

BRITTANY L. WILLIAMS
Deputy County Attorney
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Missoula County Courthouse
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RECORD OF MISSOULA COUNTY,
STATE OF MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA, Plaintiff, -vs- JESSE LEE PEARCE, Defendant.	Dept. Cause No. AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
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STATE OF MONTANA)
: ss
County of Missoula)

BRITTANY L. WILLIAMS, Deputy County Attorney, Montana, being
first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says:

I have read the law enforcement reports regarding the investigation of
JESSE LEE PEARCE for allegedly committing the offenses of:

COUNT I: ASSAULT WITH WEAPON, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-
213, MCA;

COUNT II: ASSAULT WITH WEAPON, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-213, MCA.

I believe that the facts as set forth in the law enforcement reports, if true, constitute sufficient probable cause to justify the filing of the charges. Those facts are as follows:

On or about the 22nd day of August, 2020, Missoula City Officers responded to the Inn on Broadway in Missoula County for a report of a disturbance. Officers were advised that a male male had pulled an Ar-15 type rifle and had pointed the firearm at a motel employee and a guest.

Upon arrival, Officer Rouse found an adult male, adult female and a juvenile standing outside a black passenger car in the parking lot of the motel. The adult male was identified as Jesse Pearce, the female as Joann Scott and the minor as A.H. age 11. Pearce stated he was having an argument with his wife, Scott, when a male approached him and was filming him with his phone and said something to Pearce about arguing with his wife.

Pearce then stated that the male threatened to go and get a gun and left-presumably to retrieve a firearm. Pearce could not describe the vehicle and stated he did not see any weapon presented by the male. Pearce then stated he responded by stating “I’ll go get my gun too” and he held up his

rifle, but denied pointing it at the male. Pearce provided Officer Rouse with the weapon, which was a black Smith and Wesson M&P 15 rifle.

Officer Muis then spoke with Scott, who stated she and her husband were in a verbal argument when her husband got into a verbal argument with another male after her husband believed the male had been pointing his phone at her husband. Scott stated her husband asked the male to stop recording him and a verbal argument began and the male stated he was going to get his gun and ran off. Scott then observed her husband pick up his rifle and point it in the direction the male was running. Scott could not explain why they did not call the police if they felt the other male was retrieving a gun, stating she believed the other male likely called the police. Scott later told Officer Potter that her husband had not been okay sometimes and it's been happening every day lately.

Upon arrival, Officer Loya spoke with Cheryl Anderson, an employee of the motel. Anderson stated she was outside smoking when shea heard a male yelling at a female. Anderson stated she believed the male through something at the female, but she could not tell what. A short time later, Anderson heard a second male voice in the area. Anderson went over to try to calm the situation down and ultimately ended up between the two males. Anderson observed that one of the males was inside a vehicle and had a gun

pointed at her. She was in fear that she would be shot and stated she felt the male outside of the car would have been shot had she not intervened. Officer Loya noted that Cheryl was visibly shaking during her description of the events.

While speaking with Cheryl, Officer Loya was approached by Robert Vick, who identified himself as the other male involved. Vick stated he was outside the motel and was on the phone with his family. Vick was on the way to the smoking area when he heard a male yelling. Vick soon noticed the male was yelling at him to turn his camera off, indicating Vick's phone and the male, Pearce, began stepping toward Vick aggressively. Vick responded by asking Pearce what the hell his problem was and Pearce responded with a statement about getting his gun. Vick then responded by saying he would get his gun as well.

Vick stated he does not have a gun, but was hoping the statement would deter any further violence. Vick then stated that Pearce was pointing an AR style rifle at him and he ran and hid behind a vehicle. Vick stated he did not want to die and thought Pearce would shoot him. Vick stated he does not have a gun and allowed officers to check his motel room.

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DATED this 23rd day of August, 2020.

/s/ Brittany L. Williams
BRITTANY L. WILLIAMS
Deputy County Attorney

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, a Justice of the Peace, in
and for the State of Montana, County of Missoula.

Electronically Signed By:
Hon. Judge Alex Beal
On Behalf Of:
Hon. Judge Landee N. Holloway
Mon, Aug 24 2020 11:40 AM