



AFFIDAVIT OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT DREW COTA

Now comes Detective Sergeant Drew Cota, affiant, being duly sworn and on oath, deposes and says he has probable cause to believe that Scott Mason, DOB 10/09/86 has committed the offense of *Attempted Murder, Aggravated Assault of Protected Professional*, in violation of Title 13, V.S.A. 2301, 9, 1028.

- 1) I, Detective Sergeant Drew Cota, am a law enforcement officer certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council and have been since December 4th, 2009. I am now and have been for the past 15 plus years, a full-time employee of the Vermont State Police, being presently assigned to the Major Crime Unit as a Detective Sergeant. As a member of the Major Crime Unit, I am responsible for investigating homicides and violent crime that occur throughout the State of Vermont.
- 2) The information contained within this affidavit is based upon my investigation, training and experience, as well as information conveyed to me during the course of this investigation that I learned directly from Vermont State Police Troopers and St. Johnsbury Police Department named herein for purposes of this Affidavit. The law enforcement personnel I spoke with have advised me that they believe the information to be true and accurate.

Background

- 3) On December 13, 2024, at approximately 1624 hours St. Johnsbury Police Department (SJPD) received a call from the Vermont State Police (VSP) dispatch regarding a domestic assault which was reported at the House of Pizza in St. Johnsbury between a Patrice and Scott Mason. VSP dispatch advised SJPD Scott Mason, DOB 10/09/86, was assaulting Patrice Mason, DOB 09/09/88, in their apartment. The dispatcher stated Patrice and Scott were in apartment 3, and earlier Scott had a firearm. There was confusion initially if Patrice and Scott were at the House of Pizza or their apartment, but VSP dispatch stated they were at their apartment two doors down from the House of Pizza. The unidentified caller to VSP dispatch stated she was in the apartment above the House of Pizza but had just seen Scott "beating on" Patrice in their apartment. The VSP dispatcher stated to the SJPD dispatcher they believe the SJPD is very familiar with Patrice and Scott. SJPD advises they will get Officers enroute. A case was generated requesting a response to 261 Portland Street in St. Johnsbury.
- 4) Officers Jasmine Hendry, Kevin Wilson, Steven Hartwell, and Captain Dale "Jason" Gray, responded to the residence. Captain Gray and Officer Hendry responded in the same

cruiser and Officers Wilson and Hartwell responded in another. Upon arrival, Captain Gray and Officer Hendry went inside the building and Captain Gray was shot by an unknown person. Captain Gray was then rushed to the hospital with gunshot wounds to multiple locations on his body.

Interview with Patrice Mason

- 5) Patrice Mason was interviewed by State Police Det. Sgt. Lyle Decker. During the interview Patrice stated Scott Mason had been acting "delusional", talking to himself and to people who were not there. She stated he was five days off of fentanyl but was still using cocaine base (crack cocaine). She stated she and Scott had been arguing all day, but denied anything was physical, though she had a mark on her face. Patrice stated she and Scott left the house for a short time and went next door to the House of Pizza where their friends Sam Connors and Carrie Ann Farrow, DOB 09/04/90, live in apartment 3. They then returned to their apartment at 261 Portland Street.
- 6) A short time later Captain Gray and the SJPd arrived at their apartment. She stated she knows Captain Gray. While talking with him as he came up the stairs, she pointed down the hall, to her left, and stated Scott was down there on the porch. She then heard a shot and saw Captain Gray move. She turned and ran down the back steps with Darlene Gilchrist, DOB 03/01/88. She told Det. Sgt. Decker it had only been Patrice, Scott, and Darlene in the apartment at the time of the shooting.
- 7) While going over the events again, Patrice stated Scott was on the indoor porch off the main hallway of the apartment. She stated she could see the officers coming up the stairs and pointed down to the porch that he was "right there." She stated she didn't know Scott had a gun because she thought they were gone. She then stated he had a gun around the house earlier and thought it was a muzzleloader.
- 8) Patrice told Det. Sgt. Decker Scott had been wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and grey sweatpants.

Interview with Darlene Gilchrist

- 9) Darlene Gilchrist was interviewed by Det. Sgt. Decker. She stated she had been at the apartment with Scott and Patrice all day and witnessed them arguing. She stated she had also seen Scott bite Patrice on the face. She stated Scott was acting delusional, talking to himself and to people who were not there. She stated she heard one shot and then she and Patrice ran out of the residence.

Interview with Officer Jasmine Hendry

- 10) Det. Sgt. Decker and I conducted a preliminary interview with Officer Hendry at the SJPd. During the interview she stated a call of a domestic disturbance came into dispatch involving Patrice and Scott Mason. Officer Hendry stated she is familiar with

both individuals. Upon arrival to the residence, they found the door on the porch unlocked, which was unusual as this door is always locked when SJPd responds. She stated Captain Gray found the door unlocked and they went inside. Once at the top of the stairs she heard a loud bang and thought a "flash bang" had gone off. She retreated down the stairs. She then realized Captain Gray was still upstairs and went to go get him, but he was coming down covered in blood saying he had been shot in the arm and face and needed an ambulance. She stated she tried to assess his wounds, but then drove him to the hospital. Officer Hendry stated she did not fire her department issued handgun and was not sure if Captain Gray had fired his or not. Officer Hendry's duty weapon and magazines were photographed, and the rounds were counted. All three magazines were found to be at a full capacity of 13, with one round from the chamber.

Officer Jasmine Hendry's Body Worn Camera Review

- 11) I reviewed the Body Worn Camera (BWC) video of Officer Hendry, provided by the SJPd. Upon review of the video, I observed the following. Captain Gray and Officer Hendry approach the front door and then make entry into the front of the residence. Captain Gray went to the top of the stairs first while speaking with a female at the top of the stairs. Officer Hendry was still on the stairs when a loud bang is heard. Captain Gray is seen facing down the hallway toward the porch area when he appears to be hit. Officer Hendry runs to the bottom of the stairs and a second bang is heard along with yelling. A male's voice was heard saying, "get the fuck out." A few seconds later Captain Gray is seen coming down the stairs covered in blood saying he needs an ambulance. Captain Gray said he has been hit in the arm and the face. He is seen holding a pistol in his right hand. Captain Gray is then loaded into a cruiser and driven to the Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (NVRH) by Officer Hendry.

Officer Kevin Wilson Interview

- 12) Officer Kevin Wilson was interviewed by Det. Sgt. Decker and I at the SJPd. During the interview he stated he heard two pops while outside the residence as he had not yet gone inside. After Captain Gray was taken to the hospital, he remained on scene with Officer Hartwell. Officer Wilson stated he observed multiple surveillance cameras inside and outside the residence which he pulled down.

911 Call from the Union Bank in St. Johnsbury

- 13) At approximately 1646 hours a call to 911 was received from a teller at the Union Bank located at 325 Portland Street. The teller appears to be relaying information as it is given to them by Patrice Mason. The teller relays to the 911 operator that Patrice identifies her husband, Scott Mason, as having shot a police officer. She says that Scott

also beat her. She thought two police officers were still on scene and then she didn't want to talk any more.

Investigation

- 14) The uniform of Captain Gray along with his issued duty gear were provided to SJPD Sgt. Lester Cleary at NVRH by medical personnel. I then secured these items from Sgt. Cleary which included Captain Gray's uniform, soft body armor, duty belt, BWC, and department issued handgun. While looking at Captain Gray's BWC, several small suspected projectile strikes were observed. Captain Gray's soft body armor appeared to have multiple small suspected projectile strikes. These small strikes were consistent in size with bird shot from a shotgun. Captain Gray's duty belt was fitted with a double magazine pouch, but no extra pistol magazines were located with his equipment. Captain Gray's duty pistol was found to have a round in the chamber and only 12 of a possible 13 rounds of ammunition in the magazine.
- 15) An attempt to download the BWC of Captain Gray was made, however the camera was damaged to the point it would not turn on.
- 16) After being assessed for injuries at NVRH, Captain Gray was transported to the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, New Hampshire. While there it was determined he had suffered injuries from a gunshot to his neck and torso area. His condition was listed as stable and intubated.
- 17) State Police Tactical Services Unit (TSU) conducted an exigent search of the building for Scott Mason. He was not located within the building or surrounding area. Multiple locations were searched and tips followed up on by State, Local, and Federal agencies in an attempt to locate Scott, however he has not been located.
- 18) While TSU searched the residence for Scott Mason they observed a cartridge casing consistent with a pistol caliber on the floor of the second story apartment. Apparent blood was observed leading into the apartment from the main hallway area.
- 19) Based upon the aforementioned facts and circumstances, it is believed probable cause exists to issue an arrest warrant for Scott Mason for the Attempted Murder and Aggravated Assault of a Protected Professional of St. Johnsbury Police Department Captain Dale "Jason" Gray.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on,

Monday, December 16, 2024


Judicial Officer



Det. Sgt. Drew Cota

Monday, December 16, 2024



SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT OF DETECTIVE SERGEANT DREW COTA

Now comes Detective Sergeant Drew Cota, affiant, being duly sworn and on oath, deposes and says he has probable cause to believe that Scott Mason, DOB 10/09/86 has committed the offense of *Persons prohibited from possessing firearms; conviction of violent crime, While committing a felony, Unlawful mischief*, in violation of Title 13, V.S.A. 4017, 4005, 3701.

- 1) I, Detective Sergeant Drew Cota, am a law enforcement officer certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council and have been since December 4th, 2009. I am now and have been for the past 15 plus years, a full-time employee of the Vermont State Police, being presently assigned to the Major Crime Unit as a Detective Sergeant. As a member of the Major Crime Unit, I am responsible for investigating homicides and violent crime that occur throughout the State of Vermont.
- 2) The information contained within this affidavit is based upon my investigation, training and experience, as well as information conveyed to me during the course of this investigation that I learned directly from Vermont State Police Troopers and St. Johnsbury Police Department named herein for purposes of this Affidavit. The law enforcement personnel I spoke with have advised me that they believe the information to be true and accurate.

Crime Scene Search Team Search Warrant Execution at 261 Portland Street

- 3) On December 14, 2024, a warrant to search the residence of Scott Mason, located at 261 Portland Street, was issued by the Honorable Judge Michael Kainen. The warrant was executed by members of the State Police Crime Scene Search Team (CSST). During their processing of the scene, suspected projectile strikes consistent with bird shot from a shotgun shell were located on the door frame near the top of the stairs leading into the apartment's living room area. Based upon the trajectory of the strikes, it is believed they originated from the enclosed porch area at the end of the hallway which overlooks the driveway and street at the front of the residence. The distance from the apartment door to the door of the porch was approximately 25 feet.
- 4) During the search of the enclosed porch an unloaded .22 caliber rifle and an unloaded muzzleloader were found. Drug paraphernalia consistent with a pipe used to consume cocaine base (crack cocaine) was found. Two fired .410 gauge shotgun hulls were located on the floor in close proximity to each other. A large TV monitor was observed

which was connected to a surveillance video system consisting of multiple camera angles from around the interior and exterior of the residence.

- 5) Three (3) chairs were found on the porch, one (1) of which was facing out the window overlooking the driveway, and one (1) was positioned next to the window. The chair facing out the window was in close proximity to the .22 caliber rifle and muzzleloader. From this porch a person would be able to see when a vehicle parked in front of the residence and if someone walked toward the front door. This indoor porch was only accessible from a set of double doors which lead off the main hallway. Both doors were wooden with large plate glass windows. When facing the doors looking onto the porch, the left door was open and the right closed. The bottom third of the right window was broken with a large portion of the glass missing. On the inside of the porch a window sheer had been covering the glass and was observed to be torn at approximately the same height as the broken glass. The sheer also appeared to have possible gunshot residue as if a projectile had been fired through it at close range. This broken window and defect to the window sheer is consistent with the trajectory of the projectile strikes located on the doorframe and wall near the apartment's living room door entrance. It should be noted that based upon my review of BWC video from Officer Jasmine Hendry, Captain Dale "Jason" Gray was standing in the path of the shotgun projectiles as they were fired. Two (2) fired shotgun wad cups were located in the area between the porch and the apartment door frame.
- 6) Ammunition for a .22 caliber firearm and .410 gauge shotgun shells were located throughout the residence. An opened box of .410 gauge shotgun shells was located in the master bedroom with 20 .410 gauge shotgun shells located throughout the room. These shotgun shells were consistent in brand and color as the fired shotgun hulls located on the front porch.
- 7) Located at the threshold of the door at the top of the stairs, a single .45 Auto caliber cartridge casing was located. The headstamp of this cartridge casing showed it was a Federal 45 Auto +P, which is consistent with the department issued ammunition of Captain Gray. It should be noted during the count of ammunition in Captain Gray's duty weapon, the magazine held one (1) less cartridge than its capacity. A suspected projectile strike was located on the porch which exited out the window into the area of Caledonia Street. This projectile was not recovered. Based upon the strike area in the glass, it was believed the projectile was fired from the approximate area of the apartment door.
- 8) In the rear of the residence an open window which lead to the top of a garage was located. On the garage were footprints located in the snow which led off the edge of the garage onto the ground below. Just inside the apartment from this window a .410 gauge shotgun was located. This shotgun was determined to be a Mossburg model 183 DE, bolt action.
- 9) The DVR receiver hooked up to the TV monitor and camera system was collected and later analyzed by the State Police Technology Investigation Unit (TIU). During their

examination it was determined that the system was not recording to the hard drive of the system.

Antino Pepper Interview

- 10) On December 14, 2024, at approximately 2300 hours, Antino Pepper, DOB 01/17/97, flagged down SJPD Officers to provide information regarding the whereabouts of Scott Mason. SJPD dispatch contacted State Police to advise Pepper told them Scott was inside the first floor apartment of 251 Portland Street, St. Johnsbury, as of moments before he flagged down the SJPD.
- 11) Det. Trooper Kyle Fecher and I responded to the SJPD where we conducted an audio recorded statement with Pepper. He stated he had gone to the first-floor apartment of 251 Portland Street to get warm. He stated the resident of this apartment is "Tracy" and stated he believed she is the sister of Scott Mason. While in this apartment Pepper stated he saw Scott Mason, who he knows from prior interactions, referring to Scott as a "drug dealer." Pepper stated also in the residence was Scott's wife, Patrice Mason, who had brought over food. Pepper stated Scott and Patrice went into a back bedroom, near the bathroom, which is located near the basement. He advised Tracy, her husband, name unknown, John Russell, and Tisa Russell, were also in the apartment. He stated there was conversation about needing to get Scott out of the house and that they had arranged a ride to come pick him up soon. Pepper stated Scott was in possession of a black handgun and a wood stocked rifle. He described Scott as wearing jeans, black shirt, and tennis shoes. Pepper provided a rough sketch of the apartment and showed where Scott was located.
- 12) When Pepper was asked why he was providing information about Scott Mason, he stated Scott had "shot a cop" and it wasn't "cool." Pepper stated he is also trying to get out of Vermont to go home to Louisiana and knew there was a \$25,000 reward being offered for Scott's arrest. He stated he had no reason to provide false information because he wanted the reward money, and he is on with Probation and Parole. It should be noted that Pepper sought out law enforcement to provide this information. Prior to concluding the interview Pepper was verbally sworn to his information.
- 13) A warrant to search this residence for Scott Mason was authorized by the Honorable Judge Kainen and executed by the State Police Tactical Services Unit (TSU). During the warrant execution multiple people exited the residence and denied Scott was inside. Scott was later arrested when he came out of the residence when it was announced a K9 unit would be deployed inside. While being taken into custody, Scott struck a State Police observation drone causing significant damage.

Investigation

- 14) Scott Mason was transported to the St. Johnsbury State Police barracks before being taken to the Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital for treatment and evaluation of injuries. Upon his release from the hospital, he was transported to the Northeastern Regional Correctional Center due to his two (2) outstanding arrest warrants.
- 15) A review of Scott Mason's criminal history shows he has six (6) felony convictions, with two (2) for violent offenses. Mason was convicted of aggravated assault on December 23, 2019, and on August 30, 2011, making him ineligible to lawfully possess a firearm.
- 16) While reviewing the Body Worn Camera (BWC) video of Officer Hendry, it was observed there is only approximately five (5) seconds from the time Captain Gray gets to the top of the stairs and he is shot.
- 17) I conducted a preliminary examination of the clothing and body armor worn by Captain Gray. During this examination I observed dozens of small projectile strikes. Some of these strikes penetrated the clothing and appear to be stopped by the body armor which is designed to cover the upper torso, vital area, of the person wearing it.
- 18) I was advised Captain Gray suffered multiple projectile strikes to his neck and throat area as well as a collapsed lung. Captain Gray was placed into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and intubated due to the severity of his injuries.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on,

Monday, December 16, 2024


(Notary Public)


(Drew Cota)

Monday, December 16, 2024