

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF MISSOURI
COUNTY OF Jasper

Date: 01/22/2026

I, Officer Jonathan Tabor, 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 01/21/2026 at the intersection of Highway 171 and Route Z, in Carl Junction, Jasper County, Missouri 64834, Merido Juarez Huinac, a Hispanic/Latino male, committed one or more criminal offense(s) of :

RSMo 577.010 DWI – E Felony

RSMo 577.060 Leaving the scene of an accident – E Felony

RSMo 575.100 Tampering with physical evidence – A Misdemeanor

RSMo 304.015 Drive on right of highway – A Misdemeanor

RSMo 302.020 Operation of motor vehicle without proper license – D Misdemeanor

RSMo 302.025 Duty to maintain financial responsibility – D Misdemeanor

Name: Merido Huinac

Arrested: 01/22/2026 at 0217 hours.

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

Merido Juarez Huinac was operating a motor vehicle without a license on Highway 171. Near the intersection of Highway 171 and RTE Z, he crossed over the center line and caused a head-on collision. After causing the collision, he attempted to leave, but the vehicle sustained too much damage to get far. He then threw out alcohol containers, which he had admitted to consuming then driving. Merido did not have valid insurance in the vehicle. Upon obtaining a blood sample, it was found that Merido's BAC was 0.13%.

On 01/21/2026, at approximately 2241 hours, a witness called 911 to report that a head-on motor vehicle crash occurred at Highway 171 and Route Z and that both drivers appeared to be injured.

Upon arrival, I observed a silver Dodge Caravan stopped in the middle of the roadway on Highway 171 and a silver Jeep Grand Cherokee stopped in the ditch to the West of Highway 171. The driver of the Dodge Caravan was identified as Merido Juarez Huinac. The driver of the Jeep Grand Cherokee was identified as James Nible. James sustained an injury to his forehead and was transported to Mercy Joplin via METS to be treated for injuries.

Helms Cisne stated that he observed the Dodge Caravan cross over the double-yellow center line and cause the crash. Austin Wilson stated that he followed the Dodge Caravan from the intersection of Demott and Fir Road. The vehicle committed several lane violations and they believed he could've been on a cellular device.

Austin observed Merido collide with the other vehicle. He then attempted to leave, but the damage sustained to his vehicle prevented him. There was 163'4" of skid marks that were caused by the front left of Merido's vehicle, after he attempted to get away. Witness 2 then observed Merido throwing a bag out the window and a couple small objects.

In the bag, I located alcohol that was empty. I then found 2 beer cans on the side of the road, next to the vehicle. They matched the same brand (Modelo) as the beer can in the driver's cup holder. The driver had ¼ of the can left full, cold to the touch.

Merido was contacted at Freeman Hospital where he was read Implied Consent. His BAC from his blood sample was 0.13%. I read Merido his Miranda Warnings, using a translator from AMN Healthcare Language Services. He advised he understood his rights, then he answered my questions. While reading the AIRs form, he admitted to consuming alcohol and then operating the motor vehicle. He admitted to drinking 5 beers, which was how many were located on the scene.

3. MISDEMEANORS AND FELONIES: I am requesting issuance of an arrest warrant based on the following:

- I believe that the defendant will not appear in court in response to a criminal summons because: Merido is not an American Citizen. While at the hospital, he asked for us to help him return home. He lives in Guatemala and could flee the country if he is released.
- I believe that the defendant poses a danger to a crime victim / the community or to any other person because: Merido knowingly drove a motor vehicle with no license, no insurance, all while in an intoxicated condition. He blatantly disregarded safety for the public and caused a collision that could have been fatal. He did not show remorse or apologize for the incident. Instead, he requested help to return to Guatemala.

Print Name: Jonathan Tabor 413 Signature: Jonathan Tabor 413
Supervisor: FTO Amos Bubba 418 Signature: FTO Amos Bubba 418

Agency Name: Carl Junction Police Department

Agency Case Number: 26-031

OCN: 7X002897