

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of Louisiana

United States of America
v.

WILLIAM GILCHRIST

Defendant(s)

Case No. 24-mj-94

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 June 20, 2024 in the parish of Jefferson in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

18 U.S.C. § 912
18 U.S.C. § 922(g)

Impersonating of a Federal Agent
Felon in Possession of a Firearm

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached Affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet.

/s/Alexander Sebastian Petrarca

Complainant's signature

SA Alexander Sebastian Petrarca, HSI

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: June 21, 2024

Handwritten signature of Donna Phillips Currault

Judge's signature

City and state: New Orleans, Louisiana

Honorable Donna Phillips Currault, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

Fee
Process 2cc:USM
Dktd
CtRmDep
Doc. No

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA * **CASE NO. 24-mj-94**
*
v. * **SECTION: MAG**
*
WILLIAM GILCHRIST *
*
* * *

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Alexander Sebastian Petrarca, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

Introduction and Agent Background

1. I am currently employed as a Special Agent (SA) with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and have been so employed since October 2021. I am currently assigned to the Office of the Special Agent in Charge in New Orleans, LA (SAC New Orleans), where I am a member of the Public Safety Group/Violent Gang Task Force, where we investigate violations of federal law to include but not limited to firearms, narcotics, human trafficking, crimes of violence, and fraudulent documents. I have the authority to investigate violations of Title 8, Title 18, Title 19, Title 21, and other Titles of the United States Code. I am a graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia.

2. The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, my training and experience, and information obtained from other agents, detectives, and witnesses. This affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint against William GILCHRIST for violations of 18 USC § 912, pretending to be an officer acting under the authority of the United States and 18 USC § 922(g), felon in possession of a firearm. As the affidavit is being submitted for this limited purpose,

I have not included every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are essential to establish the necessary foundation for obtaining a criminal complaint.

Probable Cause

3. On June 19, 2024, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO) Strategic Engagement Team (SET) detectives were driving unmarked police vehicles in Kenner, LA, which is located in the Eastern District of Louisiana (ED/LA), conducting a law enforcement investigation. JPSO Detective Evans was traveling southbound on Jerome Glazer Road towards Airline Hwy when the operator of a white pickup truck, later identified as William GILCHRIST, positioned himself behind Detective Evan's unmarked JPSO vehicle. GILCHRIST then activated what appeared to be blue and white emergency lights. Detective Evans pulled over to the side of the road and the white pickup truck pulled alongside Detective Evan's driver side door, activated an emergency siren, and drove past Detective Evan's vehicle. As the pickup truck passed, Detective Evans observed a license plate cover affixed to the rear license plate that read "Police Fugitive Task Force".

4. Based on Detective Evans's training and experience, he believed that the vehicle was not a legitimate police vehicle operating in the area. Detective Evans then activated his emergency lights and siren, at which time the driver of the pickup truck activated his rear blue and white emergency lights and pulled over. Upon pulling over, GILCHRIST exited the vehicle and immediately presented what appeared to be law enforcement credentials, specifically a star-shaped badge and identification card that read "U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force" and identified himself as a United States Marshal.

5. Detective Evans questioned GILCHRIST about who his supervisor was with the United States Marshal Service (USMS) and GILCHRIST informed him that he was a “volunteer” Deputy United States Marshal from Tennessee. GILCHRIST continued to provide inconsistent statements regarding his employment with USMS and was detained for further investigation.

6. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that GILCHRIST was fraudulently identifying himself as a United States Marshal, and that the credentials GILCHRIST utilized to identify himself appeared to be fraudulent. HSI SA Brittany Theriot contacted Deputy United States Marshal (DUSM) Brian Fair, who is assigned to the USMS in the Eastern District of Louisiana. DUSM Fair confirmed that GILCHRIST is not a sworn law enforcement officer with the USMS in the ED/LA nor anywhere else in the United States.

7. GILCHRIST was transported to the JPSO Crime Intelligence Center (CIC) for processing, at which point he advised JPSO detectives that he wished to give a statement. GILCHRIST was advised of his Miranda rights and agreed to speak to detectives without an attorney present, completing a JPSO Rights of Arrestee form. During the interview, GILCHRIST admitted that he had never been commissioned as a law enforcement officer and was impersonating the police because he wanted “respect.”

8. GILCHRIST’s vehicle, a white 2023 Chevrolet Silverado bearing Tennessee plate “53981/CP”, was towed to the JPSO Investigations Bureau. JPSO Detective Juan Ortiz swore to and obtained a state search warrant for the vehicle through the 24th Judicial District Court, which was endorsed by Commissioner Paul Schneider. Detectives executed the search warrant after the conclusion of the interview with GILCHRIST. Law enforcement officers searched the vehicle and located a black ballistic vest with a “Gilchrist” name patch and a “Fugitive Task Force” patch, a black Glock 17 9mm handgun bearing serial number BWPZ696 with a holster, containing a round

in the chamber, a black “Pulse” taser, an Orpaz tactical handcuff holder with handcuffs, a wallet badge stating “Fugitive Recovery Agent Operations Commander”, a Fugitive Recovery Agent badge in badge holder, a “Fugitive Task Force United States Marshal” badge in badge holder, a Fugitive Recovery badge, a license plate cover stating “Police Fugitive Task Force”, a pair of nickel plated handcuffs bearing serial number “X10388”, one Glock 9mm magazine containing 16 rounds of 9mm ammunition, three Glock 9mm magazines each containing 17 rounds of 9mm ammunition, and a black Apple iPhone with “FirstNet” service. FirstNet is priority cellular phone service that is only available to commissioned law enforcement and First Responder personnel.

9. Law enforcement database checks revealed that GILCHRIST received a felony conviction on November 21, 2000, for Possessing, Manufacturing, etc. Drug Paraphernalia in Lovell, Arkansas.

Conclusion

10. Based on the above facts, your Affiant believes that Probable Cause exists for the Court to issue an arrest warrant for William GILCHRIST for violating 18 USC § 912, pretending to be an officer acting under the authority of the United States, and 18 USC § 922(g) being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Respectfully submitted,


s/Alexander Sebastian Petrarca

Alexander Sebastian Petrarca

Special Agent, HSI

Pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 4.1 and 41(d)(3), the undersigned judicial officer has on this date considered the information communicated by reliable electronic means in considering whether a complaint, warrant, or summons will issue. In doing so, I have placed the affiant under oath, and the affiant has confirmed that the signatures on the complaint, warrant, or summons and affidavit are those of the affiant, that the document received by me is a correct and complete copy of the document submitted by the affiant, and that the information contained in the complaint, warrant, or summons and affidavit is true and correct to the best of the affiant's knowledge.

Sworn to and electronically subscribed before me, over the telephone, and signed by me pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 and 4(d), on this 21st day of June, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donna Phillips Currault". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

HONORABLE DONNA PHILLIPS CURRAULT
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Mag Number: 24-94 Complaint Warrant from another district

Defendant(s)

William Gilchrist

Violation(s)

Felon in possession of firearm. Impersonation
of an officer of the United States.

18 USC 922(g)
18 912

U.S. Attorney: Paul Hubbell

Date assigned: 6-20-2024

Interpreter needed? YES

NO

Sealed? YES

NO

Court date and Time: _____

Before Magistrate Judge: J _____