

**Statement of Probable Cause
County of Vernon**

Date: 04/20/2026

I, **Detective Christian Richter**, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state that the facts contained herein are true.

I have probable cause to believe that on, **04/20/2026**, the following criminal offense(s) were committed in Nevada, MO by the person(s) listed below:

Name: **Michael Brandon Lee Rice**

<u>Charge</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Charge Code</u>
Robbery 1 st Degree	F/A	570.023-001Y20201299.0

That the facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 04/20/2026, officers with the Nevada Police Department were dispatched to a business inside the city limits, for a robbery that had just occurred. Upon arrival, I Det. Richter made contact with V1 who stated a white male individual, approximately 5'9" in height, with short black hair, stubble, a black hoodie, with a logo on the right peck and blue jeans had just robbed the business for \$300. V1 stated that the individual told him he had a gun, but never showed it; however the V1 was in fear that he truly had a gun, and stated he wasn't going to risk it. V1 said that the individual told him to get the money out of the register, and when he began getting money out, told him to count out \$300 and give it to him. V1 stated that the individual acted as if he was going to pay for shoes that he had picked out, using a fake one-hundred dollar bill, and that is when he told him to get the money out of the register. V1 stated that the individual had been in the store for some time prior to robbing it, while other customers were there and stated that the individual asked him for help prior to robbing the store. After following up with business #2, regarding video footage, I was informed that an individual had called the business prior to my arrival and asked them if they had located \$300 they had lost. I took a photo of the phone number, and later looked the number up using Tool Box, through Leads Online. The phone number came back to Michael "Cletus" Rice, and showed an address in Parsons, KS. Officers were later dispatched back to the same business, as the employees believed the suspect was there. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the individual in question who identified himself as Michael Rice. While officers were pulling in to the parking lot, Michael appeared to be trying to hide his face, using the headliner of the vehicle. Michael matched the description of the individual that robbed the business, and I asked Michael if he had been to the business that was robbed that day, which he denied. In the passenger seat of the vehicle Michael was in, I located a black hoodie with a logo on the left peck, which would have been on the victim's right if they were facing Michael. I had Ofc. Zeolia take a photo of Michael and show V1. Ofc. Zeolia returned a short time later and informed me that V1 had positively identified Michael as the one that robbed the business. Michael declined to speak with me and asked for an attorney. Upon speaking with the individual that Michael was getting a ride from, they informed officers that Michael told them that he worked at business #2, and that they had been dropping him off for approximately two weeks. Upon speaking with management of the business, it was found that Michael did not work at the business, and that he had only interviewed there one time and had been hanging around for the last two weeks. Michael told the individual that he had been fired that day, prior to them picking him up. I asked the individual what Michael had said to them when officers pulled into the parking lot, and they said that they told her to keep going, and individual stated that Michael wanted to get out of there. The individual told me that Michael had a grocery sack with Alfredo sauce in it when they picked him up. I was later shown video still images from business #2 that showed Michael running from the area of the victim business, around business #3 and going to a wooded area, then returning to the parking lot of business #2 shortly after the robbery. I observed Michael to have a grocery sack in his hand in the images I was shown, and later followed up with business #4, which is

where the sack came from. I observed Michael leaving business #4 and walking in the direction of the victim business. Michael then walks behind the victim business and can no longer be seen. Approximately 3 minutes later, an individual who I believe to be Michael enters the victim business at 3:36pm and leaves at 4:08pm. The call for the robbery came into dispatch at 4:11pm, and V1 stated he believed the victim business was robbed at approximately 4:10pm because that is when he locked the doors to the business.

I believe that the defendant will not appear in court in response to a criminal summons because:

I believe that the defendant poses a danger to: Society, as he stated he had a gun and robbed the business.

Signature:  138

Agency Name: Nevada Police Department

Agency Case Number: 26-0545