

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



RED SEAL CLASP
KRAFT
NO. 90 SIZE 9 x 12

44-

HQ-38861

Serial



44-HQ-38861-E

EBF

38861

LATENT PRINTS SOLVE ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while standing on a balcony in Memphis, Tennessee, was brutally assassinated by gunshot by an unknown assailant.

Latent fingerprints developed on a rifle, binoculars, and a map of Mexico were identified as the left thumbprint of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G, a Bureau fugitive. These left thumbprints were identified through the utilization of computer technology to compare the fingerprint records of all Bureau fugitives for comparison. Additional latent fingerprints were also identified as fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY.

As a result of the latent fingerprint identifications, EARL RAY was convicted of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and was sentenced to ninety-nine years in prison.

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10-A-5492 BX JV

The Weather

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FOR MEMPHIS and Vicinity

—Showers Thursday
morning. Wind becoming
partly cloudy and cooler
by late afternoon. Clear to
partly cloudy and cooler
Thursday night and Friday.
High Thursday about 68 with
winds westerly becoming
northwesterly 15 to 20 miles
an hour with gusts to 30
miles an hour. Low Thurs-
day night about 46.

Sunrise 5:43; sunset 6:24

YESTERDAY'S REPORT

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919 2041075
FBI

LABORATORY

PC-A-5-78 BX JV

The Weather

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FOR MEMPHIS and Vicinity

—Showers Thursday morning. Wind becoming partly cloudy cooler by late afternoon. Clear to partly cloudy and cooler Thursday night and Friday. High Thursday about 68 with winds westerly becoming northwesterly 15 to 20 miles an hour with gusts to 30 miles an hour. Low Thursday night about 46.

Sunrise 5:43; sunset 6:24

YESTERDAY'S REPORT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO. 44-38861

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Q194 #3

FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075

1-267 (REV. 3-18-75)

FBI LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

FILE# 44-38861
LC# 91075

DEL 7608

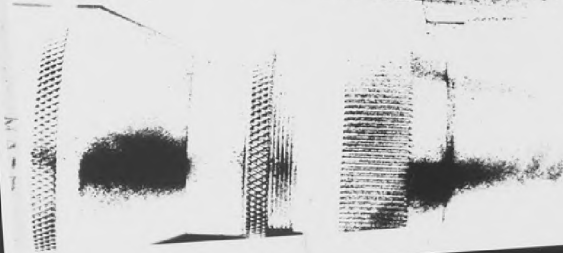
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO.

0 ONE INCH

1-287 (REV. 3-19-75)

FBI LATENT FINGERPRINT
SECTION

FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075





2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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Q19 LC#91075

FBI

LABORATORY

PC-A5498 Bx JV

The Weather

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

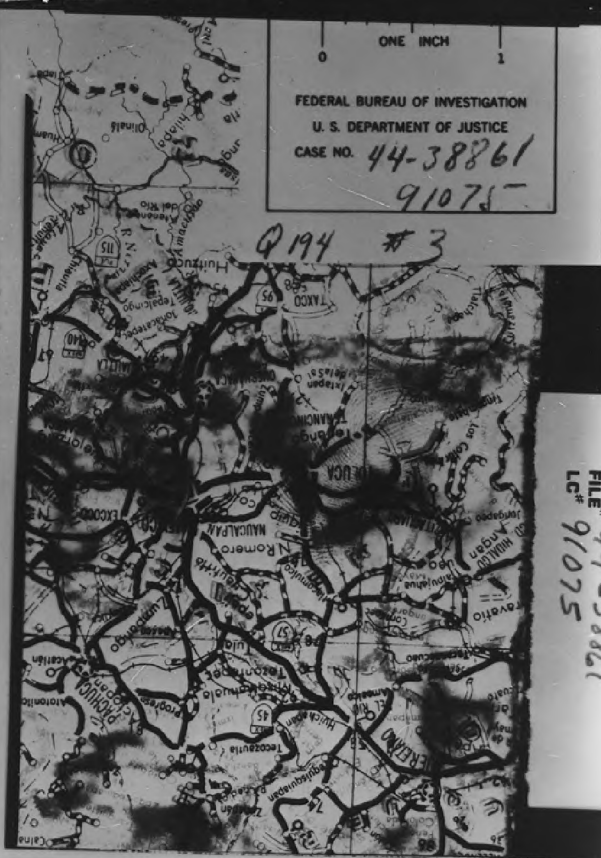
FOR MEMPHIS and Vicinity

--Showers ending Thursday morning. Windy and becoming partly cloudy and cooler by late afternoon. Clear to partly cloudy and cooler Thursday night and Friday. High Thursday about 68 with winds westerly becoming northwesterly 15 to 20 miles an hour with gusts to 30 miles an hour. Low Thursday night about 46.

Sunrise 5:43; sunset 6:24

YESTERDAY'S REPORT

FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075



0 ONE INCH 1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CASE NO. 44-38861

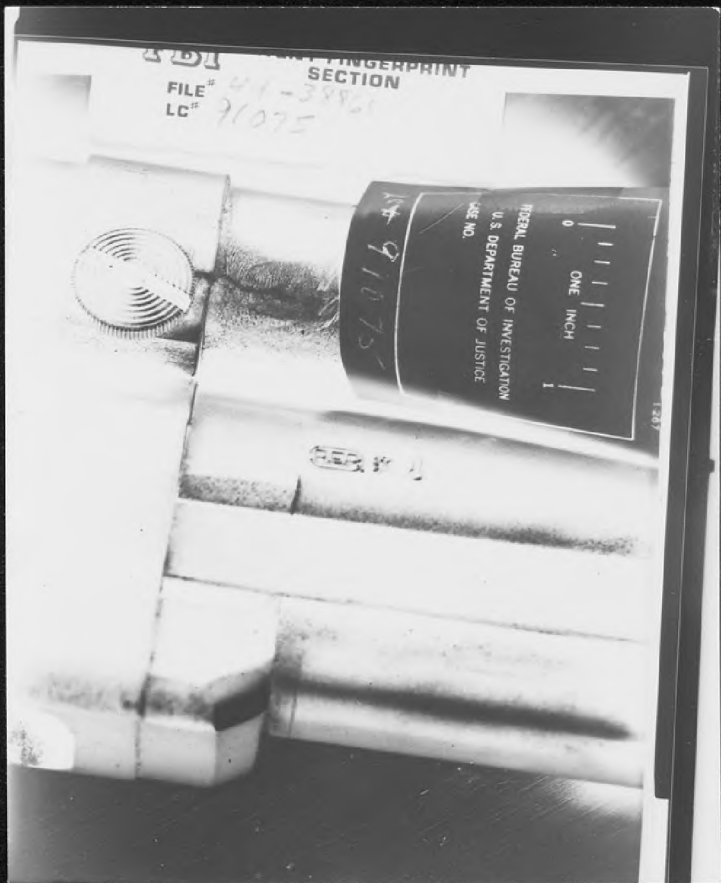
91075-

Q194 #3

SECTION
FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075



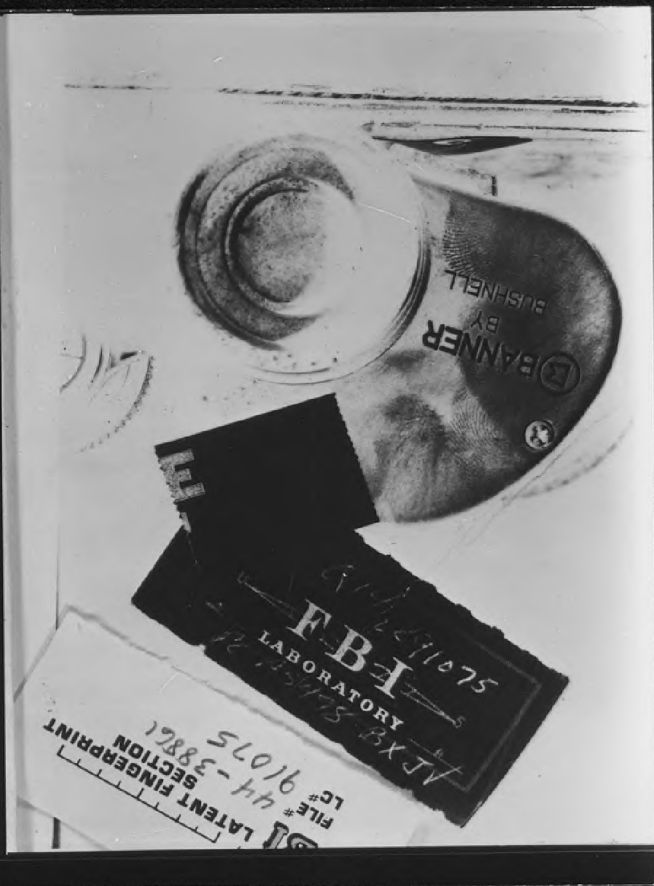
2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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Q19 LC#91075

FBI

LABORATORY

PC-A5498 Bx JV

FRONT PAGE

The Weather

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FOR MEMPHIS and Vicinity

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Sunrise 5:43; sunset 6:24

YESTERDAY'S REPORT

FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

405-942G

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

405-942

TYPE OR PRINT

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME

WARDEN

Ray, James Earl

SEX

male

RACE

white

HT. (Inches)

70

WT.

175

STATE, COUNTY AND ADDRESS

STATE PENITENTIARY
NASHVILLE, TENN.

ALIASES

Eric Starvo
Galt & many
others
tn James Earl Ray

HAIR

blk. gr.

EYES

Blue

DATE OF BIRTH

PLACE OF BIRTH

Ill.

SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED

JAMES EARL RAY

SCARS, MARKS, OR AMPUTATIONS

n/a

YOUR NUMBER

65477

PLACE FBI NO. HERE

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

CLASS.

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING
FINGERPRINTS

DATE

3-12-69

REPLY DESIRED? ☒ YES ☐ NO

REPLY WILL BE SENT IN ALL CASES IF SUBJECT FOUND TO BE WANTED.

1. RIGHT THUMB



2. RIGHT INDEX



3. RIGHT MIDDLE



4. RIGHT RING



5. RIGHT LITTLE



6. LEFT THUMB



7. LEFT INDEX



8. LEFT MIDDLE



9. LEFT RING



10. LEFT LITTLE



LEFT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY



LEFT THUMB



RIGHT THUMB



RIGHT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1967-O-256-240

1-207 (REV. 3-18-75)
FBI
FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075
LATENT FINGERPRINT
SECTION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

OCCUPATION	EMPLOYER (If U.S. Government, indicate military file serial number) or civilian employing agency.)
n/a	STATE PENITENTIARY NASHVILLE, TENN.

RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED
Illinois

CURRENT ARREST OR RECEIPT

DATE ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE OR OFFENSE (If code citation is used it should be accompanied by charge)	DISPOSITION OR SENTENCE (List FINAL disposition only. If not now available, submit later on FBI Form R-84 for completion of record.)
3-11-69	Murder 1st Degree	99 years
		FOR INSTITUTIONS USE ONLY Sentence expires

If arrest fingerprints sent FBI previously and FBI# unknown, furnish arrest # _____ Date _____

If **COLLECT** wire reply or **COLLECT** telephone reply is desired indicate here:

☐ Wire reply ☐ Telephone reply Telephone Number including area code _____

INSTRUCTIONS

1. FORWARD ARREST CARDS TO FBI IMMEDIATELY AFTER FINGERPRINTING FOR MOST EFFECTIVE SERVICE.
2. TYPE or PRINT all information.
3. Note amputations in proper finger squares.
4. REPLY WILL QUOTE ONLY NUMBER APPEARING IN THE BLOCK MARKED "YOUR NUMBER."
5. Indicate any additional copies for other agencies in space below - give their complete mailing address including zip code.

SEND COPY TO:

RECORDED
MAR 25 1969
IDENT. DIV. 85

Please Paste Photograph in This Space

Since photograph may become detached indicate name, date taken, FBI number, and arrest number on reverse side whether attached to fingerprint card or submitted later.

FBI
LATENT FINGERPRINT
SECTION
FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

405-942 D

SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED

JAMES EARL RAY
X *James Earl Ray*

SCARS, MARKS, OR AMPUTATIONS

n/a

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING FINGERPRINTS

William Henderson

DATE

3-12-69

TYPE OR PRINT

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME

WARDEN Ray, James Earl

STATE PRISON AND ADDRESS

NASHVILLE, TENN.

ALIASES Eric Starvo

Galt & many others

tn James Earl Ray

SEX

male

RACE

white

HT. (Inches)

70

WT.

175

HAIR

blk. gr.

EYES

Blue

DATE OF BIRTH

PLACE OF BIRTH

Ill.

YOUR NUMBER

65477

PLACE FBI NO. HERE

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

CLASS.

REF.

REPLY DESIRED? ☒ YES ☐ NO

REPLY WILL BE SENT IN ALL CASES IF SUBJECT FOUND TO BE WANTED.

1. RIGHT THUMB



2. RIGHT INDEX



3. RIGHT MIDDLE



4. RIGHT RING



5. RIGHT LITTLE



6. LEFT THUMB



7. LEFT INDEX



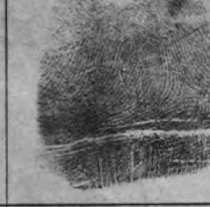
8. LEFT MIDDLE



9. LEFT RING



10. LEFT LITTLE



LEFT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY



LEFT THUMB



RIGHT THUMB



RIGHT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY



1-287 (REV. 3-18-75)
FBI LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION
FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

OCCUPATION n/a	EMPLOYER (If U.S. Government, indicate military file serial number) or civilian employing agency.) n/a
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RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED
Illinois

CURRENT ARREST OR RECEIPT

DATE ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE OR OFFENSE (If code citation is used it should be accompanied by charge)	DISPOSITION OR SENTENCE (List FINAL disposition only. If not now available, submit later on FBI Form R-84 for completion of record.)
3-11-69	Murder 1st Degree	99 years
		FOR INSTITUTIONS USE ONLY Sentence expires

If arrest fingerprints sent FBI previously and FBI# unknown, furnish arrest # _____ Date _____

If COLLECT wire reply or COLLECT telephone reply is desired indicate here:

☐ Wire reply ☐ Telephone reply Telephone Number including area code _____

Please Paste Photograph in This Space

Since photograph may become detached indicate name, date taken, FBI number, and arrest number on reverse side whether attached to fingerprint card or submitted later.

- INSTRUCTIONS**
1. FORWARD ARREST CARDS TO FBI IMMEDIATELY AFTER FINGERPRINTING FOR MOST EFFECTIVE SERVICE.
 2. TYPE or PRINT all information.
 3. Note amputations in proper finger squares.
 4. REPLY WILL QUOTE ONLY NUMBER APPEARING IN THE BLOCK MARKED "YOUR NUMBER."
 5. Indicate any additional copies for other agencies in space below - give their complete mailing address including zip code.

SEND COPY TO:

RECORDED
MAR 25 1969
IDENT. DIV. 85

1-287 (REV. 3-8-75)
FBI LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION
FILE # 44-38861
LC# 91075

LEAVE BLANK		TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION IN BLACK				FBI LEAVE BLANK	
LAST NAME <u>NAM</u> FIRST NAME <u>JAMES</u> MIDDLE NAME <u>EARL</u>		ALIASES NONE		CONTRIBUTOR OR TN019105C DEPT OF CORR RIVERBEND MAX SEC NASHVILLE, TN		405-942-G 911842100803	
STATE USAGE		DATE OF BIRTH <u>DOB</u>		DATE OF BIRTH <u>DOB</u>		DATE OF BIRTH <u>DOB</u>	
SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED		DATE ARRESTED OR RECEIVED <u>DOA</u>		SEX <u>M</u> RACE <u>W</u> HGT. <u>5'10"</u> WGT. <u>170</u> EYES <u>BLU</u> HAIR <u>GREY</u>		PLACE OF BIRTH <u>POB</u>	
THIS DATA MAY BE COMPUTERIZED IN LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL FILES DATE <u>3-27-91</u> SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING FINGERPRINTS <u>William R. Lello</u>		YOUR NO. <u>OCA 65477</u>		CLASS. <u>9U</u>		REF. <u>REF.</u>	
CHARGE		FBINO <u>FB</u>		SID NO. <u>SID 154136</u>		SOCIAL SECURITY NO. <u>SOC UNKNOWN</u>	
1st DEGREE MURDER, ESCAPE 101 YRS		CAUTION <input type="checkbox"/>		NCIC CLASS - FPC			
FINAL DISPOSITION							

1. R. THUMB	2. R. INDEX	3. R. MIDDLE	4. R. RING	5. R. LITTLE
6. L. THUMB	7. L. INDEX	8. L. MIDDLE	9. L. RING	10. L. LITTLE

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1-287 (REV. 3-8-75)
FBI
 LATENT FINGERPRINT
 SECTION
 FILE # 44-38861
 LC# 91075

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

PALM PRINTS TAKEN? YES ☐ NO ☒ **RECEIVED**
IDENT. SECTION
PHOTO AVAILABLE? YES ☒ NO ☐ **MAY 28 '91**

IF ARREST FINGERPRINTS SENT FBI PREVIOUSLY AND FBI NO. UNKNOWN,
FURNISH ARREST NO. _____ DATE **NASHVILLE TN**

STATUTE CITATION (SEE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 9) CIT

1. **non with FBI #**
2. **254-027-LAI**
3. **2843MD 7-29-91**

ARREST DISPOSITION (SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 5) **ADN**

EMPLOYER: IF U. S. GOVERNMENT, INDICATE SPECIFIC AGENCY.
IF MILITARY, LIST BRANCH OF SERVICE AND SERIAL NO.

OCCUPATION

RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED
RIVERBEND MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION
7475 COCKRILL BEND IND. ROAD
NASHVILLE TN 37209-1048
SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS, AND AMPUTATIONS **SMT**

SCAR-RIGHT HAND

BASIS FOR CAUTION **ICO**

DATE OF OFFENSE **DOO** SKIN TONE **SKN**

MISC. NO **MMU**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS

1. UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY REGULATION IN YOUR STATE, FINGERPRINTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION. FORWARD IMMEDIATELY FOR MOST EFFECTIVE SERVICE.
2. FINGERPRINTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY ARRESTING AGENCY ONLY (MULTIPLE PRINTS ON SAME CHARGE SHOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED BY OTHER AGENCIES SUCH AS JAILS, RECEIVING AGENCIES ETC.) REQUESTS COPIES OF FBI IDENTIFICATION RECORD FOR ALL OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES IN BLOCK BELOW. GIVE COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS INCLUDING ZIP CODE.
3. TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION.
4. NOTE AMPUTATIONS IN PROPER FINGER BLOCKS.
5. LIST FINAL DISPOSITION IN BLOCK ON FRONT SIDE. IF NOT NOW AVAILABLE, SUBMIT LATER ON FBI FORM R-84 FOR COMPLETION OF RECORD. IF FINAL DISPOSITION NOT AVAILABLE SHOW PRE-TRIAL OR ARRESTING AGENCY DISPOSITION e.g., RELEASED, NO FORMAL CHARGE, BAIL, TURNED OVER TO, IN THE ARREST DISPOSITION BLOCK PROVIDED ON THIS SIDE.
6. MAKE CERTAIN ALL IMPRESSIONS ARE LEGIBLE, FULLY ROLLED AND CLASSIFIABLE.
7. CAUTION - CHECK BOX ON FRONT IF CAUTION STATEMENT INDICATED. BASIS FOR CAUTION (ICO) MUST GIVE REASON FOR CAUTION. e.g., ARMED AND DANGEROUS, SUICIDAL, ETC.
8. MISCELLANEOUS NUMBER (MMU) - SHOULD INCLUDE SUCH NUMBERS AS MILITARY SERVICE, PASSPORT AND/OR VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (IDENTIFY TYPE OF NUMBER.)
9. PROVIDE STATUTE CITATION, IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC STATUTE (example - PL for PENAL LAW) AND CRIMINAL CODE CITATION INCLUDING ANY SUB-SECTIONS.
10. ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED IS ESSENTIAL.
11. PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 (P.L. 93-579) REQUIRES THAT FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL AGENCIES INFORM INDIVIDUALS WHOSE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS REQUESTED WHETHER SUCH DISCLOSURE IS MANDATORY OR VOLUNTARY. BASIS OF AUTHORITY FOR SUCH SOLICITATION, AND USES WHICH WILL BE MADE OF IT.

REPLY DESIRED? YES ☒ NO ☐

REPLY WILL BE SENT IN ALL CASES IF SUBJECT FOUND TO BE WANTED)

IF COLLECT WIRE OR COLLECT TELEPHONE REPLY DESIRED,
INDICATE HERE: (WIRE SENT ON ALL UNKNOWN DECEASED)

WIRE REPLY ☐ TELEPHONE REPLY ☐ TELEPHONE NO. AND AREA CODE _____





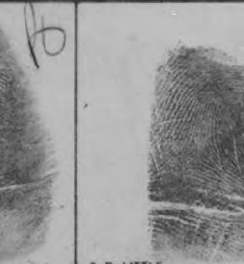





SEND COPY TO: NAME OR NUMBER AND ADDRESS






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1-287 (REV. 3-8-78)
FBI
LATENT FINGERPRINT
SECTION
FILE # **44-38861**
LC# **91075**

1000th
9-26-91

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<div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOD RET</div> </div>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>LAST NAME NAM</div> <div>FIRST NAME JAMES</div> <div>MIDDLE NAME EARL</div> </div>		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">405-942-G</div>	
STATE USAGE		ALIASES NONE		CONTRIBUTOR TN019105C DEPT OF CORR RIVERBEND MAX SEC NASHVILLE, TN	
SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED		DATE OF BIRTH DOB		Month Day Year <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	
THIS DATA MAY BE COMPUTERIZED IN LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL FILES DATE 3-27-91 SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING FINGERPRINTS <i>William R. Lello</i>		DATE ARRESTED OR RECEIVED DOA 3-26-91		SEX M RACE W HGT. 5'10" WGT. 170 EYES BLU HAIR GREY	
CHARGE		YOUR NO. OCA 65477		PLACE OF BIRTH POB	
1st DEGREE MURDER, ESCAPE		FBINO. FB SID NO. SID 154136 SOCIAL SECURITY NO. SOC UNKNOWN		MISSOURI LEAVE BLANK CLASS. 9U REF. 4W	
FINAL DISPOSITION		NCIC CLASS - FPC		<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">REF.</div>	
101 YRS <i>100 counts to which</i> <i>disps and sentence</i> <i>APPLY not known</i>		CAUTION <input type="checkbox"/>			

 1. R. THUMB	 2. R. INDEX	 3. R. MIDDLE	 4. R. RING	 5. R. LITTLE
 6. L. THUMB	 7. L. INDEX	 8. L. MIDDLE	 9. L. RING	 10. L. LITTLE

 <i>2720VA17</i> <i>1500AT-25</i>		 <i>1287W 11</i> <i>366AT-25</i>		 <i>010926</i>		 <i>0815</i> <i>1010 Mtd</i> <i>9-26-91</i>		 	
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1-287 (REV. 3-18-76)
FBI
 LATENT FINGERPRINT
 SECTION
 FILE # **44-38861**
 LC# **91075**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

PALM PRINTS TAKEN? YES ☐ NO ☒ **RECEIVED**
IDENT. SECTION
PHOTO AVAILABLE? YES ☒ NO ☐ **MAY 28 '91**

IF ARREST FINGERPRINTS SENT FBI PREVIOUSLY AND FBI NO. UNKNOWN,
FURNISH ARREST NO. _____ DATE **NASHVILLE, TN**

STATUTE CITATION (SEE INSTRUCTIONS NO. 9) **CIT**

1. **non with FBI #**
2. **254-027-LAI**
3. **2843MD 7-29-91**

ARREST DISPOSITION (SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 5) **ADN**

EMPLOYER: IF U.S. GOVERNMENT, INDICATE SPECIFIC AGENCY.
IF MILITARY, LIST BRANCH OF SERVICE AND SERIAL NO.

OCCUPATION

RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED
RIVERBEND MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION
7475 COCKRILL BEND IND. ROAD
NASHVILLE, TN 37209-1048
SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS, AND AMPUTATIONS **SMT**

SCAR-RIGHT HAND

BASIS FOR CAUTION **ICO**

DATE OF OFFENSE **DOO** SKIN TONE **SKN**

MISC. NO **MMU**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS

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REPLY DESIRED? YES ☒ NO ☐
REPLY WILL BE SENT IN ALL CASES IF SUBJECT FOUND TO BE WANTED.
IF COLLECT WIRE OR COLLECT TELEPHONE REPLY DESIRED,
INDICATE HERE: (WIRE SENT ON ALL UNKNOWN DECEASED)
WIRE REPLY ☐ TELEPHONE REPLY ☐ TELEPHONE NO. AND AREA CODE _____
SEND COPY TO: NAME OWN NUMBER AND ADDRESS _____

LEAVE BLANK

1-287 (REV. 3-28-75)
FBI LATENT FINGERPRINT
SECTION
FILE # **44-38861**
LC# **91075**