

State of Minnesota
County of StearnsDistrict Court
7th Judicial DistrictProsecutor File No.
Court File No.CR-2021-1872
73-CR-21-4252

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JASON ROBERT BECKMAN DOB: 03/04/19761520 E 2nd Street
Duluth, MN 55812

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I**Charge: Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent**

Minnesota Statute: 609.52.2(a)(1), with reference to: 609.52.3(3)(d)(v)

Maximum Sentence: Not more than five (5) years imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 fine.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/20/2021

Control #(ICR#): 21025791

Charge Description: That the defendant, Jason Robert Beckham, then and there being, did wrongfully, unlawfully, feloniously, intentionally, and without claim of right take, use, transfer, conceal or retain possession of movable property of another without the other's consent and with intent to deprive the owner permanently of possession of the property, and said stolen property was a motor vehicle, to-wit: stole A.L.R.'s 2004 Audi sedan, MN ETL634, from a Waite Park parking lot, crashed in the 2600 block of Island View Drive in St. Cloud, rendering the vehicle inoperable.

COUNT II**Charge: Dangerous Weapon – Firearm – Prior Violent Crime Possesses any type of firearm/ammo - Crime of Violence - ineligible under 624.713.1(2)**

Minnesota Statute: 624.713.2(b), with reference to: 624.713.2(b), 609.11.5(b)

Maximum Sentence: Not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) years imprisonment and/or a \$30,000 fine.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/20/2021

Control #(ICR#): 21025791

Charge Description: That the defendant, Jason Robert Beckham, then and there being, did wrongfully, unlawfully, and feloniously possess a firearm and/or ammunition after previously being convicted of a

crime of violence, to-wit: in Waite Park and multiple locations in St. Cloud, Stearns County, possessed a loaded .45 caliber Springfield Armory XS Tactical handgun, Serial #US768099, and multiple .45 caliber ammunition, while having been previously convicted of Assault in the Third Degree, as contained in Redwood County District Court File No. 64-CR-17-961, sentenced on June 4, 2018, and/or a second conviction for Assault in the Third Degree, as contained in Redwood County District Court File No. 64-CR-20-471, sentenced on October 19, 2020.

COUNT III

Charge: Dangerous Weapon – Firearm Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.19.1, 609.11.5(a)

Maximum Sentence: Not less than five (5) nor more than forty (40) years imprisonment and/or a \$, fine.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/20/2021

Control #(ICR#): 21025791

Charge Description: That the defendant, Jason Robert Beckham, then and there being, did wrongfully, unlawfully, and feloniously cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation, to-wit: shot E.A.W. twice at close range with a .45 caliber handgun.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

At approximately 6:16 a.m. on June 20, 2021, St. Cloud Police Officers were dispatched to a reported shooting at a residence located in the 2600 block of Island View Drive, in the City of St. Cloud, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota. At approximately 7:11 a.m., Jason Robert Beckman, DOB: 03/04/1976, the defendant herein, was located and arrested while walking on foot approximately 1.5 miles away in the area of Halenbeck Hall in St. Cloud, Stearns County, Minnesota. The defendant was found in possession of the .45 caliber handgun and cartridges that are consistent with items recovered at the scene of the shooting.

Investigation revealed that the defendant committed multiple felonies in and between Waite Park and St. Cloud, Stearns County, Minnesota. Prior to the crimes contained herein, the defendant had no known history or contact with these victims or the Stearns County area. During the investigation, Waite Park Police Officers located a black single cab pick-up truck, MN 691TGN, parked in front of a fire hydrant in the 400 block of Park Meadows Drive, Waite Park, Stearns County, Minnesota. Investigators observed that the vehicle was broken down, with dark black fluid leaking and apparent damage to the right front wheel. A large camo-style duffel bag was located on the front passenger seat. The driver's side door was left unlocked.

Investigators identified the current owner of the pick-up truck, an adult male out of the Duluth area. The owner told investigators that he was acquainted with the defendant through friends and briefly doing work. The owner loaned the defendant his truck several days prior after the defendant asked to borrow it to get his tools from "down south." Prior to these crimes, the defendant had told the truck owner over the phone that he needed to go to his grandmother's funeral. The truck owner stated that he did not know of a reason that the defendant would be in the St. Cloud area. Investigators learned that the defendant has multiple criminal convictions out of Redwood County in the southwestern portion of Minnesota. St. Cloud area is in between Duluth and Redwood County.

The defendant is charged with his felony crimes in the order they occurred.

Count 1 - Motor Vehicle Theft

At the scene of the shooting, St. Cloud Police Officers located a silver Audi sedan, MN ETL634, that did not belong to the homeowner. As the investigation was ongoing, dispatchers received a call from A.L.R., an adult female owner of the Audi who is fully identified in police reports. A.L.R. confirmed that her vehicle was stolen that morning from a location in Waite Park, Stearns County, Minnesota. A.L.R. does not know the defendant and did not give him consent to drive away in her vehicle.

Investigation revealed that the Audi was stolen outside a business close by the area where officers had located the defendant's abandoned pick-up truck. The defendant was observed on surveillance video at Kwik Trip gas station at approximately 3:24 a.m., purchasing an item, and leaving. The defendant returned to the store at approximately 4:34 a.m., lingered outside, and walked to a nearby Kia of St. Cloud parking lot at approximately 5:16 a.m. The defendant was observed at St. Cloud Hyundai at approximately 5:26 a.m. The defendant was observed checking car doors on the lot from approximately 5:32-5:37 a.m.

After that time, the defendant stole the Audi that was left running at a business nearby with the occupant (A.L.R.) outside.

Count 2 - Felon Convicted of a Crime of Violence in Possession of Firearms and/or Ammunition

At approximately 7:11 a.m., a GSSC Security member in the SCSU area called dispatch to report a male walking from the Beaver Island Trail area carrying a silver handgun. The security personnel maintained visual surveillance of the male, who fit the description of the shooting suspect. St. Cloud Police Officers arrived and detained the defendant at gunpoint in the area of 12th Avenue and 4th Street, in St. Cloud, Stearns County, Minnesota. The defendant dropped his gun and was able to track and follow officer commands. Officers identified the defendant and his illegally possessed, stolen, firearm.

The firearm is a Springfield Armory XS Tactical handgun, Serial #US768099. It was previously reported stolen from Red Wing, Minnesota. In securing the defendant's firearm, officers located multiple live rounds, including a silver hollow point GFL 45 ACP and a Federal .45 auto, brass in color, that was consistent with casings located at the crime scene. A subsequent search warrant of the stolen Audi revealed multiple similar rounds of .45 caliber ammunition in the vehicle.

The defendant is legally barred from possessing firearms or ammunition, based on multiple felony convictions for crimes of violence, to-wit: a conviction for Assault in the Third Degree, as contained in Redwood County District Court File No. 64-CR-17-961, sentenced on June 4, 2018, and a second conviction for Assault in the Third Degree, as contained in Redwood County District Court File No. 64-CR-20-471, sentenced on October 19, 2020.

Arresting officers observed the defendant make several spontaneous utterances consistent with consciousness of guilt, including that he "should have put a bullet in my head." While pending a statement, the defendant made other spontaneous utterances, including that people had "killed my family." The defendant also referenced delusions, being an addict, that he "watched my sister's head go down the interstate," and had concerns about his family.

The defendant provided a Mirandized taped statement to investigators. The defendant stated that he recently lived in Duluth. The defendant left Duluth in the pick-up truck the previous evening to visit family in southwestern Minnesota. The defendant had a .45 caliber silver and green Springfield handgun that he had obtained a "long time ago." The defendant admitted being unable to possess firearms.

The defendant stated he got lost in Waite Park while driving the black pick-up truck. The truck broke down sometime the previous evening. The defendant admitted using controlled substances in the few days prior. Sometime thereafter, the defendant claimed that a male parked in a grocery store parking lot had pointed a tan rifle at him. The defendant was not sure if this was a delusion or not, and claimed to have been previously diagnosed with PTSD, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and manic depressive disorder.

The defendant admitted that after purchasing items from a nearby store in Waite Park, he located an unoccupied vehicle with the keys in the ignition. The occupants were outside nearby. The defendant stole the vehicle and drove away.

The defendant stated he again got lost. The defendant admitted driving down Island View Drive in St. Cloud, losing control as he swerved to avoid a large tree branch in the road, and crashing his vehicle in a front yard. The defendant admitted knocking on the front door of the residence, claiming that he wanted to get help after crashing. The defendant told investigators that he believed that the male who answered (E.A.W.) was the male who had pointed the tan rifle at him earlier.

The defendant drew his firearm with his right hand. E.A.W. tried to slam the front door shut, but the defendant pulled the trigger shooting the victim, and pulled the trigger again after the door closed.

The defendant admitted fleeing and kicking a neighboring garage door open to try and locate a new vehicle. The defendant admitted fleeing on foot down the trail, and that he thought about killing himself.

Count 3 - Murder in the Second Degree - Intentional

St. Cloud Police Officers responding to the shooting observed the front door partially ajar . Upon entry into the residence, officers observed E.A.W., an unarmed 68-year-old male, lying in the downward stairs of the split-level entryway. Officers swiftly cleared the residence and began providing medical care to E.A.W., who had sustained exit and entry wounds from two apparent gunshots. Officers drove the Mayo ambulance as paramedics attempted to perform life saving measures for E.A.W. en route to the hospital. E.A.W. was able to provide a description of the suspect who shot him before he was sedated.

At approximately 10:10 a.m., E.A.W. was pronounced dead at the St. Cloud Hospital from the two gunshot wounds inflicted by the defendant's intentional firing of two .45 caliber bullets into and through his body at close range. Responding officers, investigators, and BCA Crime Scene Team Personnel recovered two .45 caliber cartridge casings outside of the residence, observed two bullet holes through the front door, and two bullets inside the residence.

Investigation of the scene, area canvassing, witness statements, search warrants, Ring surveillance cameras, and additional investigation corroborated the above details. Audio and video from a neighbor's surveillance depict, at approximately 6:11 a.m., the stolen Audi travelling at a high rate of speed toward tree debris in the roadway. Audio depicts brakes being applied. At approximately 6:12:27 a.m. on the surveillance video, 2 apparent gunshots are observed. E.A.W. then yells for D.A.W. by first name.

D.A.W. spoke with officers and stated that she had been sleeping when she heard pounding on the door and the doorbell. D.A.W. heard 2 pops that sounded like gunshots, and then heard E.A.W. screaming for help. D.A.W. came downstairs and observed E.A.W. had been shot. D.A.W. tried to call 911 but the landline did not work, so she found her car keys and sped to the neighbor's house to call. D.A.W. stated that she heard E.A.W. call her again by her name, saying "get an ambulance, I'm dying." D.A.W. advised investigators that there was no reason anyone would have shot E.A.W. Neighbors confirmed hearing two sounds prior to D.A.W. racing to their home, hysterical, and asking to call 911 as E.A.W. had been shot.

Responding officers observed the fallen tree, tire marks in the driveway, and the stolen Audi, MN ETL634, in the grass near E.A.W.'s residence. The keys were in the ignition. Officers smelled burning antifreeze and heat from the hood. A subsequent search warrant revealed a black pellet gun on driver's seat floorboard, a .45 caliber magazine with 4 live bullets on the passenger seat, and drugs and drug paraphernalia. Investigators later had to have the vehicle towed as it was inoperable.

Investigators tracked the defendant's flight from the residence. Investigators canvassed the neighborhood and observed the service door to a garage in a nearby residence had been damaged, consistent with the defendant's attempt to steal a second vehicle. Investigators photographed a muddy shoe print on the door and a broken door jamb. Officers called the home owner, who was not home and indicated that no car was in the garage. During a search, no items were taken from inside the garage.

A postmortem examination was performed by Midwest Medical Examiner's Office. It showed two indeterminate range gunshot wounds to the chest and abdomen. The cause of death was ruled homicide.

This investigation remains ongoing.

Complainant has reason to believe and does believe that all of the above information is true and correct.

The above facts constitute your complainant's basis for believing that, on or about the 20th day of June, 2021, in the Cities of Waite Park and St. Cloud, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota, the above-named defendant committed the offenses described herein:

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Kaydee M Stockinger
Court Officer
101 11th Avenue N
St. Cloud, MN 56302
Badge: 201

Electronically Signed:
06/22/2021 10:51 AM
Stearns County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Carl Ole Tvedten
Assistant Stearns County
Attorney
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320) 656-3880

Electronically Signed:
06/22/2021 10:26 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

☐ **SUMMONS**

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

☐ **WARRANT**

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

☐ *Execute in MN Only*☐ *Execute Nationwide*☐ *Execute in Border States*☒ **ORDER OF DETENTION**

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: June 22, 2021.

Judicial Officer

Frederick L. Grunke
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 06/22/2021 11:07 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF STEARNS
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Jason Robert Beckman

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of Detention upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: