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I, Steven W. Skinner, being duly sworn, depose and state:

1. I, Steven W. Skinner, am a Special Agent (SA) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Justice. I entered on duty as an FBI Special Agent on November 8, 1998. I have been assigned to the Baltimore Office of the FBI since March of 1999. I have worked mostly in the area of Violent Crime since becoming a Special Agent.

2. I have received drug training at the FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia. During the course of this training, I received instructions in controlled dangerous substances (CDS) identification, trafficking patterns, and general investigative techniques. I have participated in investigations involving court-ordered wire intercepts and undercover operations.

3. Through my experience and training, I am aware of the modus operandi of drug traffickers including their record keeping methods, distribution techniques, organizational structures, and their everyday communicative slang used to facilitate the distribution of CDS.

I further depose and state that:

4. All information contained in this affidavit, from whatever source derived, is either personally known to me or has been related to me by other Special Agents of the FBI or by other sworn law enforcement personnel. This affidavit does not contain all facts known to law enforcement officials about the investigation described herein.

5. From my personal knowledge and expertise, as well as from discussions with local, state, and Federal investigators familiar with illegal drug trafficking, I know that the operation of CDS trafficking necessarily involves the maintenance of documents including telephone books, ledgers, photographs, financial documents, to include bank records and receipts, as well as other notebooks and papers relating to the purchase, transportation, and distribution of CDS. Additionally, I know that these financial documents and other related documents are maintained for the purpose of controlling assets and monies generated by the sale of CDS. These items are typically placed in locations over which the drug traffickers have dominion and control for ready access and to conceal from law enforcement authorities. This would include the drug traffickers' residence and place of business.

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6. Typically, telephone books contain the names and numbers of co-conspirators; ledgers and other documents show amount of drugs purchased or sold and amounts obtained and/or owing or the locations of monies derived therefrom; financial and bank records, including extravagant vehicle information, show expenditures for transporting drugs and movements of money used to buy drugs or money and other assets obtained from selling drugs; and photographs demonstrate associations between co-conspirators or particular locations and assets.

7. Your Affiant knows that drug dealers very often place assets in names other than their own to avoid detection of these assets by law enforcement agencies; that even though such assets are in fictitious names or other persons' names, the drug dealers actually own and continue to utilize these assets and exercise control and dominion over them; that drug dealers generally maintain available quantities of United States currency in order to finance their illegal activities; and that courts have generally recognized that unexplained increases in wealth are probative evidence of crimes motivated by greed, in particular, trafficking in CDS.

8. This affidavit is submitted in support of an application for search warrants for the residence of 3608 Clarinth Road, Apartment 1A, Baltimore, Maryland, and a music recording studio called "Stash House Records," located at 911 West 36th Street, 2nd floor, Baltimore, Maryland, as well as for seizure warrants for a 2000 Mercedes Benz S500, no known tag, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) WDBNG75J8YA053609, and a 2000 GMC Yukon Denali, Maryland tag M648254, VIN 1GKEK63R9YR175632.

9. As a result of this investigation, your Affiant believes that there is probable cause to believe that a search of 3608 Clarinth Road, Apartment 1A, Baltimore, Maryland, and the recording studio located at 911 West 36th Street, 2nd Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, will result in the discovery of evidence delineated in Attachment A including, but not limited to monies, bank records, vehicle ownership information, books, records, receipts, notes, ledgers, telephone books, photographs and other papers relating to the transportation, ordering, purchasing and distribution of illegal CDS which will, in turn, reflect that Deon Lionel Smith and others are involved in the receipt, purchase, sale and concealment of heroin and heroin proceeds in violation of Title 21, U.S.C., § 841(a)(1) and 846.

10. Your Affiant also believes that there is probable cause to believe that a 2000 Mercedes Benz and a 2000 GMC Yukon

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Denali, described in paragraph 8 supra, should be seized pursuant to Title 21, U.S.C., § 881(a) (4).

11. In the Spring of 2002, a confidential source (hereinafter referred to as CS1) advised that CS1 was aware of an individual named Deon Smith who was a drug dealer in the City of Baltimore. CS1 advised that Smith had supplied heroin to a group which called its heroin "911" (pronounced "nine-eleven"). CS1 advised that Smith owned a recording studio called Stash House Records, which was located at 911 West 36th Street. CS1 advised that Smith had sold heroin from within Stash House Records. CS1 advised that Smith operated vehicles to include a Mercedes Benz and a large sport utility vehicle, like a Yukon, which CS1 would later identify as the vehicle referenced in paragraph 8 supra.

12. CS1 has been a source of the FBI for about a year. At the early part of the investigation, CS1 was a newly developed source whose reliability had not yet been established. The FBI considers CS1 to be a source who is generally reliable, but whose information should be corroborated. In the investigation detailed in this Affidavit, CS1's reliability has been corroborated, when possible, through the use of FBI electronic recording devices, covert video equipment, photographic equipment, and other recording devices. More specifically, as described more fully in this Affidavit, CS1's reliability has been corroborated through recorded conversations made by CS1 with members of the conspiracy, such as Deon Lionnel Smith, and through recorded controlled purchases of CDS by CS1 from members of the conspiracy, to include Deon Lionnel Smith. CS1 made several incriminating recordings from within Stash House Records and made other controlled suspected heroin purchases from within the studio, all recorded.

13. For instance, in October of 2002, CS1 made a controlled purchase of a quantity of suspected heroin from Deon Lionnel Smith at the studio located at 911 West 36th Street. On the day that CS1 received the suspected heroin from Smith, Smith was observed by Detective Todd A. Moody, of the Baltimore City Police Department and a member of the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, exiting from 3608 Clarinth Road and entering the GMC Yukon Denali, described in paragraph 8 supra. Roughly a half hour later, as CS1 met with Smith inside of Stash House Records, Smith's same GMC Yukon was observed by your Affiant in the rear of 911 West 36th Street. The meeting was recorded with an FBI recording device. The recovered substance was later sent to the DEA Laboratory, Washington, D.C., for examination, which revealed that the substance tested positive for the presence of heroin.

14. In other recorded meetings between CS1 and Smith, all occurring at Stash House Records, Smith made incriminating statements that he has sold "bricks and bricks" of "blow" and that he has sold "birds" with another individual. Based on your Affiant's training and experience and based on discussions with other local law enforcement officials, your Affiant knows that the terms "brick" and "bird" refer to a kilogram, and that the term "blow," although commonly used to refer to cocaine, means heroin in the streets of Baltimore.

15. A review of MVA records by your Affiant revealed that the GMC Yukon, referenced in paragraph 8 and 13 supra, was registered to Deon Lionnel Smith, black male, date of birth February 28, 1971, with a co-registrant of Jean Delores Webster, black female, date of birth February 8, 1935. A review of MVA records by your Affiant revealed that the above-referenced Mercedes, paragraph 8 supra, was co-registered to the same individuals.

16. In response to a Federal grand jury subpoena, Auto Source, a Prince Georges County auto dealership, provided records which revealed that on June 1, 2000, Deon Lionnel Smith purchased a 2000 Mercedes S500 automobile, VIN WDBNG75J8YA053609. It was further learned that Deon Lionnel Smith provided a down payment \$44,500.00 in cash for the purchase of this vehicle. This cash payment was made on two separate dates: May 8th and June 29th of 2000. The dealership received the cash in the form of mostly twenty (\$20.00) dollar bills. It was further learned that Deon Leon Smith purchased a 2000 GMC Yukon Denali, VIN 1GKEK63R9YR175632, from Auto Source on March 19, 2001. Smith provided \$5,000.00 in cash as a down payment. Both vehicles were registered under the name Jean Webster.

17. On May 9, 2003, an FBI representative contacted a representative of the Baltimore Gas & Electric (BG&E) Company who disclosed that the service at 3608 Clarinth Road, Apartment 1A, Baltimore, Maryland, was listed in the name of Pasua Anderson since July 30, 2002. According to public records filed with the Baltimore City Office of Child Enforcement, Deon Lionnel Smith is paying child support to Pasua Anderson. The BG&E representative further advised that the service at 911 West 36th Street, 2nd floor, Baltimore, Maryland, since March 2, 2001, was in the name of Stash House Records.

18. On May 8, 2003, your Affiant looked at the interior mailboxes for the apartments in 3608 Clarinth Road. Your Affiant saw that Apartment 1A had the names "Anderson," "Campbell," and "Smith" listed on the mailbox.

19. Your Affiant and Detective Moody, either together or separately, have conducted over fifty (50) surveillances at the residence of 3608 Clarinth Road, Baltimore, Maryland, and 911 West 36th Street, Baltimore, Maryland, during the course of this investigation. These surveillances have occurred at various times of the day and various times of the week. Your Affiant and Detective Moody have observed the GMC Yukon Denali several times at each location, but have never observed the aforementioned Mercedes Benz. In addition, your Affiant and Detective Moody, separately, have observed Deon Leon Smith coming and going from 3608 Clarinth Road.

20. On October 15, 2002, the Maryland Department of Labor and Wages advised that there was no records indicating earned income reported for social security administration number (SSAN) 218-62-3092. A review of the computerized records of the Maryland State Police reflected that Smith's SSAN was 218-62-3092.

21. On May 1, 2003, a Federal Grand Jury from the District of Maryland indicted Deon Lionnel Smith for Conspiracy to Distribute Heroin, as well as Distribution of Heroin in violation of Title 21, U.S.C., § 841(a)(1) and 846.

22. A review of the computerized records of the Maryland State Police and FBI reflect the following arrests/disposition record for DEON LIONNEL SMITH, black male, date of birth February 28, 1971, SSAN 218-62-3092:

DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
12/19/1998	1. CDS - possession of firearms 2. Handgun on person	1. Nolle Prosequi 2. Nolle Prosequi
02/18/1997	1. CDS attempt, conspiracy 2. CDS possession - not marijuana	1. Nolle Prosequi 2. Nolle Prosequi
12/19/1994	1. CDS possession with intent to distribute 2. CDS possession 3. CDS possession within school, etc.	1. Guilty - sentenced to 6 years, of which 5 years 11 months was suspended. Probation of 4 years. 2. Unspecified 3. Unspecified

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DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
09/18/1994	1. CDS possession with intent to distribute 2. CDS possession	1. Stet docket 2. Stet docket
11/20/1993	1. Unknown	1. Turned over to another agency
06/22/1993	1. CDS 2. CDS 3. CDS	1. Stet docket 2. Stet docket 3. Stet docket
10/30/1990	1. Handgun on person	1. Guilty - sentenced to 1 year 6 months
07/11/1990	1. Breaking and entering 2. Rogue and vagabond 3. Malicious destruction of property	1. Stet docket 2. Stet docket 3. Stet docket
06/14/1990	1. Storehouse breaking	1. Guilty - sentenced to 3 years, 2 years of which suspended. 3 years probation.
04/25/1989	1. CDS - possession 2. Violation of probation	1. Guilty - sentenced to 2 years probation. 2. Guilty - sentenced to 1 year 6 months
03/27/1988	1. Handgun violation 2. Violation of probation	1. Guilty - sentenced to 2 years, of which 2 years suspended. Probation 3 years. 2. Guilty - sentenced to 1 year 10 months.

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23. Your Affiant therefore believes that there is probable cause to believe that the residence of Deon Lionnel Smith located at 3608 Clarinth Road, Apartment 1A, Baltimore, Maryland, and the place of business located at 911 West 36th Street, 2nd Floor, known as Stash House Records, Baltimore, Maryland, contain items listed in Attachment A which are evidence of a conspiracy to possess heroin with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21, U.S.C., § 846 and evidence of the crime of Possession of Heroin With Intent to Distribute in violation of Title 21, U.S.C., § 841(a)(1). Therefore, your Affiant requests that a search warrant be issued for 3608 Clarinth Road, Apartment 1A, Baltimore, Maryland, and 911 West 36th Street, 2nd Floor, Baltimore, Maryland, for the business Stash House Records.

24. Your Affiant also believes that there is probable cause to believe that a 2000 Mercedes Benz and a 2000 GMC Yukon Denali, described in paragraph 8 supra, were purchased through drug proceeds. The property is located in the District of Maryland and subject to seizure pursuant to Title 21, U.S.C., §881(a)(4).

Steven W. Skinner

Steven W. Skinner
Special Agent, FBI

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of May, 2003

[Signature]

United States Magistrate Judge

**PAUL W. GRIMM
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**