GREENE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 02/03/2024 Case #: GCS240202000476

I, DANNY A WROOLIE, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that CHRISTIAN TYLER BENTZ, White/Male committed one or more criminal offenses.

2. The following crime(s) happened on 2024/02/02 21:52 - 2024/02/02 22:30 at E GRAND ST and S JOHN Q HAMMONS PKWY, SPRINGFIELD MO.

3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, R.W. reported their red 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe had been stolen from their home in Galena, Stone County, Missouri. The VIN associated with the stolen Chevrolet was 1GNSKBE07CR276948. Stone County Sheriff's documented this incident regarding the stolen Chevrolet in report L24-00435.

On Friday, February 2, 2024, I received information Christian Bentz was going to be in the area of Main Avenue and Madison Street, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri. I was informed Bentz would be driving a red Chevrolet Tahoe. I was previously made aware of an investigation regarding Bentz as the suspect in an auto theft investigation, GCS24-00471. Detective Tom Stilson had probable cause to arrest Bentz regarding this investigation. I also learned Bentz was a revoked driver and had a failure to appear warrant for his arrest regarding a traffic case.

Several Greene County Detectives responded to the area of Main Avenue and Madison Street and observed a red Chevrolet Tahoe departing the area. Deputy Reyne Wallace was in the area and began following the Chevrolet eastbound on Grand Street. I learned Deputy Wallace observed the Chevrolet had a broken passenger side tail light and was displaying a rear Texas license plate of PSV0041, which didn't check to anything. Deputy Wallace attempted to conduct a traffic stop in the area of Grand Avenue and John Q. Hammons Parkway by initiating his emergency lights and siren in his fully marked Greene County Patrol vehicle.

The Tahoe failed to yield, picked up speed, and continued eastbound. Deputy Wallace documented the pursuit as follows:

- East on Grand
- North on Glenstone
- East on Cherry
- North on Villa Rose

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- West on Walnut St
- South on Elmwood
- East on Horning
- South on Monte Vista
- East on Cherry
- North on Farm Road 197
- East on Farm Road 132
- North on State Highway 125
- East on State Highway OO
- The vehicle came to a stop just east of Oriole Road on State Highway OO

During the pursuit, the driver reached speeds of 90 miles on hour on city streets in Springfield reaching. While the driver was fleeing from law enforcement they passed several cars on the left, drove in the opposing lane of travel, and almost hit a pedestrian. When the Chevrolet was northbound on Glenstone Avenue it ended up going eastbound on Cherry Street by going over a curb and cutting through a parking lot near a bus stop. In Deputy Wallace's dash camera, a pedestrian can be seen jumping out of the to avoid be hit by the fleeing Chevrolet. The pursuit was approximately fifteen minutes in length.

As the Chevrolet continued to flee toward Strafford it can be seen on dash camera driving in the opposing lane several times, swerving, and drove through a few yards. Several cars were passed during the pursuit along with a few pedestrians.

The Chevrolet came to a stop after it went off road on State Highway OO just as it left Greene County and entered into Webster County near the mile 91-mile marker on Interstate 44. The driver fled into the wood line he attempted to drive through which his vehicle got stuck in. The driver fled several hundred yards on foot through the woods and hid on top of a trailer. The driver was soon after found and arrested without incident. The driver was identified as Christian Bentz which was confirmed using police resources. Bentz's failure to appear warrant out of Ozark was also confirmed. Bentz was arrested 2226 hours without further incident. Bentz was also found to be a revoked driver.

The passenger was identified as Latisha Waldorf. Latisha was found to have several warrants for her arrest and was transported to the Greene County Jail without incident.

I processed the vehicle by taking digital pictures of the exterior and interior. I checked the VIN, 1GNSKBE07CR276948, and learned this Chevrolet had previously been reported stolen regarding the above-mentioned Stone County case.

I also located a black AK47 style rifle in the back seat which would have been accessible by the driver. The rifle was made by Palmetto State Armory, model GF3-87058, and a serial number of AKB087058. This rifle had a magazine inserted with one round of 7.62 loaded inside of it. I later learned this rifle had been report stolen out of Springfield, and documented under Springfield Police Department report 24-002458. J.R. reported his rifle had been stolen out of his vehicle in an apartment complex parking lot in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri. I made phone contact with J.R. who confirmed the rifle in the Chevrolet was his. J.R. stated he was unaware who stole it and did not know who Bentz was. J.R. stated nobody had permission to have or borrow his rifle. J.R. also stated he wished to pursue charges.

I also located a small clear bag with a white powder residue in the center console of the vehicle. Based on my training and experience this appeared to be crystal methamphetamine, a schedule II-controlled substance. The bag was mostly residue, however, did have a few crystalline flakes around the edges.

The vehicle also contained several keys clipped together. These keys belonged to several different types of vehicles, and several of them had edges that looked like had been altered to be smoother. These are commonly referred to as "bump keys" and are used to help subjects break into and steal vehicles. There was also a slim Jim, a long flat metal tool also used to help break into vehicles located near the driver's seat.

Deputy Wallace spoke with Bentz at the jail and conducted a DWI investigation. Bentz told Deputy Wallace he smoked "meth" about an hour and a half prior to the traffic pursuit. Bentz refused to allow a blood draw. Deputy Wallace completed a search warrant application for a blood draw which was signed and granted. Deputy Wallace will be completing an additional affidavit upon receipt of the laboratory results.

During a post-Miranda interview with Bentz, he told Detective Tom Stilson he was aware the Chevrolet was a stolen vehicle which is why he fled from the Sheriff's Office. Bentz stated Waldorf told him to run as well due to her outstanding arrest warrants. Bentz told Detective Stilson he chronically used drugs to include marijuana and methamphetamine. Bentz also stated he has ran from law enforcement on other occasions as well, to include the Greene County Sheriff's Office, Springfield Police Department, and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office.

Bentz stated this evening was no exception as he was fully aware he was running from law enforcement. Bentz was asked about the pedestrian near Glenstone Avenue and Cherry Street he almost hit. Bentz stated he recalled this person, and knew he came at least within 6 feet of him.

Bentz also stated he was aware of the AK47 rifle in the Chevrolet. Bentz stated he obtained the stolen rifle from another subject who got it while they were out "carhopping" one night.

Warrant Information if requesting a warrant rather than a summons:

1. I have reasonable grounds to believe the defendant will not appear based on the following information:

Bentz has a resisting arrest conviction, and led Deputies on a high-speed pursuit on February 2, 2024. Bentz also had a failure to appear warrant out of Ozark regarding a traffic citation.

☐ Not Applicable

2. I have reasonable grounds to believe the defendant poses a danger to a crime victim, the community, or any other person based on the following information:

Based on my training and experience I know subjects who led law enforcement on high-speed pursuits put the public at risk. I also know subjects who run in stolen vehicles with stolen firearms will often use the vehicle or firearm against law enforcement or other members of the public to avoid capture.

During the pursuit Bentz almost hit a pedestrian along with other motor vehicles. Bentz also stated he has a pattern of running from law enforcement as this wasn't the first time. Bentz also put the community at risk by driving at all as he was likely impaired on crystal methamphetamine, a substance I know that causes individuals to act irrationally.

☐ Not Applicable

The facts contained above are true.

/s/ Danny Wroolie	G1044	Detective
Signature	DSN	Title

Not an Official Court Document