

State of Minnesota  
County of St. Louis

District Court  
6th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 19-09-156443  
Court File No. 69DU-CR-19-3401

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**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**MATTHEW JAMES AMIOT DOB: 05/30/1983**

Chum Shelter  
Duluth, MN 55802

Defendant.

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**COMPLAINT**

Order of Detention

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**COUNT I**

**Charge: Negligent Fires (\$2,500 or more)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.576.1(3)(iii)

Maximum Sentence: 3YR and/or \$5,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 09/09/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19147704

Charge Description: That the defendant, MATTHEW JAMES AMIOT, did negligently cause a fire to burn or get out of control causing damage to property of another of a value of \$2,500 or more.

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Negligent Fires-Human Being Injured/Bodily Harm**

Minnesota Statute: 609.576.1(2)

Maximum Sentence: One (1) year and/or \$3,000

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/09/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19147704

Charge Description: That the defendant, MATTHEW JAMES AMIOT, was grossly negligent in causing a fire to burn or get out of control, thereby causing damage or injury to another, as a result: B.G. was injured and bodily harm incurred.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

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On Monday, September 9, 2019 around 2:13 AM, MATTHEW JAMES AMIOT, D.O.B.5/30/1983, hereinafter referred to as the Defendant, is seen walking behind the Adas Israel Congregation Synagogue at 302 East Third Street, in Duluth, St. Louis County, Minnesota. Abutting the back of the synagogue is a separate religious structure, called a sukkah. The placement of the sukkah behind the synagogue creates a small outdoor alcove space that is approximately two feet wide. It is in the area of this alcove that the Defendant took a lighter and lit a variety of combustible materials on fire. At 2:15 AM, the Defendant is seen walking away from the synagogue and looking back at the flickering flames. Squads arrived at 2:22 AM to three foot tall flames coming from the alcove area.

By 3:39AM, the building began to collapse. The collapse caused a near miss for many of the firefighters on scene. Captain B.G., of the Duluth Fire Department, was hit by falling debris, rendered unconscious, and was taken to the hospital to be treated for a concussion. The synagogue could not be saved and was deemed a total loss. Official numbers remain pending, but the value of the structure is at least \$117,000 according to county records. The value of the lost religious antiquities is at least \$250,000.

In a Mirandized statement, the Defendant admitted to starting the combustible materials on fire outside of the synagogue. He said he tried to spit on the fire to put it out, and when it would not go out, he walked away. A K9 sniff was completed at the scene; accelerants were not detected.

## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:  
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or  
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

**Complainant**

Christopher Michael Martin  
Police Officer  
2030 N Arlington Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55811  
Badge: 473

Electronically Signed:  
09/16/2019 10:46 AM  
St. Louis County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Victoria Wanta  
Assistant St. Louis County  
Attorney  
100 N 5th Avenue W  
Duluth Courthouse, #501  
Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 726-2323

Electronically Signed:  
09/16/2019 10:01 AM

**FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

**SUMMONS**

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM before the above-named court at 100 N 5th Avenue W, Duluth, MN 55802-1285 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

**WARRANT**

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

*Execute in MN Only*

*Execute Nationwide*

*Execute in Border States*

**ORDER OF DETENTION**

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$  
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: September 16, 2019.

**Judicial Officer** Eric L Hylden  
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 09/16/2019 10:52 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**MATTHEW JAMES AMIOT**

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE  
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of  
Detention upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

## DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

**Name:** MATTHEW JAMES AMIOT  
**DOB:** 05/30/1983  
**Address:** Chum Shelter  
Duluth, MN 55802

**Alias Names/DOB:**

**SID:** MN12F88891

**Height:**

**Weight:**

**Eye Color:**

**Hair Color:**

**Gender:**

**Race:**

**Fingerprints Required per Statute:** Yes

**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:** Yes

**Driver's License #:** N674153768417 (MN)

**Alcohol Concentration:**

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

<b>Cnt Nbr</b>	<b>Statute Type</b>	<b>Offense Date(s)</b>	<b>Statute Nbrs and Descriptions</b>	<b>Offense Level</b>	<b>MOC</b>	<b>GOC</b>	<b>Controlling Agencies</b>	<b>Case Numbers</b>
1	Charge	9/9/2019	609.576.1(3)(iii) Negligent Fires-Value of Property \$2,500 or More	Felony	F520E	N	MN0690600	19147704
2	Charge	9/9/2019	609.576.1(2) Negligent Fires-Human Being Injured/Bodily Harm	Gross Misdemeanor	F520E	N	MN0690600	19147704