



MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

21AO-CR00275

STATE OF MISSOURI)

COUNTY OF JASPER)

DATE: 02/25/2021

Missouri State Highway Patrol

CASE # 210089581

OCN:

I, SGT D. KUECHLER, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that O'NEAL, RYAN KIETH, currently residing at 115 HILL STREET, LIBERAL, MO 64762, born: [REDACTED] social security number: [REDACTED] hair/eye color: /BROWN, height/weight: 6' 3" / 230, committed the offense(s) listed below on 02/25/2021 at 1738 hours, at/on MO-43 1/8 MILE NORTH OF IVY ROAD, MO

TYPE	STATUTE	CHARGE CODE	DESCRIPTION
FEL C	565.024	565.024-001Y20200909.0	INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER 1ST DEGREE

2. State the facts that support a finding of probable cause to believe crime(s) was/were committed and that the accused committed the crime(s)

1. On February 25, 2021, at 1920 hours, I arrested Ryan Kieth O'Neal, age 44, of Liberal, Missouri, for Involuntary Manslaughter 1st Degree, and other traffic charges, after he was involved in a two-vehicle motor vehicle crash, which resulted in the death of the other driver. The crash occurred on MO 43 near Ivy Road, in Jasper County, Missouri, same date, at 1738 hours.

2. On February 25, 2021, at 1743 hours, I was notified of a motor vehicle crash on MO 43, just north of Ivy Road, in Jasper County, Missouri. I arrived on the scene at 1745 hours and began my crash investigation. I located a white 2002 Chevrolet 2500 pickup, with a cargo trailer, off the east side of the roadway, and to the north of it, a gray 2003 Toyota 4Runner off the east side of the roadway. Ambulances had just arrived and were treating both drivers who were injured in the crash. I noticed EMS personnel were conducting CPR on the female driver (and only occupant) of the Toyota 4Runner. I went to the driver (and only occupant) of the Chevrolet 2500, identified as Ryan Kieth O'Neal, date of birth, March 26, 1976, of Liberal, Missouri, and he was sitting on the ground, was conscious, and was complaining of injuries, as he was being treated by EMS. I asked Mr. O'Neal how the crash occurred, and he stated he did not remember, and he asked where his dog was. Due to the serious nature of other driver's injuries, I asked Mr. O'Neal to submit to a Preliminary Breath Test, and he voluntarily gave a sample at 1803 hours, with a result of 0.000% BAC. Mr. O'Neal was then taken to Mercy Hospital in Joplin for treatment. I went to the other ambulance to check the condition of the driver of the Toyota 4Runner, identified as Sevie Maria Davison, date of birth, July 28, 1997, of Oronogo, Missouri. EMS personnel were still conducting CPR on Ms. Davison, and they transported her to Mercy Hospital in Joplin. I notified Troop D Communications of the serious nature of her injuries, and they contacted the Major Crash Team #3, Trooper Tyler Wright, to respond to the scene. Cpl. J.L. Prewitt and Tpr. J.D. Fischer had also just arrived on the scene to assist in the investigation.

3. Cpl. Prewitt took photographs of the scene, and Tpr. Fischer gathered vehicle information. From physical evidence at the scene, it appeared that the 2002 Chevrolet 2500 had been traveling southbound on MO 43 and had crossed the centerline, striking the 2003 Toyota 4Runner, which was traveling northbound on MO 43, head on. After impact, the 2002 Chevrolet 2500 and cargo trailer slid off the east side of the roadway and overturned, and the Toyota 4Runner slid off the east side of the roadway and came to a rest in ditch line. Cpl. Prewitt and Tpr. Fischer remained on the scene until Crash Team member Tpr. Wright could arrive on scene. I obtained statements from several witnesses that indicated the driver of the white 2002 Chevrolet 2500 had been driving very reckless just prior to the crash. I went to Mercy Hospital in Joplin to gather further information from the drivers.

4. I arrived at Mercy Hospital and learned Sevia M. Davison, had been pronounced deceased at 1830 hours, by Dr. Darian Arman. I notified Troop D Communications there was a fatality involved in the crash, and also contacted Jasper County Coroner Rob Chappel. I located Mr. O'Neal in a trauma room and he was being treated for injuries. I asked Mr. O'Neal again how the crash occurred and stated he didn't know. As I spoke with Mr.

O'Neal, I did not notice any odor of alcohol on his breath. Mr. O'Neal's speech sounded normal, although he was in a lot of pain, and was moving around a lot on the gurney. I could not observe his eyes due to him constantly closing them due to his pain level. Due to the nature of the statements I received from many witnesses describing how reckless Mr. O'Neal was driving, I informed Mr. O'Neal that he was under arrest for Involuntary Manslaughter 1st Degree Homicide at 1920 hours, and asked Mr. O'Neal for a voluntary blood sample. Mr. O'Neal stated he would voluntarily give a blood sample, and he signed a Consent For Blood Alcohol/Drug Testing form for Mercy Hospital, and a copy is attached with this report. I witnessed two tubes of blood were obtained from Mr. O'Neal's right arm at 1940 hours, by Tessa Morgan RN. I took possession of the blood tubes, inverted them 20 times, labeled them, processed them as evidence, and entered them into the Troop D evidence system for drug analysis at the MSHP Crime Lab. A Property Record was submitted for the blood sample. I was not able to ask Mr. O'Neal further questions due to him being prepped for transportation to a trauma center at Saint Francis Hospital, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After I left the hospital, I went back to the scene which had just been cleared. I located a subject, Bailey Walker, telephone [REDACTED], who was a relative of Mr. O'Neal. Ms. Walker stated she was looking for Mr. O'Neal's dog, and described it as a black and brown German Shepherd with a red collar, and goes by the name of Punkin.

5. Both vehicles involved in the crash were towed from the scene by M&M Wrecker and held for safekeeping. Vehicle records for both vehicles have been submitted.

6. The statements I obtained from witnesses are as follows:

A. Vicki S. Sullivan, of 13170 CRD 270, Webb City, Missouri, telephone [REDACTED], stated: "I was going northbound on MO 43 north of the roundabout at MO 96, and I saw his headlights (from the 2002 Chevrolet 2500) through the windshield of the car in front of me because he had passed other vehicles and was in my lane. The car in front of me and myself slowed down and got off the road because he was in our lane. It was a white truck with a white trailer."

B. Shannah D. Cassatt, of 25105 State Highway 96, Webb City, Missouri, telephone [REDACTED], stated: "I went through the roundabout at MO 96 and MO 43 and entered right after him. The white truck was driving very erratic and very fast through the roundabout and looked like he went pretty straight through it. I was coming from the east on MO 96 and turned north on MO 43 when he was coming south. It looked like he almost hit a car in front of him."

C. Stephen A. Harrell, P.O. Box 45, Ash Grove, Missouri, telephone [REDACTED], stated: "I was turning north on MO 43 from going east on MO 96, and a white truck and trailer were going fast southbound on MO 43, and the trailer was fishtailing. He was driving like a maniac and he passed a Suburban in the roundabout. I saw his trailer pop up as he hit the curb in the roundabout."

D. Kathlene A. Wensch, of 409 Ruby Road, Carl Junction, Missouri, telephone [REDACTED], stated: "Before the crash happened, I was driving south on MO 43 coming up to the roundabout at MO 96. I saw a truck coming up extremely fast behind me and I had nowhere to go. I sped up so he would not hit me, and then he passed me in the roundabout, and I had to take the ditch right after the roundabout so he wouldn't hit me. I would be shocked if he was going less than 90 miles per hour. I saw him crash into the other vehicle and a big puff of smoke. After the impact I saw a dog run to the west. I stopped and began to give CPR to the girl."

E. Randall P. Wensch, of 409 Ruby Road, Carl Junction, Missouri, telephone [REDACTED], stated: "I was a passenger with my wife (Kathlene Wensch). We were headed south on 43 and approaching the roundabout at 96 and Kathy started to scream that we were going to get hit in the rear. As we were going through the roundabout, the white truck and trailer passed in in the roundabout. She had to take the ditch after that and he took off fast. We got over the hill and he was almost a half mile ahead of us already, and we saw him hit the other car. We stopped and my wife got out to help the girl. The guy in the truck got out of his back window and fell on the ground."

F. Hannah L. Helton, of 112 West Billings, Pittsburg, Kansas, telephone [REDACTED], stated: "I was going north on 43 and was behind her (Victim Sevia Davison) and he swerved over and hit the side of her. Then his trailer almost hit me, and I slammed on my brakes and pulled over the left shoulder. After the impact, oil had sprayed onto my car. I got out and then a black and brown German Shepherd was standing in the road, but I did not see it before the crash." I asked Ms. Helton if there were any vehicles traveling south in front of the white pickup truck that he may have been trying to pass, and she stated there were no other vehicles.

G. David D. Sexton, of 1924 Forest Street, Carthage, Missouri, telephone [REDACTED] stated from an online report of crime with the Joplin Police Department: "I believe I saw the same truck shortly before the accident driving very erratically. I was at the roundabout further north on Highway 43, the one that intersects with Highway 96.

There, I was pulling up to the entrance on the west end of the roundabout and saw a white truck with trailer driving very aggressively by swerving past what I think was a burgundy SUV by trying to get around him driving on the inside of the circle. It was very close to being an accident, but they didn't collide (or if they did, it was a bump and I didn't notice) and the truck made it out of the exit pushing the SUV to the right side of the road on the south exit. To clarify, I didn't see where he came in, but he did exit going south on 43, speeding off rather than pulling to the side of the road. Also, during the maneuver, a piece of metal grating or something like that flew off the truck and landed somewhere in the south-west corner of the roundabout. I was not sure if the metal thing hit the SUV, but it came close. I was probably at the roundabout somewhere between 5:25 - 5:35, but don't know the specific time. I just thought I should report this as it may pertain to what caused the accident that occurred shortly after. The driver of the truck was driving in a way that made me think he was going to crash, either accidentally or purposefully." On March 16, 2021, I contacted Mr. Sexton at his residence and confirmed the online report was entered by him, and he had no further comments to add.

H. On March 17, 2021, I contacted Regina P. Haynes, of 25577 Maple Road, Webb City, Missouri, telephone (417) 850-9729. Ms. Haynes was driving the red Toyota that was in front of witness Vicki Sullivan. Ms. Haynes stated: "I had got north of 96 Highway and a black car and semi were behind me, and the white truck was in my lane passing a white SUV. The truck got back over just in time to not hit me, and I went onto the shoulder to avoid him. It was a white truck and trailer that was doing the passing."

7. On March 4, 2021, I applied for a Search Warrant for the Event Data Recorder (EDR) on the 2002 Chevrolet Silverado 2500, VIN [REDACTED], with the Jasper County Circuit Court, Jasper County, Missouri. The warrant was signed by Judge Dean Dankelson on the same date, and a copy is attached with this report. On March 5, 2021, I notified Jasper County Sheriff Randy Kaiser of the search warrant, and I assisted Sgt. S.R. Richardson with the MSHP Major Crash Team #3, in serving the search warrant to obtain and download the EDR from the 2002 Chevrolet Silverado 2500, VIN 1GCHK24U92E212441, at M&M Wrecker Service, Carthage, Missouri. A Search Warrant Return And Itemized Inventory was sent back to the Jasper County Court on March 11, 2021.

8. The information taken from the 2002 Chevrolet Silverado 2500, VIN [REDACTED] Event Data Recorder, (EDR) indicates the vehicle was traveling at 84 miles per hour seconds before the crash. A copy of the EDR is attached with this report, and will be included in Sgt. S. Richardson's reconstruction report.

9. Charges against Mr. O'Neal will be sent to the Jasper County Prosecuting Attorney for filing of formal charges.

3. For the issuance of a warrant in the misdemeanor case, **complete at least one of the following.**

A. I believe the defendant will not appear in court to respond to a criminal summons because
Insert facts to show the defendant will not appear, e.g. there is an outstanding warrant for failure to appear

B. I believe the defendant poses: *Insert one or all of the following*
Insert facts showing defendant is a danger to victim, e.g. cursing victim, assaulted victim, threatened victim.
(1) a danger to a crime victim because

Insert facts showing defendant poses a danger, e.g. intoxicated to a level which is unsafe
(2) a danger to the community or to any other person because

I, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true



/s/ SGT D. KUECHLER

Signature

02/25/2021

Date