

MEGHANN PADDOCK
Deputy County Attorney
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

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

STATE OF MONTANA, Plaintiff, -vs- ZACHARY ALEXANDER TROUTMAN, Defendant.	Dept. Cause No. AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
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STATE OF MONTANA)
 : ss
County of Missoula)

MEGHANN PADDOCK, Deputy County Attorney, Montana, being first
duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says:

I have read the law enforcement reports regarding the investigation of
ZACHARY ALEXANDER TROUTMAN for allegedly committing the offenses
of:

COUNT I: CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT, a felony, in violation of § 45-
5-207, MCA;

COUNT II: DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS - 1ST OFFENSE, a misdemeanor, in violation of § 61-8-401(1)(a)[1st], MCA;

COUNT III: OBSTRUCTING PEACE OFFICER OR OTHER PUBLIC SERVANT, a misdemeanor, in violation of § 45-7-302(1), MCA;

COUNT IV: RECKLESS DRIVING, a misdemeanor, in violation of § 61-8-301(1)(a), 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 September 5, 2020 at about 1:00 a.m., Missoula Police Officers were dispatched to a multiple vehicle crash with possible injury near the intersection of Higgins and Mount. A beige or silver 1996 Nissan Sentra was significantly damaged, and was still occupied by a male driver, later identified as Defendant Zachary Troutman. Troutman had multiple cuts on his face and was bleeding from his face and head. When asked if he was ok, Troutman said he was. When asked what happened, Troutman said he had “too much acid tonight” and he was “tripping.” Troutman refused to exit his vehicle despite several commands from law enforcement that he do so. Troutman pointed to a firefighter and demanded that he approach Troutman’s vehicle;

Troutman then said he was going to punch the firefighter. Troutman began punching the steering wheel of his car, honking the horn, and shouting. Troutman's pupils were fully dilated despite bright lights and flashlights. Troutman was also sweating profusely despite cool temperatures. Troutman was unable to get out of the driver's side, due to damage to the vehicle from the crash. After he refused multiple commands to exit through the passenger door and statements that he was going to fight with officers, the passenger window was broken out and Troutman was removed from the car.

During the crash investigation, Officer Gillhouse determined that Troutman had been driving east on Mount and rear-ended a Ford Escape driven by Scott Forbes. Troutman's car then struck an unoccupied Toyota Prius which had been parked, before coming to a rest. Based on the length of the skid marks on the roadway and damage to the vehicles, Officer Gillhouse determined that Troutman had been traveling at a high rate of speed.

Justin Vancale reported that he had been driving east on Mount and was stopped at the stop light at Mount and Brooks when Troutman passed him and ran the red light going straight across Brooks Street. Vancale estimated that the Nissan was going 70mph or faster. Vancale did not see the accident occur but drove up shortly after it happened.

Scott Forbes reported that he had been driving the Ford Escape. Forbes stated that all he saw were the headlights of a car coming up behind him very fast and then he was rear-ended. Forbes said he was very happy that nobody was seriously hurt. Forbes felt that Troutman had put his life in danger by his driving.

Troutman was transported to St. Patrick's hospital for medical care. Troutman admitted to consuming both "acid" and alcohol. While he was there, Officer Hoffman conducted the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus test on Troutman while Troutman was laying down on a bed. Troutman was unable to open his eyes wide enough for Officer Hoffman to see his far right eye, but Officer Hoffman observed 3/6 indicators of impairment. Troutman provided a breath sample for the Preliminary Alcohol Screening Test which resulted below 0.08 BrAC. The samples had to be captured by Officer Hoffman because Troutman did not provide strong enough breath for the instrument to capture on its own. Defendant refused a blood draw. A search warrant was sought and obtained for his blood, which was drawn and will be sent to the Montana State Crime Lab for analysis.

DATED this 6th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Meghann Paddock _____
MEGHANN PADDOCK
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 Landee Holloway

On Behalf Of:
Hon. Judge Alex Beal

Tue, Sep 08 2020 09:22 AM