



NEWS RELEASE

GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DAN PATTERSON

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Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061  
1010 Boonville  
Springfield, MO 65802

04/27/2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Springfield Woman Charged with Involuntary Manslaughter  
in December 2016 Intoxicated Driving Death**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Melissa R. Mahan, 37, of Springfield, MO has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in the first degree arising from the death of Leslee Owrey on December 5, 2016.

Melissa Mahan was operating a motor vehicle on US 60, west of the Scenic overpass, when she struck a vehicle operated by Leslee Owrey. Owrey was ejected from her vehicle following the collision and died as a result of her injuries. Law enforcement at the scene observed that Mahan smelled strongly of intoxicants and exhibited slurred, mumbled and confused speech. Mahan admitted that she had consumed alcoholic beverages. The investigation of this incident lasted several weeks and included a full crash reconstruction. Samples of Mahan's blood were sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab for analysis. The first chemical test of Mahan's blood after the crash indicated that she had a blood alcohol concentration of .295%. The charged offense of involuntary manslaughter in the first degree is a Class B Felony.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Emily Shook. It is being investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop D and Detective Thomas Meyer is the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Associate Division \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MISSOURI,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MELISSA R. MAHAN ,

Defendant.

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Case No.

OCN# ds018040

PA File No. 077375109

**FELONY COMPLAINT**

## COUNT I

(Missouri Charge Code: 565.024-004Y20050999.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.024, RSMo, committed the class B felony of involuntary manslaughter in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 565.024 and 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about December 5, 2016, in the county of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant, while under the influence of alcohol, caused the death of Leslee Owrey by colliding with a vehicle in which Ms. Owrey was an occupant, when operating a motor vehicle with criminal negligence in that the defendant was driving at a high rate of speed and struck the vehicle occupied by Ms. Owrey from behind while both vehicles were travelling on the roadway, and Ms. Owrey was not a passenger in the vehicle operated by the defendant.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

DAN PATTERSON  
Prosecuting Attorney of the County of  
Greene, State of Missouri, by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily L. Shook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Electronically Signed;

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Emily L. Shook  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
Missouri Bar No. 60049  
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Springfield, MO 65802  
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MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL  
PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

1731-CR02955

R# R6804349

STATE OF MISSOURI }  
COUNTY OF GREENE }  
DATE: 12/06/2016

Missouri State Highway Patrol  
CASE # 160782031  
OCN: DS018040

I, TPR T. MEYER, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that MAHAN, MELISSA R, currently residing at [REDACTED] SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807, born: [REDACTED] 1979, social security number: [REDACTED], hair/eye color: BROWN/HAZEL, height/weight: 5' 6" / 140, committed the offense(s) listed below on 12/05/2016 at 1952 hours, at/on US-60 W. OF THE SCENIC OVERPASS, MO

TYPE	STATUTE	CHARGE CODE	DESCRIPTION
FEL C	565.024	565.024-003Y19840909.0	INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER - VEHICULAR - INTOXICATED
FEL D	577.010	577.010-001Y19795404.0	DWI- ALCOHOL- PERSISTENT OFFENDER
MISD A	304.012	304.012-002N19965405.0	Operated a motor vehicle in a careless and imprudent manner - involving an accident
INFR	307.178	307.178-001N19975406.0	Driver/front seat passenger fail to wear properly adjusted/fastened safety belt

2. State the facts that support a finding of probable cause to believe crime(s) was/were committed and that the accused committed the crime(s)

1. On December 5, 2016, I investigated a motor vehicle crash on US-60, west of the Scenic overpass, in Greene County. During the course of the motor vehicle investigation, I came into contact with one of the operators involved. I identified her as Melissa R. Mahan.

2. During the course of my investigation, I noticed Ms. Mahan had a strong odor of alcoholic beverages coming from her. Her eyes were watery, bloodshot, and glassy. While speaking with Ms. Mahan, I noticed her speech was slurred. She also mumbled, stuttered, and made confusing statements during the course of my investigation.

3. I asked Ms. Mahan where she was coming from before the crash. She indicated she left a friend's house. I asked her where her friend lived. Ms. Mahan was unable to tell me the exact location of her friend's house. I asked Ms. Mahan how much alcohol she consumed this evening. Ms. Mahan responded "a little bit." I asked her to be specific. She responded "umm...probably, I would say...I had...three shots of wine, like really good shots of wine." I asked Ms. Mahan three times if she would be willing to perform field sobriety tests. She refused. Ms. Mahan also refused a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT).

4. Based on my training and experience, I determined Ms. Mahan to be intoxicated and placed her under arrest for driving while intoxicated. I read Ms. Mahan the Greene County No Refusal Warning and the Missouri Implied Consent Warning. Ms. Mahan refused to provide a chemical sample of her breath and blood.

5. I obtained a search warrant for Ms. Mahan's blood from a Greene County judge. I took two blood samples thirty minutes apart. Both samples were sent to the lab and analyzed by a criminalist which determined Ms. Mahan had a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of .295% and .284%.

6. A Sergeant with the Major Crash Investigative Unit (MCIU) determined Ms. Mahan rear ended a Hyundai Accent on US-60 at a high rate of speed, causing the Hyundai to veer off the road and overturn. The driver of the Hyundai was ejected and died at the hospital from her injuries sustained during the crash.



3. For the issuance of a warrant in the misdemeanor case, complete the following, if appropriate.

A. I believe the defendant will not appear in court to respond to a criminal summons because

*Insert facts to show the defendant will not appear, e.g. there is an outstanding warrant for failure to appear*

B. I believe the defendant poses: *Insert one or all of the following*

*Insert facts showing defendant is a danger to victim, e.g. cursing victim, assaulted victim, threatened victim.*

(1) a danger to a crime victim because

*Insert facts showing defendant poses a danger, e.g. intoxicated to a level which is unsafe*

(2) a danger to the community or to any other person because

I, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true

/s/ TPR T. MEYER

Signature

12/06/2016

Date

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,	)
Plaintiff,	)
vs.	) Case No.
	)
	) PA File No. 077375109
MELISSA R. MAHAN	)
Defendant.	)

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S BAIL/BOND RECOMMENDATION**

The bail/bond recommendation of the Greene County Prosecutor, in this case, is as follows:

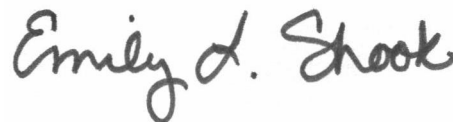
## 1. AMOUNT: \$15,000

- ☒ OPEN COURT ONLY BOND (by administrative order applies automatically to bonds \$25,000 and higher)
- ☐ State agrees to recognizance release by Court Order after the first court appearance upon the conditions of release in Exhibit A
- ☐ Hold without Bond

2. The State requests that the Court also impose the conditions of bond set out on the proposed Exhibit A to Arrest Warrant attached hereto and that such conditions be incorporated by reference upon the Warrant.

3. The State requests the Court set bond in the above amount and upon the conditions set out in Exhibit A to Arrest Warrant hereto for the following reasons: Defendant was driving on James River Expressway/US 60 with a blood alcohol content of approximately .295% by weight. She was driving at a high rate of speed and struck a vehicle traveling in front of her own, knocking it off the roadway and into a ditch. The victim was killed as a result of her injuries in the crash. Defendant has two prior municipal convictions for driving while intoxicated, andd at the time of this incident she was confused and exhibited strong indicators of impairment, although she refused to participate in field sobriety testing when they were requested. Defendant represents a danger to the community on the basis of a continuing behavior of driving while intoxicated by alcohol.

Respectfully submitted,



Electronically Signed;

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Emily L. Shook  
 Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
 Mo. Bar No. 60049  
 1010 Boonville  
 Springfield, MO 65802  
 (417) 868-4061  
 FAX (417) 868-4160

**EXHIBIT A**  
**TO ARREST WARRANT**

*State of Missouri v. Melissa R. Mahan*  
Case No:

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF RELEASE ON BOND SET BY THE COURT:**

☒ OPEN COURT ONLY BOND

☐ State agrees to recognizance release by Court Order after the first court appearance with the below conditions of release

☒ Obey all laws

☒ No contact or communication with victim(s) or the victim's family in any manner or through any medium

☐ Not to possess any weapon, firearm or ammunition. Defendant to surrender to Sheriff any Concealed Carry (CCW) permit.

☐ No contact or communication with \_\_\_\_\_ in any manner or through any medium

☐ Not knowingly be on the premises of or within 1,000 feet of the victim(s) residence, or place of employment/education.

☒ Not to possess or consume alcohol or be on premises of establishment where the primary item for sale is alcoholic beverages

☒ Not to possess any drug/controlled substance unless prescribed for defendant by a physician

☐ No contact with children under seventeen (17) years of age

☐ Not to be on premises of any park, school, daycare, playground, recreational facility, or other place where children congregate

☐ Curfew from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

☐ Electronic monitoring/house arrest from choose start time to choose end time (if no times specified, house arrest inside defendant's residence is 24 hours and 7 days a week) (Provider to report all violations to Court no later than within 24 hours)

☐ GPS monitoring with house arrest from choose start time to choose end time (if no times specified, house arrest inside defendant's residence is 24 hours and 7 days a week) (Provider to report all violations to Court no later than within 24 hours)

-Travel exceptions for house arrest which must be prescheduled with Electronic Monitor/GPS provider:

☐ Defendant may travel directly to and from appointments with defense attorney

☐ Defendant may travel directly to and from medical appointments

☐ Defendant may travel directly to and from grocery store closest to residence

☐ Defendant may travel directly to and from place of employment

☐ The following locations where the victim may be found are already known to defendant and, pursuant to Section 566.226.2, RSMo., the Court FINDS that disclosure of such locations as ordered herein will not compromise but will instead facilitate the safety of the victim and, therefore, the Court ORDERS that prior to any release, the defendant shall be notified that he/she may not travel in or be in these exclusion zones and that said exclusion zones shall be made known to the Prosecutor's Office, Defendant's Attorney, Defendant's Pretrial Service Officer and/or Bondsman and the GPS provider:

☒ Other: Defendant to be fitted with a SCRAM monitor upon release from custody.