

Whiteland Police Department

Probable Cause Affidavit

DETAILS

Incident Number: W24-02624
Sequence Number: 1

Name: Vautaw, Emi
Date: 18:23:11 09/18/24

NARRATIVE

Whiteland Police Department
549 Main St.
Whiteland, IN 46184-1552
Officer: Vautaw, E.
Case #: W24-02624
Date of report: 09/18/2024
Offense: Pointing a firearm F6; IC 35-47-4-3
Suspect: Bradley Gibson
10/01/1981
***-**-8202

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF INDIANA, COUNTY OF JOHNSON SS:

AFFIDAVIT/NARRATIVE

Officer Emily Vautaw of the Whiteland Police Department, swears and affirms that she believes and has good cause to believe, Bradley Gibson DOB: 10/1/1981, did knowingly or intentionally commit the crimes of: Ct 1: Pointing a firearm, level 6 Felony. In support of your affiant's assertion of Probable Cause your affiant bases her belief on the following attending facts and circumstances.

On Wednesday, September 18th, 2024 I was in a fully marked police vehicle in full uniform. At approximately 4:32pm, I was sitting in the Whiteland High School parking lot near the north annex when I observed a black SUV driving towards me at a high rate of speed. A female driver in the black SUV rolled her window down and appeared panicked as she was approaching my patrol vehicle. She was screaming at me that "there's a gold SUV where a guy pointed a gun at the kids!" I asked what type of gun and she stated "a black pistol". I confirmed it was a gold SUV and she stated "yes he was yelling at them he's still over there."

I radioed to Central Dispatch that I was flagged down about a male pointing a firearm at juveniles in the parking lot of the north annex to Whiteland High School and to start more officers. I observed a gold Chevy Tahoe with the passenger door open on S Tracy St and updated Central Dispatch I would be behind the vehicle on Tracy South Dr. I advised Central Dispatch I would be conducting a felony stop on a gold Chevy Tahoe bearing IN plate TDV485 on Tracy South Dr just east of US 31 near the carwash.

I drew my department issued firearm and ordered all persons in the vehicle to keep their hands where I can see them and to not move. As I was holding my position, vehicles drove by me exiting the school parking lot confirming that they saw the gun; however, due to my attention being on the vehicle I did not confirm who all stated this.

A white male driver, later identified as Brad Gibson was removed first and immediately placed in handcuffs. Two more juveniles, LG, and AP, were removed from the vehicle and placed in handcuffs. Officers approached the vehicle to clear it and confirm there were no more passengers.

In the center console of the Tahoe I observed a black M&P Shield 9 that was not holstered and appeared to have been thrown in there as it was upside down. I immediately obtained a photo of where it was located and rendered it safe as there was a round chambered. LT Cox took over for processing and handling of the firearm. I then requested assisting Officers mirandize all three persons detained.

While this was unfolding, more parents and juveniles were showing up stating they were either victims, witnesses, or involved in some way. LT Foley with the Clark-Pleasant School Police Department was taking the statements from the juveniles and witnesses. It was determined that LG and AP were out of the vehicle when the alleged pointing of the firearm occurred and were witnesses/victims. Both juveniles were immediately removed from the handcuffs and transported to the Whiteland Police Department to wait for their parents for interviewing.

The following are the statements from those involved:

Ms. Hutchison was the female in the black SUV that initially approached me stating there was a firearm involved. She stated as she was entering the school lot, she observed a white male, middle age with a grey beard, point a black handgun at the teenagers. She asked the teenagers if they just had a firearm pointed at them and nobody responded to her. That is when she notified me.

AP stated that he and his friends were walking to Taco Bell when he saw LG's dad drive up. He said he did not see a firearm but his friends did and he [Gibson] swerved into the grass like he was going to hit them and said "break yo' self fool". He said the lady in the black car said "he was just waving his gun". AP said he did not think anything of it and just got in the car and then "ten seconds later" they got pulled over. I asked AP if he knew why Mr. Gibson was getting pulled over initially and he said "yeah" because the lady in the black car said he was being reported for having a gun.

LG stated he, CS, BW, and AP were walking to Taco Bell when his dad pulled up to take him and AP home. He said his dad pulled up and told them to get in and that was it. LG stated he never saw a gun. He was not sure why they were being pulled over or at gunpoint.

LT Cox interviewed Mr. Gibson after mirandizing him again on station. After waiving his rights, Mr. Gibson stated the accusation of him pointing a firearm at juveniles is a false statement. LT Cox asked Mr. Gibson to give a rundown of what happened when he initially arrived on campus to when I came into contact with him. Mr. Gibson stated he was turning left [north] at the round-about at S Tracy Dr and Tracy South St to pick up his son and his friend from football practice. He stated instead of driving to the locker room, he saw his son and his friends walking towards Taco Bell so he made a U-turn [now heading south]

and swerved like he was going to hit them with his vehicle because they knew it was him and he yelled at them "hey get out of the road!"

He stated he pulled over for LG and AP to get in the vehicle and when they opened the door he told them to hang on because his gun was in the cup holder. He stated I told them "let me put my gun away" and he moved the gun from the cup holder to the center console and the next thing he knows he was getting pulled over. He said he sat in the grass speaking to the juveniles for approximately 10 to 15 minutes. He stated as he was leaving, one of the kids ran back and said "hey some lady just said they saw a gun" and he said "where?" and then he put his gun in the console.

CCTV footage obtained from Clark-Pleasant School Police Department shows a gold Chevy Tahoe driven by Mr. Gibson enter the roundabout and turn north on S Tracy St, as a black SUV was driving south on S Tracy St (driven by Ms. Hutchison). Mr. Gibson is observed reaching in the center of his Tahoe with his right hand, and moving his right arm across his body out towards the driver's window. At this exact time, Ms. Hutchison is observed turning her head to the left, and slamming on her brakes as she's continuing to look back at Mr. Gibson. Mr. Gibson then drives his Tahoe into the grass towards the four juveniles. At this time, two juveniles take off running away from the Tahoe. Ms. Hutchison is observed turning around at the roundabout, shown for a brief moment speaking to the juveniles and then driving out of view of the camera. Two of the juveniles are observed running back towards the Gold Tahoe after Ms. Hutchison drives away. A few seconds later, I am observed in camera view driving through the parking lot, as Mr. Gibson drives through the grass with the rear passenger door still ajar, in an attempt to get away. I immediately activate my emergency lights to initiate a Felony stop just out of camera view.

Due to the witness statements and being able to describe the driver and firearm, in addition to the victim statements from the juveniles, Mr. Gibson was charged with Pointing a Firearm and transported to the Johnson County Jail without incident. LG was released to his mother, and AP was released to his mother. The firearm was taken from the vehicle and put into evidence at the Whiteland Police Department and the vehicle was released to a valid licensed driver.

This affidavit does not set forth each and every fact I have learned during this investigation, but rather is provided solely for the purpose of establishing probable cause in support of the complaint in this matter.

I swear under penalty of perjury as specified in I.C. 35-44-2-1, That the foregoing representations are true.

/s/ Emily Vautaw

Reviewed by:

/s/ Carrie J. Miles #19484-41
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
8th Judicial Circuit

Judge of _____
Court of Johnson County, IN.