

1 MAC BLOOM  
2 Deputy County Attorney  
3 KIRSTEN H. PABST  
4 Missoula County Attorney  
5 Missoula County Courthouse  
6 Missoula, Montana 59802  
7 (406) 258-4737  
8 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

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IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MISSOULA  
BEFORE, Marie A Andersen, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

STATE OF MONTANA,  
Plaintiff,  
  
-vs-  
WINSTON ALEXANDER RITTER  
SR,  
Defendant

Department No. 1  
Cause No. CR-2016-632  
**COMPLAINT**

MAC BLOOM, Deputy County Attorney, deposes and says that on or about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2016, in Missoula County, the Defendant committed the offenses of COUNT I: ASSAULT WITH WEAPON, a Felony, in violation of Montana law, namely: Mont. Code Ann. 45-5-213, punishable by 20 years MSP and/or \$50,000 fine; COUNT II: ASSAULT ON A PEACE OR JUDICIAL OFFICER, a Felony, in violation of Montana law, namely: Mont. Code Ann. 45-5-210, punishable by not less than 2 years or more than 10 years MSP and \$50,000 fine; COUNT III: BURGLARY, a Felony, in violation of Montana law, namely: Mont. Code Ann. 45-6-204(1), punishable by 20 years MSP and/or \$50,000 fine.

The facts constituting the offense are:

COUNT I: On or about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2016, the above-named Defendant purposely or knowingly caused reasonable apprehension of serious bodily injury in

1 Darrell Traver by use of a weapon when he pointed an AR-15 rifle at Traver at the  
2 Target Range Trailer Court.

3           COUNT II: On or about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2016, the above-named Defendant  
4 purposely or knowingly caused reasonable apprehension of bodily injury to Deputy  
5 Wafstet, a peace officer, by use of a weapon when he pointed an AR-15 rifle at Deputy  
6 Wafstet at the Target Range Trailer Court.

7           COUNT III: On or about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2016, the above-named Defendant  
8 knowingly entered or remained unlawfully in an occupied structure, the residence of  
9 Tyrell Harris, and knowingly or purposely committed an offense within that structure, to  
10 wit: theft when he took Tyrell's AR-15 rifle.

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14 DATED this 5th day of July, 2016.

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18 MAC BLOOM  
19 Deputy County Attorney

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22 Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2016.

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25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

27  
28 COMPLAINT 16-1594

TRAVIS WAFSTET, Missoula County Sheriff's Office

1 MAC BLOOM  
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Plaintiff,  
  
-vs-  
  
WINSTON ALEXANDER RITTER  
SR,  
Defendant

Department No. 1  
Cause No. CR-2016-632  
  
**AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

STATE OF MONTANA     )  
                                  : SS  
County of Missoula     )

MAC BLOOM, Deputy County Attorney, Montana, being first duly sworn upon oath,  
deposes and says:

I have read the official law enforcement reports regarding the investigation of  
WINSTON ALEXANDER RITTER SR for allegedly committing the offense(s) set forth in  
the complaint and based upon the information contained in the reports, if true, believe  
probable cause exists to justify charging the above-named defendant as specified in the  
accompanying complaint.

On or about the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2016, Deputy Wafstet, Missoula County Sheriff's  
Office, responded to the Target Range Trailer Court regarding a burglary. Upon arrival,

1 he made contact with Texanna Harris and her husband, Richard Harris, who stated that  
2 they are taking care of their son's (Tyrell Harris) residence while he is working in North  
3 Dakota. They explained that when they arrived at Tyrell's residence that evening, they  
4 tried to unlock the front and back doors, but the keys did not fit. Richard walked around  
5 the residence and noticed that a window had been broken out. Texanna called 911.  
6 While Texanna spoke with law enforcement, Richard walked around the residence  
7 again and noticed that the back door was now unlocked and a shirt was sticking out the  
8 bottom of it.  
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11 After taking statement, Deputy Wafstet entered the residence and noticed that  
12 the living room light and fan had been turned on. He then exited the residence and  
13 examined the broken window, which still contained shards of broken glass. The hole  
14 did not appear large enough for a person to enter without sustaining injuries.  
15 Underneath the window, Deputy Wafstet observed a wooden block that appeared to  
16 have been used as a step to gain access.  
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18 Deputy Wafstet made contact with the Trailer Court manager, Darrell Traver.  
19 Traver informed Deputy Wafstet that he should look for suspects behind the storage  
20 shed at trailer #13, as that was the most likely hiding place in the area. Deputy Wafstet,  
21 Traver, and Richard then began walking towards the storage shed. When they were  
22 approximately five feet away, Deputy Wafstet noticed a pair of legs sticking out from  
23 behind the shed. Traver then stated, "There he is. It's Winston." At that time, Deputy  
24 Wafstet observed a man, later identified as Winston Ritter (Defendant), holding an AR-  
25 15 rifle with the barrel pointed in the direction of Deputy Wafstet and Traver. Defendant  
26 said something to the effect of, "I don't want to get in any trouble." Deputy Wafstet  
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1 believed that he would be shot if he did not immediately flee to cover, which he and the  
2 others did.

3 Deputy Wafstet ordered Defendant to drop the weapon and surrender, but  
4 Defendant did not comply. Shortly thereafter, backup officers arrived on-scene and  
5 established a perimeter. Deputy Merrill eventually observed Defendant running through  
6 several yards toward two vehicles with the AR-15 still in his hands. Defendant made it  
7 to the vehicles and crouched down behind them. After receiving further commands to  
8 surrender, Defendant laid the rifle down and removed a pair of handcuffs from his  
9 pocket. Defendant then handcuffed himself and surrendered.  
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12 Following Defendant's apprehension, Deputy Wafstet spoke further with Traver.  
13 Traver stated that Defendant used to live in trailer #13 but was evicted in 2015 after he  
14 pointed a handgun at a neighbor. When Defendant left, he sold some of his property to  
15 Tyrell and then moved to Colorado. Traver explained that Defendant does not like him  
16 and blames most of his troubles on Traver. Traver said that after he observed  
17 Defendant holding the AR-15, he fled the area quickly to avoid being shot. Traver was  
18 almost certain that Defendant would shoot when he raised the AR-15 and pointed it in  
19 his direction.  
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22 Next, Deputy Wafstet spoke further with Richard. Richard observed Defendant  
23 point the AR-15 in the direction of Deputy Wafstet and Traver, but did not believe that  
24 he personally had been placed in the line of fire. After he observed Defendant brandish  
25 the weapon, he fled inside Tyrell's residence and locked the door. Richard explained  
26 that he has been checking on Tyrell's residence frequently since Tyrell left. As of July  
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1, 2016, it was secure and the window was not broken. Richard stated that no one else had permission to enter the residence while Tyrell was gone.

Deputy Hash photographed the interior of Tyrell's residence and discovered a black gun case containing AR-15 accessories and a purchase receipt. The receipt contained a serial number and established that Tyrell purchased the AR-15 at Liquid Assets. The serial number on the receipt matched the serial number on the AR-15 recovered from Defendant at the time of his arrest.

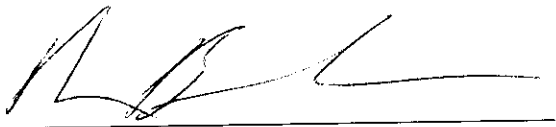
Meanwhile, Deputy Merrill transported Defendant to jail. There, Defendant agreed to provide a statement. Defendant explained that he had been having personal issues with his wife over that last several weeks. On June 10, 2016, Defendant was arrested and taken to jail following a domestic disturbance. Two days later, he learned that his wife had moved out of their residence and taken their children.

On July 2, 2016, Defendant posted bond and got out of jail. Defendant learned from a friend that Tyrell was out of town, so Defendant went to his residence. Defendant believed that Tyrell might have some of his property because he had previously seen it inside of Tyrell's residence. When he arrived, Defendant used a block of wood to smash out Tyrell's window. He then unlocked it and entered. Defendant slept on the kitchen floor that night.

At some point during his stay, Defendant noticed Tyrell's AR-15. He stated that he was unfamiliar with the weapon, but managed to put a loaded magazine into it. The following day, he noticed a woman walking around outside of Tyrell's residence. When the woman called 911, Defendant grabbed the AR-15 and some clothing and fled out the back door. He hid behind the storage shed for approximately fifteen minutes waiting

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for Deputy Wafstet to leave the area. Defendant denied intentionally pointing the AR-15 in Deputy Wafstet's direction. During the standoff, Defendant considered shooting himself, but changed his mind and decided to handcuff himself instead and surrender.



MAC BLOOM  
Deputy County Attorney

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

ORDER

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3 Upon reading the foregoing Affidavit, the Court finds that there is probable cause to  
4 believe the above-named Defendant committed the crimes charged.

5 DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 at \_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.  
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9 JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
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