



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

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08/18/2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARGES FILED IN MURDER OF MISSOURI STATE PROFESSOR

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Edward Michael Gutting, 43, of Springfield, Missouri, has been charged today with murder in the second degree, armed criminal action, assault in the first degree, armed criminal action, and burglary in the first degree. These charges are from events which occurred yesterday evening, August 17, 2016, in which professor Marc Cooper was murdered and his wife Nancy was injured. The defendant faces the potential of life imprisonment if convicted. He is currently being held in the Greene County Jail on a one million dollar bond.

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 Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney T. Myers. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Robert McPhail 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.

EDWARD MICHAEL GUTTING ,

Defendant.

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Case No. 1631-CR06710 WJ

OCN#

PA File No. 077367928

FELONY COMPLAINT

COUNT I

(Missouri Charge Code: 565.021-001Y19840904.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.021, RSMo, committed the class A felony of murder in the second degree, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly caused the death of Marc Cooper by stabbing him.

COUNT II

(Missouri Charge Code: 571.015-001Y19755299.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the felony of armed criminal action, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of murder in the second degree as charged in Count I, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of murder in the second degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a dangerous instrument.

COUNT III

(Missouri Charge Code: 565.050-001Y19841305.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.050, RSMo, committed the class A felony of assault in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly caused serious physical injury to Nancy Cooper by stabbing her.

COUNT IV

(Missouri Charge Code: 571.015-001Y19755299.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the felony of armed criminal action, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of assault in the first degree as charged in Count I, all

allegations of which are incorporated here in by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of assault in the first degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a dangerous instrument.

COUNT V

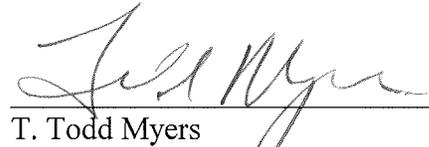
(Missouri Charge Code: 569.160-001Y19792202.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 569.160, RSMo, committed the class B felony of burglary in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about August 17, 2016, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly entered unlawfully an inhabitable structure, located at 635 E University St and possessed by Marc and Nancy Cooper, for the purpose of committing assault therein, and while in such inhabitable structure there was present in such inhabitable structure Marc and Nancy Cooper, persons who were not participants in the crime.

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



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SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



FELONY PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 08/18/2016 Case #: SPD160817034009

I, CHRIS MCPHAIL, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that EDWARD MICHAEL GUTTING, White/Male, DOB [REDACTED]/1972, committed one or more criminal offenses.
2. The following crime(s) happened on 2016/08/17 19:46 - 2016/08/17 19:46 at 635 E UNIVERSITY ST in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.
3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

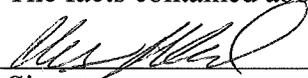
The following information was obtained from Springfield Police Officers as well as independent witnesses:

On 8/17/16 Springfield Police Officers were dispatched to 635 E. University in reference to an assault in progress. When they arrived, they found Edward Gutting walking in the street in front of the residence with large amounts of blood on his clothes and body. Gutting was immediately detained. Officer did not locate any weapons or a phone on his person. Upon further investigation, they found Marc Cooper deceased in the living room of 635 E. University. Marc Cooper's wife was identified as N.C. N.C. reported to officers she lives at the address with Cooper. She stated on this evening at approximately 7:30pm, N.C. and Cooper were inside the house when a man entered the house without permission through the back door wielding a large knife. This man chased Cooper from the back door through the kitchen and into the living room. The man was stabbing Cooper this entire time until Cooper was knocked to the ground. While kneeling over Cooper stabbing him the man told N.C. it was between him and Cooper. He did not want to kill her but he would if he had to. During this assault, N.C. was fighting with this man trying to stop him from killing Marc. N.C. was cut several times during this altercation. At some point during the assault, N.C. ran from the residence to call for help. N.C. did not know the man who entered her home and stabbed Marc. She was able to identify Edward Gutting as the suspect when police arrived on scene.

077-367928

Several witnesses were brought to Police Headquarters to be interviewed about the incident. One witness, identified as E.L., stated she observed Gutting exit the Mercedes Benz station wagon, which was parked west of 635 E. University, prior to the homicide happening. Two (2) other witnesses, identified as H.L. and M. L, stated Gutting exited 635 E. University, walk through the front yard and towards the Mercedes Benz station wagon. Officers arrived on scene during that time and Gutting was taken into custody without incident.

The facts contained above are true.



Signature

847

DSN

Corporal

Title

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No. 1631-CR06710WJ
)
)PA File No. 077367928
EDWARD MICHAEL GUTTING)
Defendant.)

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S BAIL/BOND RECOMMENDATION

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

1. AMOUNT: HOLD WITHOUT BOND

2. The State requests that the Court hold the defendant without bond based upon the following:

Section 544.455.2 lists several factors for the Court to assess in determining what if any bond should be set. This includes the nature and circumstances of the offense and the weight of the evidence. This defendant committed an unprovoked attack on a co-worker and his wife during evening hours. The wife is an eye witness to the murder and the defendant was apprehended by police covered in blood as he was leaving the scene of the murder. The weight of the evidence is very strong. The Court can also assess the accused's family ties, employment, financial resources, character, and his length of residency in the community. The Defendant has limited ties to Springfield and is on misdemeanor probation for DWI. He received a PhD from Princeton and previously worked at the University of Mississippi. He move to Springfield in 2011 for a professor position at MSU. Defendant's wife is also a proffessor at MSU with a doctorate from North Carolina. At this time, the Defendant's wife is not cooperating with police. It appears that the Defendant would have the financial means to flee and has contacts in various parts of the country. Additionally, based upon the nature of this crime, the defendant poses a danger to the surviving spouse and community given his willingness to commit such an unprovoked attack. Based upon all of these factors, the State is requesting the Defenannt be held without bond.

If the Court is going to consider setting a bond, the State would request a formal hearing and provide an opportunity for the victim's family to be heard. Additionally, the State at that time will make a recommendation regarding the bond amount and bond conditions.

Respectfully submitted,



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