

STATE OF MISSOURI)
)
 vs.)
)
 PETER LEON JANIS)
)
 DOB:)
)
 SSN:)

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

I, BRANDON E SPENCER

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 on 05/20/2024, at
 100 S CENTRAL AVE, FAIRVIEW, MO 64842,
 PETER LEON JANIS [REDACTED]
 committed one or more criminal offense(s):
 570.030-035Y202023 STEALING - \$750 OR MORE
 F/M: F COUNTS: 1 CHARGE TYPE: S

570.090-001Y202025 FORGERY
 F/M: F COUNTS: 1 CHARGE TYPE: S

576.040-001Y202050 OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT
 F/M: M COUNTS: 1 CHARGE TYPE: S

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:
 On May 21, 2024, Fairview city officials reported that funds were missing from the city accounts. The information was provided to the Missouri State Auditor's Office and led to an audit being conducted. On January 21, 2026, Newton County Sheriff's Office was made aware of key facts of the audit. The audit determined that \$10,314.23 worth of cash previously paid to the city of Fairview was not deposited in the bank. The records show this occurred over time through multiple deposits between June 2023 and April 2024. Peter Janis was the Mayor of Fairview between April 2023 and April 2024. Mr. Janis started to collect and manage water utility payments after both clerks resigned from their position in June 2023.

On March 10, 2026, I interviewed Mr. Janis after advising him of Miranda Warning regarding the missing water utility funds. Mr. Janis was very reluctant to provide information to my questions and behaved in an uneasy manner. Throughout the conversation Mr. Janis avoided eye contact, would take long pauses before providing an answer, and had difficulty composing his answers.

Mr. Janis eventually disclosed to me that he stole the money from the water utility payments. He stated that at the end of the day he would take the deposit bag kept at the city hall, separate the checks, cash, and money orders in the bag. He would complete a new bank deposit slip without the cash and place the checks, money orders, and new deposit slip in the bag. He would put the bag back and keep the cash. He stated this happened several times and often in different

Approved: sm

ways, however, this was the general process he used.

Mr. Janis stated that he used the cash for general expenses at home, such as gas, food, and clothing. He told me at times he would return some of the money or pay some back. I asked him if he would be willing to write a statement about his involvement. Mr. Janis provided a written statement explaining a portion of the process and how he repaid some of the cash.

[03/17/2026 11:09, BSPENCER, 150, NCSO]

3. For the issuance of a warrant in a misdemeanor case, complete the following

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

n/a

(b) I believe that the defendant poses

(1) a danger to a crime victim because

n/a

(2) a danger to the community or to any other person because

n/a

BRANDON E SPENCER

Date: 03/17/2026



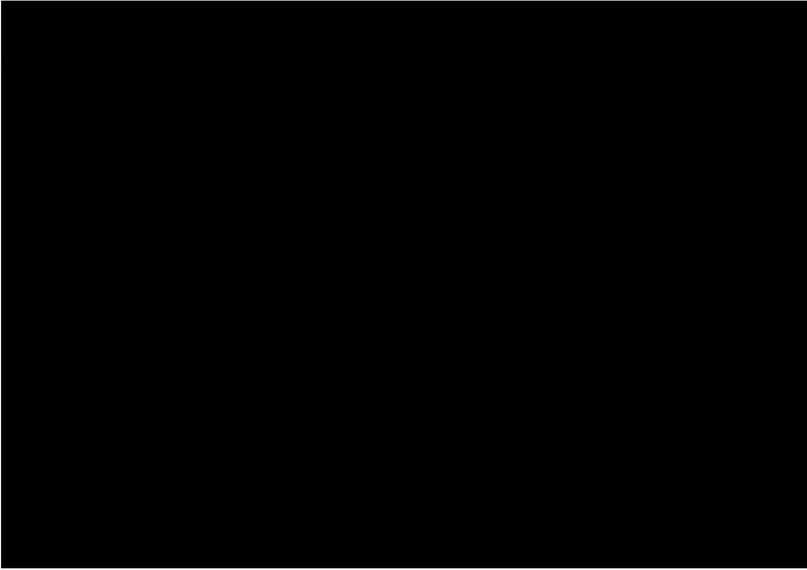
Signature

(re: NCSO Case # -)

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT CONTINUATION

NCSO CASE # - 24001001

JANIS, PETER L



CHARGES:

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