

# AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The following affidavit is submitted to the Court to document the probable cause in support of the arrest of **HEATH, COHEN ELLIS** DOB: **11/18/2000** SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE FILED: September 13, 2019

This offense is fully documented in Colorado Springs Police Department Offense Report **19-33955** detailing the offense(s) of:

§18-9-202(1.5)(b), AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, CLASS SIX FELONY (F6)

With the victim(s) identified as:

1.

On 09/12/19 at approximately 1913 hours, I, Officer A. Crotser/6587, was dispatched to Peak View Behavioral Health located at \_\_\_\_\_ to assist El Paso County Animal Law Enforcement Sgt. Langford/264 regarding a cruelty to animals case. Upon arrival, Sgt. Langford informed me the suspect, later fully identified through a law enforcement database as Cohen Ellis Heath DOB: 11/18/00, admitted to killing a cat belonging to his mother, identified as \_\_\_\_\_

Sgt. Langford showed me photographs he had taken that depicted the skin of a cat's face as well as three knives Mr. Heath told Sgt. Langford he had used to kill and mutilate the cat. I observed in the photographs the knives appeared to have blood and fur on them. Sgt. Langford explained to me that during his initial contact with Mr. Heath on 09/07/19 and follow up Mirandized interview on 09/12/19, Mr. Heath described in specific detail how he killed the cat, the weapons he used, and where the incident took place.

Mr. Heath explained to Sgt. Langford he killed the cat in a drainage ditch in the area of the Briargate Trail east of \_\_\_\_\_ in the City of Colorado Springs, County of El Paso, and State of Colorado, approximately two weeks prior to Sgt. Langford's initial contact with him on 09/07/19. Mr. Heath took the cat from that address, which is his mother's residence. Mr. Heath told Sgt. Langford he placed the cat in a backpack-type bag and walked to a nearby field where he found a storm drain tunnel where he intended to kill the cat. Mr. Heath stated while in the storm drain tunnel, he decided to kill the cat there because it was a concealed location and he would not be seen. Mr. Heath stated that once in the tunnel, he began stabbing the cat with a paring knife while the cat was still in the backpack-type bag. Mr. Heath said he stabbed the cat approximately six to seven times until the cat no longer was screaming or moving. He stated he had placed the cat in the bag so he didn't have to look at it and in an attempt to muffle any sound the cat might make.

Mr. Heath stated after the cat was dead, he took it out of the bag and decided to cut off a front paw because he wanted to make a necklace out of it. He stated he also cut the skin off the face of the cat, but said he did not know why he did that. He stated he left the cat's remains in the storm drain tunnel and left the bag at a different location inside the same tunnel. Mr. Heath stated he took the face and the paw back to his mother's residence, at which time he placed a portion of the face in a plastic Ziploc-style baggie and put the other part of the face along with the paw in a glass jar. He stated he put Drano into the jar in an attempt to get the fur and skin on the paw to disintegrate.

Mr. Heath explained to Sgt. Langford he was high on methamphetamine and was hearing voices before he killed the cat. He stated the voices were telling him he had to kill something, and the voices

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initially told him to kill his friend \_\_\_\_\_ who was sleeping in his room next to him. He stated he was going to strangle \_\_\_\_\_ but thought he would get in big trouble for doing that. Mr. Heath stated he observed the cat in his room and felt it would be much easier to kill the cat, so that was what he did. Mr. Heath said after he killed the cat, he told his mother the following day that the cat got out through the front door the night before and disappeared. Mr. Heath stated he, his mother, and \_\_\_\_\_ spent several hours looking for the cat that day, and he thought it was "kind of funny" watching his mother looking for the cat when he knew it was dead.

After Sgt. Langford's initial contact with Mr. Heath on 09/07/19, Sgt. Langford and another Animal Law Enforcement Officer responded to \_\_\_\_\_ and made contact with \_\_\_\_\_ who invited them inside the residence. \_\_\_\_\_ was holding a paper gift bag that was taped shut at the top, which she stated contained what she thought was a cat's tail that was the same color as her cat, Ponyo. \_\_\_\_\_ gave the bag to Sgt. Langford. \_\_\_\_\_ also stated her son had knives that she wanted Sgt. Langford to take. \_\_\_\_\_ led officers upstairs to a bedroom she stated Mr. Heath had been using and pointed out a tan leather satchel that contained culinary knives. \_\_\_\_\_ stated the knife set belonged to Mr. Heath.

When Sgt. Langford returned to the Humane Society, he opened the taped gift bag and observed the item inside appeared to be fur, and was later determined to be half the face skin of a cat. When he opened the satchel containing the culinary knives, Sgt. Langford observed three knives that appeared to have dried blood on them, and one of the knives also contained what appeared to be fur. Sgt. Langford obtained photographs of the items, and packaged the knives to be sent to the lab for testing.

On 09/12/19 at approximately 2023 hours, Mr. Heath was placed in custody and transported to the Stetson Hills Substation for processing before being transported to the El Paso County Criminal Justice Center.

I would respectfully request that probable cause be found that HEATH, COHEN ELLIS DOB: 11/18/2000 did within the City of Colorado Springs, County of El Paso and State of Colorado, commit in violation of the Colorado Revised Statutes, the offense(s) of §18-9-202(1.5)(b), **AGGRAVATED CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, CLASS SIX FELONY (F6)**.

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Date

A. CROTSER / 6587

Officer's Signature

Colorado Springs Police Department

PAMELA K. BENSON

Notary Signature

My Commission expires: 06/05/2021

Address: Stetson Hills Division  
4110 Tutt Boulevard  
Colorado Springs, CO 80922-2502

