Electronically Filed - JASPER COUNTY - JOPLIN - May 19, 2026 - 02:15 PM

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF MISSOURI
COUNTY OF Jasper

Date: 05/19/2026

I, Lieutenant Trevor Hole, 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 05/18/2026 at 7:52 p.m. at 2442 S. Grand Avenue, City of Carthage, County of Jasper, State of Missouri , Marvin Ward, a black male, committed one or more criminal offense(s) of : Robbery 1st Degree (RSMO 570.023), Armed Criminal Action (RSMO 571.015), Unlawful Use of a Weapon (RSMO 571.030), Tampering with Evidence (RSMO 575.100), Prohibited of firearm unlawful for certain persons (RSMO 571.070), and Possession of defaced firearm (RSMO 571.050).

Name: Marvin Earl Ward

Arrested: May 18th, 2026; 11:00 p.m.

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 05/18/2026 at approximately 1952 hours, the Carthage Police Department was contacted in reference to an armed robbery that had just occurred at 2442 S. Grand Avenue. The reporting party advised that a black male had just brandished a firearm and stole cash from a till inside of the business prior to leaving on foot. Aldi's employees advised that the black male had taken approximately $2,100.00 dollars from the till.

During a subsequent investigation, it was later discovered that approximately 13 minutes after the robbery a black male and a white female had purchased a hotel room at the Carthage Inn (2244 S. Grand Ave.) 2 blocks north of Aldi's (the same direction the suspect was seen fleeing on security footage) using cash. Officers responded and contacted the female who was later identified as Betty Plopper. Plopper was wearing black scandal slides when she was contacted by officers and identified the male as Marvin Ward. Plopper stated that Ward was in room 211 with a firearm. Plopper then gave consent to go through her cell phone, and it was determined that she had made a bogus 911 phone call a few minutes prior to the actual robbery that occurred. Plopper stated that she did this so Ward wouldn't get in trouble while he committed the robbery.

A search warrant for the hotel room was obtained, and prior to executing the warrant, Ward stepped out of the hotel room and complied with officer commands and was detained for questioning.

Ward was advised of his Rights per Miranda, to which he stated that he understood and agreed to speak with me. Ward stated that he entered Aldi's with a firearm, and forcibly took the cash from the

till and fled the scene on foot. Ward then discarded the clothing that he wore during the robbery as he was fleeing northbound at a laundromat on the north end of the strip mall where Aldi's is located.

During a search of the hotel room, a silver Ruger P89 9mm handgun was located (it had 6 Hornady 9mm rounds in the magazine). The handgun did not have a serial number due to being defaced. Ward had stated that the handgun was his, and was inside of the hotel room. Law enforcement was able to recover $501.00 dollars in cash from Ward, Plopper, and inside of the hotel room.

After reviewing Ward's criminal history, he has been convicted of Robbery 2nd Degree on 06/22/2007, Domestic Assault 2nd Degree on 09/08/2010, Felony Stealing on 01/13/2020, and Possession of a Controlled Substance on 12/20/2022.

3. **MISDEMEANORS AND FELONIES**: (If seeking a warrant) 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:

Ward does not maintain a stable residence and is believed to be transient, alternating between temporary hotel lodging and homelessness. Due to his lack of a fixed address and transient living situation there is a substantial likelihood he would not reliably receive or respond to a criminal summons if issued.

☒ I believe that the defendant poses a danger to ☐ a crime victim / ☒ the community or to any other person because:

Ward admitted to performing a forcible armed robbery in a public location occupied by innocent shoppers including families and children. Ward committed the robbery at Aldi's under the disguise of a bogus robbery call on the other side of town performed by Plopper, his girlfriend. Ward then fled the scene on foot, and discarded the clothing he was wearing during the robbery. Ward stated that the firearm used during the robbery was his. Ward is a convicted felon out of the state of Missouri.

Ward has a lengthy criminal history to include multiple active failure to appear felony charges, Robbery 1st Degree, Robbery 2nd Degree, Possession of Marijuana, Domestic Assault 2nd Degree, Probation Violation, Felony Stealing, Robbery 2nd Degree, and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Print Name: Trevor Hole Signature:

Agency Name: Carthage Police Department
Agency Case Number: 26-1259
OCN: Not Processed Yet

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