

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of North Dakota

United States of America
v.
TESSA ANN MARIE JAKSA

Case No. 3:21-mj-317

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of July 19, 2021 in the county of Richland in the
District of North Dakota, the defendant(s) violated:

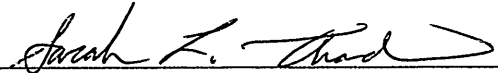
Code Section
18 U.S.C. 2113(a)

Bank Robbery

Offense Description

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:
See Affidavit

☐ Continued on the attached sheet.



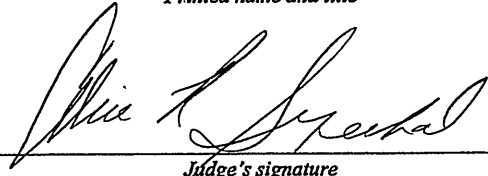
Complainant's signature

Sarah L. Thaden, Special Agent/FBI

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 07/20/2021



Judge's signature

City and state: Fargo, ND

Alice R. Senechal, Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Sarah Thaden, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and have been so employed since March 2016. I have been assigned to the Minneapolis Division, Fargo, North Dakota Resident Agency since August 2020. Previously, I was assigned to the Washington Field Office, Northern Virginia Violent Crimes Task Force between August 2016 and August 2020. Prior to being hired as a Special Agent with the FBI, I was a police officer with the Charlottesville, Virginia Police Department and was so employed from July 2011 to February 2016.

2. I am a graduate of the FBI Basic Field Training Course in Quantico, VA and the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course at the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy in Weyers Cave, VA. I have received formal training in the investigation of violent crimes, including specialized training in forensic evidence collection. I have received training regarding computer crimes and have participated in the execution of search warrants involving electronic evidence. I have a graduate degree in Linguistics, focusing on Forensic and Sociolinguistics. I have investigated or assisted in the investigation of a number of cases involving violent criminal activity and crimes against persons and property. I have been a sworn law enforcement officer during all times herein.

3. I make this affidavit in support of a criminal complaint charging TESSA ANN MARIE JAKSA (AKA: TONY ANTHONY BUFORD JAKSA) with violations of Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 2113(a), Bank Robbery.

4. The facts and information contained in this Affidavit are based upon my training and experience, participation in federal investigations, personal knowledge, and observations during the course of this investigation, as well as the observations of other law enforcement involved in this investigation. All observations not personally made by me were related to me by the individuals who made them or were conveyed to me by my review of records, documents, and other physical evidence obtained during the course of this investigation. This Affidavit contains information necessary to support probable cause and is not intended to include each and every fact and matter observed by me or known to the Government.

RELEVANT STATUTE

5. Based on my training and experience, and discussions with federal prosecutors assigned to this investigation, I have learned that Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 2113(a) makes it a crime for any person to use force and violence or intimidation to take or attempt to take any property or money or any other thing of value belonging to any bank, credit union, or loan association.

FACTS ESTABLISHING PROBABLE CAUSE

A. Reporting and Investigation of the Bank Robbery

6. On July 19, 2021 at approximately 10:50am an unknown subject robbed the Lincoln State Bank located at 400 Ash Avenue, Wyndmere, North Dakota 58081. According to the victim teller, who was interviewed by Investigator Josh Beto of the Richland County Sheriff's Office following the robbery, the subject entered the bank and stated something to the effect of, "I have a gun and I want all the money." The victim teller said the money was not available at that teller station and the subject said "Where is all the money?" before displaying a black handgun to the victim teller. The victim teller moved to another teller counter and proceeded to give the subject the money at that teller station before activating an alarm to summon help. The subject then fled the bank in a tan or taupe colored extended cab pickup truck with a topper on it. The total loss to the bank was \$7,147 in unknown denominations.

7. The subject was described as a tall white person, believed to be a female, with a heavy build, blond hair, wearing a white construction hard hat, black sunglasses, a blue medical face mask, a neon yellow construction jacket with silver reflective strips, gloves, black pants, and black shoes. The subject also appeared to be carrying a dark colored bag or satchel over one shoulder from which the gun may have been drawn.

8. Investigators from the Richland County Sheriff's Office recovered photographs from video surveillance within the bank that captured the description of the suspect and vehicle as described above.

Identification of Suspect

9. On July 19, 2021 the Richland County Sheriff's Office released photographs of the suspect and the suspect vehicle to the local media to solicit tips from the public on the identity and whereabouts of the suspect.

10. Following the media release, the Richland County Sheriff's Office was contacted by a witness (WITNESS-1) who advised that the suspect also appeared to have been in the People's State Bank located in Fairmount, North Dakota at approximately 9:55am on July 19, 2021. The suspect was captured on surveillance video and appeared to match the physical and clothing description of the suspect seen in photos from the Lincoln State Bank in Wyndmere, ND at approximately 10:50am. The two banks are approximately 41 miles apart.

11. Following the media release, the Moorhead Minnesota Police Department made contact with a citizen (WITNESS-2) who advised they saw a vehicle that resembled the one in the media related to the bank robbery and that it was parked in the parking lot of an apartment complex located in Moorhead, Minnesota, which in the District of Minnesota. The citizen also advised they attempted to look inside of the vehicle to get a better view of the person inside and observed a woman who appeared to be trying to conceal items in the vehicle. The citizen also stated they saw a white hard hat in the vehicle. As described previously, the subject seen in photos from the bank robbery in Wynmere, ND appeared to be wearing a white hard hat.

12. The Moorhead Police Department, including Detective Nick Wiedenmeyer, responded to the area of the apartment complex and observed the suspect vehicle parked in the parking lot of the apartment complex. He also observed a white female in the open garage for Apartment 307. He attempted to interview the female, who was identified as Tessa Ann Jaksa

(AKA: Tony Anthony Buford Jaksa) about the robbery. Jaksa appeared to be very nervous and advised she had been driving the suspect vehicle in Wyndmere, ND the week prior but was not there earlier in the day. She advised she was a traveling nurse and was in Bismarck on July 18, 2021 before returning to Moorhead, Minnesota the following day. She stated she got gas in her car between 8am-9am on July 19, 2021 and then she got her nails done at a local salon around 12pm that afternoon. She did not advise where she was between 9am and 12pm. She advised she had multiple guns in her apartment, including two pistols and a long gun and that her cell phone and her roommate's cell phone were located inside of the apartment. She consented to a search of her vehicle and continued to talk to investigators.

13. During the consent search of the suspect vehicle, Moorhead Police Department officers located a blue medical face mask, black sunglasses, and a black bag or satchel that all appeared to resemble those seen on the suspect in the photos obtained from surveillance video of the Lincoln State Bank by Richland County Sheriff's Office investigators. At that point, Jaksa was detained by Moorhead Police Department, invoked her Miranda Rights, and requested to speak to a lawyer.

14. Shortly after these events took place, Task Force Officer Steven Long of the FBI and I arrived at the apartment complex and pulled our cars up near the front of the open garage where Jaksa was being detained. Jaksa called over Detective Nick Wiedenmeyer and made a spontaneous utterance to the effect of, "You don't need to get all these people involved. I fucked up. I knew I messed up as soon as I did it." Jaksa advised officers they did not need to get a search warrant and that she would consent to a search of her apartment and garage. She advised

she had been off of her medication lately. She further made additional spontaneous utterances to the effect of, "Everything you're looking for can be found in the garage, the car, and the apartment." She further confirmed that her birth name was Tony Anthony Buford Jaksa.

15. According to Minnesota DMV records, the suspect vehicle is registered to Tony Anthony Buford Jaksa. The suspect, Tessa Ann Jaksa, is a transgendered female whose birth name is Tony Anthony Buford Jaksa. According to DMV records obtained by the FBI, Tony Anthony Buford Jaksa has the same birth date and is linked to the records of Tessa Ann Jaksa. Both names are associated with the Jaksa's residence in Moorhead, Minnesota according to Minnesota DMV records. I also learned that Jaksa had her name legally changed in a court proceeding in 2016.

16. According to DMV records, the subject vehicle is described as maroon in color. However, the surveillance photos obtained from the Lincoln State Bank appear to show a dark gray or silver vehicle of the same or similar make and model. When I observed the subject vehicle parked at the subject premises on July 19, 2021, it appeared to be silver in color and consistent with the photos from the Lincoln State Bank.

17. On July 19, 2021 I obtained a search and seizure warrant in the District of North Dakota for the premises of 3980 16th Street South, Apartment 307, Moorhead, Minnesota and the suspect vehicle, all of which were located in the District of Minnesota. This is the residence and vehicle belonging to Jaksa.

18. Upon execution of the search warrant, Agents and officers of the FBI and the Moorhead Police Department located items of evidence that appeared to be consistent with the

clothing items observed on the suspect from surveillance photos obtained by the Richland County Police Department from the Lincoln State Bank during the bank robbery. For example, in the surveillance photos, the armed robber was observed wearing a white hard hat, dark sunglasses, a blue medical face mask, a neon yellow construction jacket with silver reflective strips, gloves, black pants, and black shoes, and carrying a dark colored bag or satchel. During the search warrant a plastic garbage bag located in the garage contained a pair of black socks, black pants, yellow neon construction jacket with silver reflective strips, and gray gloves. A white hard hat, black shoes, and black shoulder bag or satchel were also located in the garage. A pair of dark colored sunglasses, a blue medical mask, and cell phone were located in the suspect vehicle. The clothing items seized from the garage and the vehicle appeared to be consistent with the clothes worn by the robber in the surveillance photos from the bank.

19. Further, a black semi-automatic handgun identified as a Beretta 92 9mm pistol containing a magazine loaded with ammunition was located in the bedroom belonging to Jaksa. Also located in the bedroom was a red zippered banker's money pouch containing a stack of cash that was separated by rubber bands according to denomination. SA Eric Hellekson and I counted the cash and determined the total amount to be \$7,147, which was the exact amount of money reported stolen by Lincoln State Bank to Richland County Sheriff's Office.

20. Shortly after the start of the execution of the search warrant, Jaksa requested the opportunity to speak to investigators and wished to waive her Miranda Rights. She had invoked her right to a lawyer several hours prior. FBI Task Force Officer Steven Long advised Jaksa of her Miranda Rights a second time, and she signed an Advice of Rights form, indicating she

understood her rights and wished to waive them in order to speak to investigators. TFO Long interviewed Jaksa, some of which I was present for and heard, during which time Jaksa admitted to robbing the bank with a gun in Wyndmere on July 19, 2021. She further stated she had been planning to rob a bank for almost two weeks and had prepared by purchasing some of the clothing articles such as the shoes and gloves at a Menards in Jamestown, ND and a Walmart in Dilworth, MN. TFO Long located receipts for Menards and Walmart in the garage during the search that appeared to be consistent with the information provided by Jaksa. She stated she had also purchased a police scanner to attempt to intercept police communications and had driven to several small towns in North Dakota to surveil banks in those towns over the past two weeks. Jaksa advised she also entered the People's State Bank in Fairmount, ND on the morning of July 19, 2021 with a loaded gun with the intent to rob the bank. She stated she got scared and knew it was wrong while she was in the bank so she instead asked for a notary, said she forgot something in her car, and left the bank.

21. TFO Long also interviewed the roommate of Jaksa, (Witness-3) who advised Jaksa came home on the afternoon of July 19, 2021 and admitted to robbing a bank that day. The witness told Jaksa she needed to turn herself in to police and assisted Jaksa in gathering up the clothing items and placing them in the plastic garbage bag just prior to the arrival of the Moorhead Police Department officers.

22. Following the conclusion of the search, I placed Jaksa into custody on a probable cause arrest based on the information I learned that day through local law enforcement agency investigations, witness statements, the collection of evidence items pursuant to a search warrant

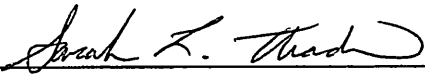
that were found to be in the possession of Jaksa and that were consistent in appearance with those seen in surveillance photos of the robbery suspect, and with Jaksa's own admissions of her involvement in planning and robbing the bank.

23. On July 20, 2021 I verified with an employee of Lincoln State Bank that the bank is federally insured in accordance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

CONCLUSION

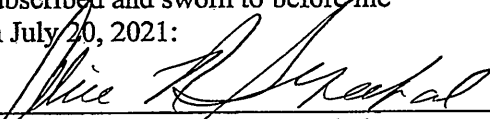
24. Based on the information detailed above, I respectfully submit there is probable cause to charge JAKSA with violations of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 2113(a), Bank Robbery.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah L. Thaden
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on July 20, 2021:



The Honorable Alice R. Senechal
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE