-135 CR.

13 **SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT**

14 I certify this document and its attachments do not contain the (1) name of a victim of a sexual offense listed in AS 12.61.140 or (2)  
15 residence or business address or telephone number of a victim of or witness to any offense unless it is an address identifying the place of a  
16 crime or an address or telephone number in a transcript of a court proceeding and disclosure of the information was ordered by the court.  
The following counts charge a crime involving DOMESTIC VIOLENCE as defined in AS 18.66.990:

17 Count I - AS 11.46.120(a)

18 Theft In The First Degree

Jordan Joplin - 001

19 Count II - AS 11.41.100(a)(1)(A)

20 Murder In The First Degree

Jordan Joplin - 002

21 Count III - AS 11.41.110(a)(1)

22 Murder In The Second Degree

Jordan Joplin - 003

23 THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:  
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COUNT I:

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2 That in the First Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about March of 2017, at  
3 or near Ketchikan, JORDAN JOPLIN committed the crime of theft and the value of the  
4 property or services was \$25,000 or more (to wit: transactions and conduct listed in  
5 Attachment 1 to the superseding indictment).

6 All of which is a class B felony offense being contrary to and in violation of AS  
7 11.46.120(a) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.  
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COUNT II:

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11 That in the First Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about March 16, 2017, at  
12 or near Ketchikan, JORDAN JOPLIN intentionally caused the death of another person  
13 (Eric Garcia).

14 All of which is an unclassified offense being contrary to and in violation of  
15 AS11.41.100(a)(1)(A) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.  
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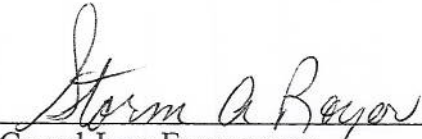
COUNT III:

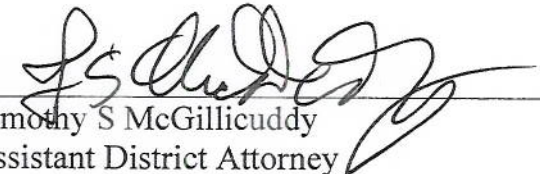
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19 That in the First Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about March 16, 2017, at  
20 or near Ketchikan, JORDAN JOPLIN with intent to cause serious physical injury to  
21 another person or knowing that the conduct was substantially certain to cause death or  
22 serious physical injury to another person, caused the death of any person (Eric Garcia).

23 All of which is an unclassified felony offense being contrary to and in violation  
24 of 11.41.110(a)(1) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.  
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DATED this 21 day of July, 2017 at Ketchikan, Alaska.

A true bill

  
Grand Jury Foreperson

  
Timothy S McGillicuddy  
Assistant District Attorney  
Alaska Bar No. 1605048

WITNESSES EXAMINED BEFORE THE GRAND JURY:

Officer Devin Miller  
Lieutenant Eric Mattson  
Sergeant Robert Cheatham  
Dr. Christin Rolf, M.D.  
Craig Baier  
Kirk Deal  
David Halstead  
Dawn Hink  
Robert Jackson  
Daniel Kelly  
Tiffany Cook  
Adam Smith  
Saul Garcia

Search Warrants: 17-1646SW (Washington), 17-S-452SW (Washington), 1KE-17-00037SW, 1KE-00038SW, 1KE-17-00039SW, 1KE-17-00040SW, 1KE-17-00041SW, 1KE-17-00042SW, 1KE-17-00043SW, 1KE-17-00044SW, 1KE-16-00045SW, 1KE-17-00046SW, 1KE-17-00047SW, 1KE-17-00048SW, 1KE-17-00049SW, 1KE-17-00057SW, 1KE-17-00058SW, 1KE-17-00059SW, 1KE-17-00060SW, 1KE-17-00061SW

**Attachment 1 to the Superseding Indictment (IKE-17-135 CR.)**

1. All items taken from the home of Eric Garcia and shipped to Washington state by the defendant on or about March 17, 2017.
2. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to Jordan Joplin in the amount of \$2300 that occurred on March 16, 2017, and posted on March 16, 2017.
3. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to Jordan Joplin in the amount of \$2400 that occurred on March 16, 2017, and posted on March 16, 2017.
4. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as JORDANJOPLI in the amount of \$2100 that occurred on March 16, 2017, and posted on March 17, 2017.
5. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo savings account of Eric Garcia to Jordan Joplin in the amount of \$2400 that occurred on March 17, 2017, and posted on March 17, 2017.
6. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo savings account of Eric Garcia to Jordan Joplin in the amount of \$1550 that occurred on March 17, 2017, and posted on March 17, 2017.
7. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as JORDANJOPLI in the amount of \$2100 that occurred on March 17, 2017, and posted on March 20, 2017.
8. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to Jordan Joplin in the amount of \$2400 that occurred on March 19, 2017, and posted on March 20, 2017.
9. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to Jordan Joplin in the amount of \$2500 that occurred on March 20, 2017, and posted on March 20, 2017.
10. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as KCOWLESNELS in the amount of \$1250 that occurred on March 20, 2017, and posted on March 20, 2017.

- 1 11. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the Pay  
2 Pal account noted in Wells Fargo records as JORDANJOPLI in the amount of  
3 \$2400 transferred by Echeck posting on March 20, 2017.
- 4 12. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the  
5 PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as LOGANKRUISE in the amount  
6 of \$900 that occurred on March 20, 2017, and posted on March 21, 2017.
- 7 13. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the  
8 PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as JORDANJOPLI in the amount of  
9 \$1200 that occurred on March 26, 2017, and posted on March 27, 2017.
- 10 14. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the  
11 PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as JORDANJOPLI in the amount of  
12 \$1900 that occurred on March 26, 2017, and posted on March 27, 2017.
- 13 15. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the  
14 PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as JORDANJOPLI in the amount of  
15 \$2100 that occurred on March 27, 2017, and posted on March 27, 2017.
- 16 16. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo savings account of Eric Garcia to Jordan  
17 Joplin in the amount of \$2500 that occurred on March 28, 2017, and posted on  
18 March 28, 2017.
- 19 17. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the  
20 PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as JORDANJOPLI in the amount of  
21 \$2000 that occurred on March 29, 2017, and posted on March 30, 2017.
- 22 18. Bank transaction from the Wells Fargo checking account of Eric Garcia to the  
23 PayPal account noted in Wells Fargo records as JORDANJOPLI in the amount of  
24 \$2100 that occurred on March 29, 2017, and posted on March 30, 2017.
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