

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Central District of Illinois

United States of America
v.
Terrence Daniels
Dezmond Hardy
Erika Garner
Shaleik Ward
Defendant(s)

Case No. 23-MJ-6108

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of 8/14/2023 to 8/18/2023 in the county of Peoria and elsewhere in the Central District of Illinois, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section 18 U.S.C. § 371 Offense Description Conspiracy to Steal and Possess Firearms from a Federal Firearms Licensee

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached Affidavit

Continued on the attached sheet.

s/ Kevin D. Brown

Complainant's signature

Kevin D. Brown, Special Agent, ATF

Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P.4 by telephone.

Date: 08/21/2023

City and state: Peoria, Illinois

Judge's signature

Jonathan E. Hawley, United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
AT PEORIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Criminal No. 23-mj-6108
)	
TERRENCE DANIELS, DEZMOND)	VIO: 18 U.S.C. § 371
HARDY, ERIKA GARNER and)	
SHALEIK WARD)	
)	
Defendants.)	

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

COUNT 1

**(Conspiracy to Steal and Possess Firearms from a Federal Firearms Licensee)
18 U.S.C. § 371**

1. At all times relevant to this Criminal Complaint, *Mean Metal* was a federal firearms licensee located in Spring Valley, Illinois, then engaged in the business of dealing in firearms and whose business inventory included firearms that had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

2. At all times relevant to this Criminal Complaint, *Powder Keg Outfitters* was a federal firearms licensee located in Taylorville, Illinois, then engaged in the business of dealing in firearms and whose business inventory included firearms that had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

3. At all times relevant to this Criminal Complaint, *Guns and Glory* was a federal firearms licensee located in Le Roy, Illinois, then engaged in the business of

dealing in firearms and whose business inventory included firearms that had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

4. At all times relevant to this Criminal Complaint, *Tactical Bunker* was a federal firearms licensee located in Lincoln, Illinois, then engaged in the business of dealing in firearms and whose business inventory included firearms that had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

5. At all times relevant to this Criminal Complaint, *Archers Alley* was a federal firearms licensee located in Decatur, Illinois, then engaged in the business of dealing in firearms and whose business inventory included firearms that had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

6. At all times relevant to this Criminal Complaint, *Smiley's Sports Shop* was a federal firearms licensee located in Bloomington, Illinois, then engaged in the business of dealing in firearms and whose business inventory included firearms that had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

7. Between on or about August 14, 2023, and on or about August 18, 2023, in the Central District of Illinois, the defendants,

**TERRENCE DANIELS,
DEZMOND HARDY,
ERIKA GARDNER, and
SHALEIK WARD**

and others, did willingly combine, conspire, confederate, agree, and have a tacit understanding with one another to:

- a) steal and unlawfully take and carry away a firearm, that had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce, from the premises of

- Mean Metal, Powder Keg Outfitters, Guns and Glory, Tactical Bunker, Archers Alley and Smiley's Sport Shop*, all such entities being federal firearms licensees then engaged in the business of dealing in firearms, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(u) and 924(i)(1); and
- b) receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell, and dispose of a stolen firearm which had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe that the firearm had been stolen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(j) and 924(a)(2).

Overt Acts

In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect the objects thereof, the defendants committed at least one of the following acts in the Central District of Illinois:

8. On or about August 14, 2023, defendants Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, and another individual drove a vehicle from Peoria, Illinois, to *Mean Metal* located at 214 St. Paul Street, Spring Valley, Illinois.
9. Upon reaching *Mean Metal*, Dezmond Hardy threw a brick through a window of the business and Terrence Daniels attempted to climb through the security bars.
10. On or about August 15, 2023, defendants Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, Erika Garner and another individual drove a vehicle from Peoria, Illinois to *Powder Keg Outfitters* located at 115 N. Webster Street, Taylorville, Illinois.

11. Upon reaching *Powder Keg Outfitters*, Dezmond Hardy threw a brick through a window of the business and Terrence Daniels and Dezmond Hardy entered the business before fleeing on foot to the getaway vehicle where Erika Garner and another individual were waiting.

12. On or about August 17, 2023, defendants Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, Erika Garner, and another individual drove a vehicle from Peoria, Illinois to *Guns and Glory* located at 117 E. Center Street, Le Roy, Illinois.

13. Upon reaching *Guns and Glory*, Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, Erika Garner and another individual circled the business in a vehicle assessing the security measures in place at *Guns and Glory*.

14. On or about August 17, 2023, defendants Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, Erika Garner, and another individual drove a vehicle from Le Roy, Illinois to *Tactical Bunker* located at 127 S. Sangamon Street, Lincoln, Illinois, while equipped with burglary tools, including but not limited to, bolt cutters, two axes, a crow bar, a hammer, and a tire iron.

15. Upon reaching *Tactical Bunker*, Terrence Daniels and Dezmond Hardy approached the front door of the business while carrying bags and wearing ski masks while Erika Garner and another individual waited in a getaway vehicle around the corner.

16. On or about August 18, 2023, defendants Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, Erika Garner and Shaleik Ward drove a vehicle from Peoria, Illinois to *Archers Alley* located at 3113 N. 22nd Street, Decatur, Illinois.

17. Upon reaching *Tactical Bunker*, Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, and Shaleik Ward broke a window out of the business while Erika Garner waited in the driver's seat of a getaway vehicle.

18. On or about August 18, 2023, defendants Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, Erika Garner, and Shaleik Ward drove a vehicle from Decatur, Illinois to *Smiley's Sport Shop* located at 2049 Ireland Grove Road, Bloomington, Illinois.

19. Upon reaching *Smiley's Sport Shop*, Terrence Daniels, Dezmond Hardy, Erika Garner, and Shaleik Ward drove past the business and then sat across the street and discussed the security measures in place at *Smiley's Sport Shop*.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Special Agent Kevin Brown, (hereinafter "Your Affiant"), do hereby depose and state the following:

I. Background

1. Your Affiant is a Special Agent of the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (hereinafter "ATF"). Your Affiant has been a law enforcement officer since April 2009.

2. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint alleging that TERRENCE DANIELS, DEZMOND HARDY, ERIKA GARNER and SHALEIK WARD have violated Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 (Conspiracy to Steal and Possess Firearms from a Federal Firearms Licensee).

3. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of a criminal complaint, I have not included each and every fact known to me in this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that the defendants committed the offense alleged in the complaint.

4. The statements contained within this Affidavit are based on: (a) my personal participation in this investigation; (b) information provided to me by other federal, state, and local law enforcement officers; (c) my training and experience and the training and experience of other law enforcement agents with whom I have spoken; (d) consensual audio recordings as well as physical surveillance; and (e) interviews of individuals involved in the events described below.

II. Summary

5. On August 14, 2023, DEZMOND HARDY, TERRENCE DANIELS and others attempted to burglarize *Mean Metal*, a federal firearm licensee in Spring Valley, Illinois. On August 15, 2023, DEZMOND HARDY, TERRENCE DANIELS, ERIKA GARNER and others attempted to burglarize *Powder Keg Outfitters*, a federal firearm licensee in Taylorville, Illinois. On August 17, 2023, DEZMOND HARDY, TERRENCE DANIELS, ERIKA GARNER and others conducted reconnaissance at *Guns and Glory*, a federal firearms licensee in Le Roy, Illinois. Also on August 17, 2023, DEZMOND HARDY, TERRENCE DANIELS, ERIKA GARNER and others attempted to burglarize *Tactical Bunker*, a federal firearms licensee in Lincoln, Illinois. On August 18, 2023, DEZMOND HARDY, TERRENCE DANIELS, ERIKA GARNER and SHALEIK WARD attempted to burglarize *Archers Alley*, a federal firearms licensee in Decatur, Illinois. Also on August 18, 2023, DEZMOND HARDY, TERRENCE DANIELS, ERIKA GARNER and SHALEIK WARD conducted reconnaissance at *Smiley's Sport Shop*, a federal firearms licensee in Bloomington, Illinois.

III. Relevant Statutes

6. **18 U.S.C. § 922(u) (stealing from a federal firearm licensee)** states:

It shall be unlawful for a person to steal or unlawfully take or carry away from the person or the premises of a person who is licensed to engage in the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in firearms, any firearm in the licensee's business inventory that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

7. **18 U.S.C. § 992(j) (possession of stolen firearms)** states:

It shall be unlawful for any person to receive, possess, conceal, store, barter, sell, or dispose of any stolen firearm or stolen ammunition, or pledge or accept as security for a loan any stolen firearm or stolen ammunition, which is moving as, which is a part of, which constitutes, or which has been shipped or transported in, interstate or foreign commerce, either before or after it was stolen, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the firearm or ammunition was stolen.

IV. Facts Establishing Probable Cause

8. On August 14, 2023, Spring Valley Police Officers were dispatched to a Federal Firearms Licensee (“FFL”) known as *Mean Metal* located at 214 E. St. Paul Street, Spring Valley, Illinois 61362. Upon arrival, officers observed that a glass window to the business was shattered. A subsequent review of surveillance footage shows two individuals in front of the business at approximately 2:53 AM. One suspect throws an object and breaks the glass window. A second suspect, who appears to be wearing a cast on his right arm, unsuccessfully attempts to climb through metal burglar bars. After failing to enter the business, both suspects run out of view of the surveillance camera. Additional surveillance footage outside of the business shows the face of the suspect who threw the object to break the window.

9. Surveillance footage from a gas station in Spring Valley, Illinois was reviewed by Spring Valley Police Officers. This footage shows the suspect that threw the object through the window and a female enter the gas station at approximately 1:30

AM on August 14, 2023. A suspect vehicle was identified from this surveillance footage.

10. On August 16, 2023, the Peoria ATF Task Force located suspect vehicle at the vehicle's registered address located at 3625 N. Finnell Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61604. The vehicle was followed leaving the residence and later stopped by Peoria Police Department for a traffic violation. After the traffic stop, a law enforcement database was queried and DEZMOND HARDY was found to be associated with 3625 N. Finnell Avenue. Photographs of DEZMOND HARDY appear to be the same individual who threw the object through the window at the business in Spring Valley.

11. While conducting surveillance on August 16, 2023 on the suspect vehicle, Your Affiant was notified of a separate incident that had occurred on August 15, 2023, in Taylorville, Illinois. On that date, Taylorville Police Officers responded to a Federal Firearms Licensee ("FFL") known as *Powder Keg Outfitters* located at 115 N. Webster Street, Taylorville, Illinois 62568. Upon arrival, the responding officer observed that a glass window to the business was shattered. A subsequent review of surveillance footage shows two individuals in front of the business at approximately 3:09 AM. One suspect throws an object and breaks the glass window. After both suspects enter the business, they turn and run out of the business. The suspects stop running and the suspect that threw the object checks his phone and both suspects start running again out of the view of the surveillance camera. After reviewing surveillance footage, it appeared that one of the two suspects captured on surveillance footage is DEZMOND HARDY and the other is wearing an arm cast.

12. Taylorville Police Officers checked their License Plate Reader system and identified a different suspect vehicle from the attempted burglary in Spring Valley, Illinois. This vehicle is registered to a different Peoria, Illinois address.

13. Later on August 16, 2023, the Peoria ATF Task Force located the suspect vehicle from the attempted burglary in Taylorville, Illinois. The vehicle was followed as it stopped at multiple residences in Peoria. Two different black males and one white female were observed in the vehicle. DEZMOND HARDY was the driver of the vehicle.

14. Later on August 16, 2023, one federal tracker warrant was issued for each of the two suspect vehicles (C.D. Ill. Case Nos. 23-MJ-6106 & 23-MJ-6107). Surveillance was initiated shortly after 10:00 PM to install the tracking devices on each of the suspect vehicles. Prior to installing the tracking device, the second suspect vehicle was observed at a gas station in Peoria, Illinois. The vehicle was observed just prior to midnight. One black male driver and one white female front seat passenger were observed inside of the vehicle. At this time, it was unknown if any passengers were in the backseat of the vehicle.

15. Just after midnight on August 17, 2023, the second suspect vehicle was followed as it left Peoria and drove to Le Roy, Illinois. The vehicle made multiple passes by *Guns and Glory*. The vehicle was in the immediate area of the federal firearm licensee for approximately 30 minutes.

16. After approximately 30 minutes in Le Roy, the vehicle drove to Lincoln, Illinois. The vehicle made multiple passes by *Tactical Bunker*. After approximately 30 minutes, the vehicle parked just around the corner from the FFL. Your Affiant observed

two individuals exit the vehicle and walk towards the FFL. Peoria Police Officer Brian Grice observed the individuals to be wearing masks as they approached the front door of the business just after 3:00 AM. After a brief time out of sight of law enforcement while at the front door of the business, both individuals ran back to the suspect vehicle and it left the area. Surveillance was terminated at this time, but a later review of a License Plate Reader database showed the suspect vehicle back in Le Roy just prior to 6:00 AM. Officers later observed the suspect vehicle arrive at the Brandywine Crossing apartments between 9:00 and 10:00 AM. At this time, a tracking device was successfully installed on the vehicle.

17. At 3:20 AM on August 18, 2023, an alert was sent to Your Affiant notifying that the suspect vehicle was traveling outside of the Peoria, Illinois area. Your Affiant and other law enforcement officers established physical surveillance on the vehicle after 5:00 AM in Decatur, Illinois. The vehicle was located in the parking lot of *Archers Alley*. Your Affiant observed three different individuals coming and going from the suspect vehicle on the south side of the business to the east side of the business. Your Affiant observed three individuals run to the vehicle and get into the front passenger seat and backseats of the vehicle. At this time, the vehicle left the area and began driving north towards Clinton, Illinois.

18. While the vehicle was followed towards Clinton, Peoria Police Officer Brian Grice and ATF TFO Cody Meeks approached the business and found a window shattered. Officer Grice and TFO Meeks were unable to tell if any firearms were missing from the business. Decatur Police and the owner of the business responded to

the scene. It was determined that all firearms were stored in a secured vault area and that none of the firearms were missing.

19. The vehicle was followed back to Peoria and a vehicle containment maneuver was conducted on War Memorial Drive in front of the Brandywine Crossing apartments. ERIKA GARNER was driving the vehicle. DEZMOND HARDY was in the front passenger seat. TERRENCE DANIELS and SHALEIK WARD were in the back of the vehicle. All four were taken into custody and taken to the Peoria Police Department for interviews.

20. ERIKA GARNER was advised of her rights and agreed to be interviewed. The interview was audio/video recorded. GARNER admitted that she participated in the attempted burglary of *Powder Keg Outfitters*, the reconnaissance at *Guns and Glory*, the attempted burglary of *Tactical Bunker*, the attempted burglary of *Archers Alley* and the reconnaissance at *Smiley's Sport Shop*. GARNER stated that TERRENCE DANIELS has been breaking into guns stores for years and that her boyfriend, DEZMOND HARDY, has also done this before. GARNER stated that one other male and two other females in addition to the four arrested individuals participated on various nights. GARNER stated that WARD only participated on this final day, and that WARD was one of the three individuals who exited the vehicle and approached *Archers Alley*.

21. TERRENCE DANIELS was advised of his rights and agreed to be interviewed. The interview was audio/video recorded. DANIELS admitted that he participated in the attempted burglary at *Mean Metal*, the attempted burglary of *Powder Keg Outfitters*, the reconnaissance at *Guns and Glory*, the attempted burglary of *Tactical*

Bunker, the attempted burglary of *Archers Alley* and the reconnaissance at *Smiley's Sport Shop*. DANIELS stated the he, DEZMOND HARDY and DEZMOND HARDY's aunt were approached by an individual and offered money to steal firearms from gun stores. DANIELS stated that his arm cast and recent weight gain factored into his inability to slide between the bars at gun stores like he was able to do when he burglarized multiple FFLs in 2020. DANIELS stated that one other male and two other females in addition to the four arrested individuals participated on various nights. DANIELS stated that WARD asked HARDY to participate in the attempted burglary in Decatur on this final day and that he knew exactly what they were going to do. DANIELS stated that WARD was one of the three individuals outside of the vehicle that approached *Archers Alley*.

22. DEZMOND HARDY was advised of his rights and agreed to be interviewed. The interview was audio/video recorded. HARDY admitted that he participated in the attempted burglary at *Mean Metal*, the attempted burglary of *Powder Keg Outfitters*, the reconnaissance at *Guns and Glory*, the attempted burglary of *Tactical Bunker*, the attempted burglary of *Archers Alley* and the reconnaissance at *Smiley's Sport Shop*. HARDY was shown a video of the glass being broken at *Mean Metal* and he stated that it was him in the surveillance footage. HARDY stated that one other male and two other females in addition to the four arrested individuals participated on various nights.

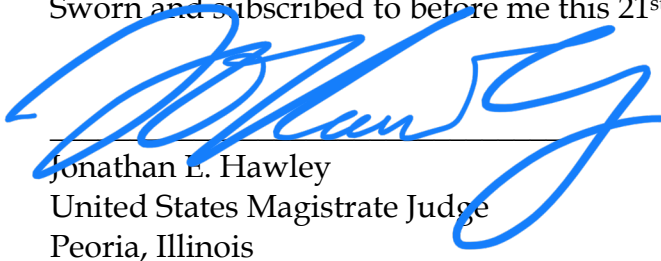
23. SHALEIK WARD was advised of his rights and agreed to be interviewed. The interview was audio/video recorded. WARD denied any involvement in

attempting to burglarize any gun stores, and said he had only been in the vehicle for 30 minutes prior to his arrest.

s/ Kevin D. Brown

Kevin D. Brown, Special Agent
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms &
Explosives

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 21st day of August, 2023:



Jonathan E. Hawley
United States Magistrate Judge
Peoria, Illinois