

Supplements - Case #: 22-11380 : Supplement**AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

CASE NUMBER: 22-11380

I, Matthew Knight, believe that on or about the 3rd day of August, 2022 at 1220 hundred hours at 632 S. Benninghoff Ave., in the City of Evansville, County of Vanderburgh, State of Indiana, the defendant, Christopher Palmer, did commit the crime(s) of:

CT I Dealing a Schedule I Substance	IC CODE: 35-48-4-2 [L2]
CT II Possession of Methamphetamine	IC CODE: 35-48-4-6.1 [L6]
CT III Possession of Marijuana	IC CODE: 35-48-4-11

The undersigned, being a law enforcement officer with the Evansville Police Department, and being duly sworn upon his/her oath, states that the below information constitutes probable cause for the above crimes, incorporated herein is also any attached sheets which are made a part of this sworn affidavit:

Prior to 2019, Detective Knight assisted on an overdose case that led to information that an employee, later identified as Jourdan Dabbs, of Lamasco was possibly involved and frequently sold Heroin, Marijuana, Cocaine, and pills at both Sportsman's and Lamasco on Franklin Street. After compiling numerous tips from WeTip the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Drug Task Force (hereinafter known as "EVCDTF") also received information from credible and reliable confidential sources between 2019-2022 that named other employees of both Lamasco and Sportsman's. It was apparent those employees of Lamasco and Sportsman's were all associated with the distribution of several different types of controlled substances. Tips were also received describing the main dealer as a black male with long dreadlocks. That male was identified by two separate confidential sources as "Rio," later identified as Demario Holman.

In late 2021, the Evansville Police Department seized over 30 grams of a white powdery substance (field tested positive for Cocaine) from an individual that described the operation and stated he bought it from a male just outside of the back door of Lamasco. The description matched Demario Holman and one of his vehicles that he was photographed with and posted on open source social media pages, as well as having been parked outside of his residence Since February 2022.

In 2022, Detectives S. King and Knight initiated an investigation into the distribution of controlled substances at both Lamasco and Sportsman's, focusing on Demario Holman. Detectives observed Demario Holman meet with several people on the lot and in and out of his vehicle for short term traffic on several occasions from February 2022 - June 2022 along with other EVCDTF detectives. Detectives observed the subjects that met with Demario Holman get into other vehicles and apparently ingest a substance through their nostrils. It was also apparent that Demario Holman and another male, identified as Fernando Wilson, was also meeting with several people in and out of his vehicle for short term traffic. Demario Holman and Fernando Wilson would also be in each other's vehicles and briefly meet with people in the parking lots of both Lamasco and Sportsman's, as well as Franklin Street Tavern. The EVCDTF detectives learned Fernando Wilson lived at 1764 Briarwood Court and observed him coming and going from his residence. Detectives were able to identify the employees that were meeting with Demario Holman and Fernando Wilson. The EVCDTF began conducting investigations on them as well, including Christopher Palmer who was employed by Lamasco.

In April 2022, the EVCDTF developed confidential sources that stated the employees of Lamasco and Sportsman's know about the drug use in the bathrooms, areas where the cameras do not reach, and parking lots and routinely sell drugs, primarily Cocaine, to patrons who use themselves, after the bars close. Those confidential sources confirmed names (including Christopher Palmer) and activities already observed by EVCDTF detectives stating that Demario Holman (aka Rio), Fernando Wilson (aka Endo or Nando), Aaron Funkhouser, Jourdan Dabbs, and Erik Washington were the main five people distributing Cocaine at Lamasco and Sportsman's. They stated Erik Washington was sentenced reference a shooting at Lamasco and currently serving time in Indiana DOC. Since Jourdan Dabbs' arrest, another employee and frequent patron of Lamasco and Sportsman's, Matthew McClarney, has picked up business in Dabbs' absence. During surveillance, detectives and C.I.'s observed Demario Holman meet with another male

known as Kelo, later identified as Tyron Northington, at Sportsman's and Franklin Street Tavern. EVCDTF detectives had prior information from tips and credible sources that "Kelo" was involved in distributing large amounts of controlled substances. Employees and patrons at Lamasco would meet with one of the main distributors, who would in turn deliver to other employees, including Christopher Palmer.

Between February 2022 and June 2022, EVCDTF detectives observed Palmer exit the employee door of Lamasco, watched him meet with others for short term traffic, and he would get into his vehicle (a gray 2004 Toyota 4-Runner with Indiana plate TAT119) with others and by himself and we could see the occupants apparently ingest a substance through their nostrils, typical of powdered controlled substances, such as Cocaine.

On May 11, 2022, EVCDTF detectives observed a vehicle leaving 632 S. Bennighof after meeting with Palmer. EVCDTF detectives initiated a traffic stop which led to recovering Cocaine and Marijuana. On May 18, 2022, the EVCDTF was conducting surveillance at Lamasco and observed Palmer meet with another male at his vehicle and passed something between their hands at the driver's side window of Palmer's vehicle. Both of those parties met with others on the lot of Lamasco before getting into Palmer's vehicle, which left. Detectives initiated a car stop which led to Christopher Palmer being arrested for possession of Methamphetamine, MDMA, and Marijuana. The passenger was arrested for possession of Methamphetamine and a Syringe. After Palmer's release from jail, Palmer had a conversation with a credible and reliable Confidential Informant (hereinafter known as "C.I.") stating that the officers that stopped him and searched his car missed the "dope" hidden in the headliner of his Toyota 4-Runner, further stating he was on his way to deliver it to a security guard that works at Lamasco. That C.I. knows Palmer to live in apartment B, which leads to the upstairs living space.

Between June 12, 2022 and June 18, 2022, the EVCDTF utilized a credible and reliable C.I. to conduct a controlled purchase of between 1 - 5 grams of Schedule I substances that field tested positive for Lysergic Acid Diethylamide from Christopher Palmer. During those controlled purchases, EVCDTF detectives observed Christopher Palmer exit the front door of 632 S. Bennighof, Apartment B. Detectives surveilled Palmer until he met with the C.I. where an exchange for a Schedule I substance was made for recorded EVCDTF buy money. Detectives surveilled Palmer back to his residence and watched him enter the front door to 632 S. Bennighof, apartment B.

Between June 13, 2022 and June 19, 2022, another controlled purchase was made utilizing a C.I. for over 28 grams of a Schedule I Substance that later tested positive for Psilocybin from Christopher Palmer. Detectives observed Palmer in his Toyota 4-Runner pull up to his residence in the driveway and appeared to have enter the building from the rear at 632 S. Bennighof only to exit a short time later. Detectives surveilled Palmer until he met with the C.I. where an exchange of a Schedule I substance was made for recorded EVCDTF buy money. Detectives surveilled Palmer again who arrived back at 632 S. Bennighof and appeared to enter the residence through the rear of the building. The C.I. knows there to be a rear door that leads to apartment C which is occupied by an elderly female. The C.I. stated Palmer told them he keeps the bulk of his product in the elderly female's apartment.

On August 3, 2022, EVCDTF detectives discovered Christopher Palmer had a felony warrant for his arrest. EVCDTF detectives observed two males leave the residence at 632 S. Benninghof, apartment B, and walk away on foot. One of the subjects was identified as James "Danny" Garrett who also had a felony warrant. Detective Mansfield and K9 Sgt. Offerman approached the males and took Mr. Garrett into custody. Mr. Garrett said he was living with Christopher Palmer at 632 S. Benninghof, Apartment B and stated there would be Methamphetamine in one of the rooms with the big windows inside of this apartment. EVCDTF detectives observed Palmer exit 632 S. Benninghof and walk northbound. Detectives approached Mr. Palmer and placed him in custody. Detective Mansfield searched Palmer incident to arrest and found a black coin purse in Palmer's back right shorts pocket that contained two baggies, both containing a crystalline substance. Sgt. Offerman located a clear baggie containing a green leafy substance in Palmer's pocket. Also taken were two cellular phones located on Palmer's person.

I arrived and spoke with Mr. Palmer and read him the Miranda Warning. Mr. Palmer understood his rights and agreed to speak with me. I explained he had a warrant and that narcotics were found on his person. I told him I had PC for Level 2 Felony dealing charges so he would be going to jail. Mr. Palmer stated he uses very little but does sell various substances to support his drug habit and try to make a better life. Mr. Palmer also stated he quit working for Lamasco because of the issues surrounding the drug use. Mr. Palmer knew it was common knowledge that Lamasco is known for it's drug use on the property. Detective Mansfield gave me Palmer's two cellular phones and I then assisted with executing a search warrant.

The EVCDTF executed a judicially signed search warrant on 632 S. Benninghoff Avenue, Apartment B. Inside of the residence we

located the following items:

In Garrett's bedroom:

- mirror with crystalline residue. F/T positive for Methamphetamine
- Mt. Dew can with crystalline residue. F/T positive for Methamphetamine
- digital scale with crystalline residue. F/T positive for Methamphetamine.
- a metal spoon with residue.
- 2 hypodermic needles

In Palmer's bedroom:

- paraphernalia: a grinder with green leafy residue, a multi-colored pipe with burnt residue, and two glass pipes with burnt residue.
- 2 SD cards
- a black cellular phone with cracked screen on the charger. Located on the floor.

Detective Mansfield transported Palmer to the Vanderburgh County Confinement Center where he field tested the crystalline substance and found it to test positive for Methamphetamine and the baggies weighed 0.38 grams and 1.78 grams for a total of 2.16 grams. The green leafy substance field tested positive for THC and weighed 5.32 grams.

Detective Knight transported the cellular phones seized from Christopher Palmer to the EVCDTF office. Detective S. King transported the evidence from 632 S. Benninghoff Avenue, Apartment B to the EVCDTF office. Detective S. King field tested the residue on a Mt. Dew can, mirror, and digital scale and found it to test positive for Methamphetamine.

Your affiant believes that any person who supplied the above information to your affiant speaks from personal knowledge and observation and are reliable and credible inasmuch as they volunteered information to your affiant in the course of your affiant's investigation as a law enforcement officer. Your affiant believes there is a factual basis for the above information as your affiant's personal observation corroborated said information.

I affirm under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true to the best of my knowledge.

Affiant: _____ M. Knight 2x1276 Date: 2x1276

Affiant:<> Date:<>

COURT DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE

CASE NUMBER:{_____}

The Court having examined the above Affidavit of Probable Cause hereby finds that there is not Probable Cause to order the defendant bound over and the defendant is to be released forthwith, and any bond posted by the defendant herein to be released.

JUDGE: _____

The Court having examined the above Affidavit of Probable Cause hereby finds that there is Probable Cause to establish that the defendant committed the offense(s) of {_____} this {_____} day of {_____} 20 {____}, and the defendant is ordered held in the Vanderburgh County Jail until the {_____}

day of{_____} , 20{____} , at{_____}

o'clock {__}M by which time the State of Indiana is to file formal charges herein, and the defendant's bond is set in the amount of
{\$______} , defendant is ordered to appear for the initial hearing on the{_____} day of{_____}, 20{____} , at{_____}
o'clock {__}M.

JUDGE:{_____}