

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT
Sedalia Police Department Case Numbers 2020-3996

FILED
FEB 23 2020

CIRCUIT COURT OF
PETUS COUNTY MO

On February 22, 2020 at approximately 9:28 PM, Sedalia Police Department Officers were dispatched to the area of South Engineer Avenue and East 13th Street in reference to a shooting. A 911 caller, Don Palmgren, reported that he was driving southbound on South Engineer Avenue when he saw something go into the roadway. Don initially thought that it was kids throwing objects at cars, so he turned around to investigate. Upon doing so, Don reported that he had found a person, later identified as Jimmy D Bowers, laying in the roadway on the east side of South Engineer Avenue. Upon speaking to the subject, Don realized that Jimmy had been shot. Jimmy indicated to Don that he had been at 1202 South Engineer Avenue which is where the shooting had taken place.

After that 911 call, and after Officers were already enroute, Dispatch received a second 911 call from a Michael R Carpenter (██████████, SSN ██████████). In his call, Michael was seemingly devoid of emotion. He calmly told Dispatchers that he was at 1202 East 13th Street and that there was a "guy banging on his uncle's door with a hammer." The "guy" referenced by Michael was Jimmy. Michael told Dispatchers that Jimmy "came at him" so he shot Jimmy with a ".22." Michael apparently did not render care or check the status of Jimmy post-shooting. When Dispatchers asked if Michael could see Jimmy or Officers, who were arriving on scene at this point, he told Dispatchers that he could not because he had gone back to the "couch" and was "eating chips."

As I arrived on scene, I parked my patrol car at the South Engineer Avenue and East 13th Street Intersection. I approached the residence, which sits on the SE corner of that Intersection. I could see a small group of people, to include Corporal Arnold, rendering aid to a subject (Jimmy) who was on the ground to the immediate west of 1202 South Engineer Avenue. I began looking for Michael. I called to the group of people asking if they were Michael. Jimmy was able to hear my calls and told Corporal Arnold that Michael was the "one who shot me."

About this time, I learned from Dispatch that they were on the phone with Michael. I told Dispatchers to tell Michael to step outside the residence unarmed with his hands visible. Michael stepped out the front door, talking on the phone and holding a bag of potato chips. At gunpoint, I instructed Michael to drop his items and to get into a kneeling handcuffing position. He did so but was slow to respond to commands and get into the proper position. He was eventually secured into handcuffs by Corporal Arnold. I confirmed with him that he was indeed Michael.

Michael said that his "uncle" was still inside the residence. Michael said that his uncle went by the name "Uncle Hotdog." I called for him to come out the residence. He responded to me and was in the north bedroom of the home. I directed him out of the house via the front door. Michael's uncle was later identified as Jerry Iman. He was not detained in handcuffs.

As I was speaking with Jerry, Michael told me that the "gun" was in the "kitchen...dining room." Michael further stated that the firearm was in a "closet" apparently off the kitchen/dining room.

I asked Michael if I could go inside the residence and get the gun. Michael said it was not his residence. I asked Jerry if I could enter his residence to obtain the rifle. Jerry consented and reported he "rented" the residence. Michael then said the weapon was "unloaded." Michael said that he could point out the rifle. I asked them if they were ok with Officers going into their residence, and they consented.

Michael and I went into the residence, with Michael leading the way. In the kitchen, Michael pointed out a small closet which had no door. In the closet, Michael pointed out a rifle with a "red stock." Michael then said that the magazine was "on the table." Sitting on the kitchen table, I located a magazine that was loaded with .22 shells.

Upon seeing rifle and magazine, I read Michael his Miranda Rights from my pocket card, to which Michael acknowledged his rights.

I retrieved the rifle, which was a Ruger 10/22 .22 caliber long rifle, bearing serial number 82459063. I checked the action and confirmed it was unloaded. I seized the rifle and the magazine on the table. Michael said that the rifle belonged to him and that he had purchased it from someone who works at Whiteman.

As I was examining the rifle, Michael spontaneously told me "I pull guns on people and they get shot." Michael said that Jimmy was banging on the door with a "hammer."

I asked Michael where he had shot Jimmy. Michael said it was "right in the chest." I asked Michael where Jimmy was at when he shot him. Michael said "right at the other side of that door." Michael was referencing the west exterior door, which leads out to the yard and then South Engineer Avenue. Jimmy was located on the roadway directly to the west of this door. Michael said that he (Michael) had opened the door, and then Jimmy "came at me with a hammer and I shot him." Michael referenced the hammer, which was later found on the west porch. I had Michael sit in my patrol car while I conferred with other Officers who were on scene.

Michael had reported that Jimmy was banging on the doors with a hammer or hitting the door hard. There was not obvious damage to the front door or the west door. There were not any dents from a hammer strike on either door. Both the front door and the west door had several panes of glass and the glass was intact on both doors. The west door also had a storm door with a two panes of glass and screen, and was likewise undamaged. There was nothing anywhere -- on the doors, trim or molding -- to indicate that they had been hit with a hammer. There was no indication that the doors had been kicked, as no scuffs or tread pattern was on the door. There were not any signs of forced entry. It appeared that if someone was trying to get into the residence, then getting through the doors would not be terribly difficult to force open, yet the doors were undamaged.

I went back to speak with Michael. I asked Michael how he knew Jimmy. Michael said he knew him as the "Weatherman" because he apparently lied a lot. Michael said that Jimmy knew Jerry. I asked Michael if Jimmy had been at the house earlier today, and Michael said no. Michael said that Jimmy just showed up at the residence. Michael said that Jimmy had been banging on the front door of the house. Michael said that he was asleep on the couch in the living room and Jimmy had woken him up. Michael said he yelled "Who the f--- is it" to which Jimmy supposedly yelled back "It's the Weatherman." Michael claimed that Jerry had previously told him that Jimmy was going to come around "trying to raise hell." I asked Michael what that meant, but he said "I don't know" and could not elaborate. Michael said that it was "after dark" and most people who would answer the door after dark would "have a gun in their hand." Michael said that he did not open the front door for Jimmy.

I asked Michael if he had called the police at any time when Jimmy was banging on the doors. Michael said "no" and further told me "The police take a minute to get there. Me pulling the trigger on a firearm makes sure the mother f--- hits the ground right away. Then I can call the police." I asked Michael if he thought it would be a good idea to call the police if there was someone knocking on your doors that you did not want there. Michael said "no" and claimed that he told Jimmy to "get the f--- outta there and he wouldn't leave." Michael then stated "a firearm takes care of the problem, and the police take a minute to get there to take care of the problem ... I didn't have that kinda time." I told Michael that Jimmy was outside the residence, thus there would have been time. Michael then claimed that Jimmy was "trying to make entry." I asked Michael how he was doing that when up until now he had reported that Jimmy was simply banging on the doors, as if to get someone's attention. I told Michael that the doors would be easy to force open had Jimmy really wanted to break into the house. Jimmy had not done that and Michael had later actually opened the west door to confront Jimmy. I asked Michael if that was correct about the doors, to which he said "yeah." Michael again said that "ending the problem is pretty easy with one pull of the trigger."

I asked Michael what happened after Jimmy banged on the front door. Michael said that Jimmy went to the side door (the west door) was "banging on it for a minute." Jimmy said that he got up off the couch "retrieved my rifle, chambered a round, and shot his [REDACTED]." Michael acknowledged that he opened the door and then shot Jimmy. Michael invited the conflict by opening the door. Once the door was opened by Michael, he then claimed that Jimmy was "coming at me with a hammer." Michael claimed to be in fear of his life. Michael said he was inside the house when he shot Jimmy, who was still on the porch and did not apparently cross the threshold.

I asked Michael what happened with the shell casing. Michael said that he picked up the shell casing and threw it in the trash can in the kitchen. Michael offered to show me where he put the shell casing. The trash can was later checked for a shell casing. There was a single spent .22 caliber casing in the kitchen trash can. Also in the trash can was a used glass pipe with visible white crystallized residue consistent with methamphetamine. This device is used to consume meth by smoking the drug.

I asked Michael what Jimmy was doing with the hammer. Michael said "I have no ... had it in his hand." It sounded as if Michael was about to say 'I have no idea' but then correct himself. I asked Michael what Jimmy was doing with the hammer. Jimmy said he had the hammer "in an offensive manner." Michael indicated that Jimmy had the hammer raised. Michael said that as he opened the west door, Jimmy then opened the storm door. Michael claimed that Jimmy lunged towards him so Michael shot Jimmy once.

I asked Michael when he last used methamphetamine. Michael told me "a week or so ago." I asked him how long he had been using meth, to which he said "since I was a kid" and he further estimated this to be since he was "10-12" years old. I asked Michael how he used his meth, to which he said "smoke it or eat it." I asked Michael if meth was in his system now, to which he said "probably." I asked Michael if he would provide a blood sample for drug testing purposes. Michael consented to the blood draw. We later went to Bothwell and he gave a sample of his blood utilizing a MSHP Blood Collection Kit. This will be forwarded to the MSHP Crime Lab for analysis.

I asked Michael when he tossed the meth pipe into the trash can. He said "10...12...14 hours ago." Michael denied that he actually owned the pipe, but did admit that he had smoked meth from the pipe. I asked Michael if he in fact had smoked meth from the pipe. Michael said "Yeah, I have partaken in smoking meth from that pipe earlier today." Michael said that doing meth was "like running a 10 mile race sitting right there on your couch." Michael likened his meth use to a "cardiovascular exercise." Michael also indicated that he had proficiency with rolling marijuana joints with "Swishers" and "weed." Michael was clearly involved in poly-drug use.

Michael agreed to do a walkthrough of the residence with Officers to describe what happened. During the process of that, he showed me the couch he had been sleeping on (and eating chips on after shooting Jimmy), the front door, back door and the trash can where he tossed the spent .22 casing and the meth pipe.

I asked Michael if he was working anywhere. Michael said that he was "private security" for Jerry. I asked Michael what sort of job responsibilities that entailed. Michael said "Shooting mother f[REDACTED] that are banging on the door after hours."

Officers spoke with Jerry. He reported being asleep the entire time of this incident. He did not hear Jimmy knocking on the front door or the side door, or hearing the gun shot. Jerry said that Michael woke up him up telling him that he had shot Jimmy, to which he told him to contact the Police. That apparently spurred Michael into calling 911. It is unknown if Michael would have even called 911 had it not been for Jerry's prompting.

Officer Connor was only able to speak to Jimmy briefly while on scene. He was in obvious pain from being shot and in the back of an ambulance for treatment pending air transport to Columbia. Officer Connor asked Jimmy what happened. Jimmy responded "I knocked on the door to get a ride home to Syracuse". Jimmy mumbled and was obviously in pain

and said something about "someone opened the door and shot me." Officer Connor asked Jimmy who lived in the house. He replied "Jerry Iman, he's my friend."

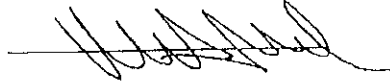
Jimmy was transported via air ambulance to MU Hospital in Columbia. As of the time of this Probable Cause statement, Jimmy was in stable condition, but in the operating room.

Michael's mannerisms and behavior indicated intoxication. Prior to asking about his drug use, I had asked Michael if he had consumed any alcohol, which he denied. Before going to jail, Michael made suicidal-type comments, and told Officer Schmitt that he should have stepped out of the residence with his rifle, implying that he wanted Officers to shoot him. He also made vague comments about wanting to hang himself. It appears that Michael has mental health issues coupled with long-term drug (meth and marijuana) dependency.

I'm requesting the following state charges against Michael: Assault 1st Degree, Armed Criminal Action, Unlawful use of a Weapon, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Habitual Drug User in Possession of a Firearm

Michael is currently on Probation/Parole for Knowingly Burning/Exploding, an E Felony, reference 19PT-CR00845-01. He received a Suspended Imposition of Sentence for this charge, effective 10/21/2019.

Michael is a documented flight risk. According to Sedalia Police Department records, he has been arrested three times for FTA warrants. Michael implied a suicide-by-cop scenario just before going to the jail.



Sgt. Michael A. Elwood #156
Sedalia Police Department

NOTICE: A false statement made herein is punishable by law. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the facts stated above are true and occurred within the City of Sedalia, Pettis County, Missouri.