

SHB:JAW

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of Minnesota

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

(FILED UNDER SEAL)

Case No. 23-mj-283 (TNL)

MONTEZ EUGENE BROWN

a.k.a Tez Blood

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the undersigned complainant, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Count 1: On or about April 4, 2023, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, in the State and District of Minnesota, the defendant, Montez Eugene Brown, did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally possess with the intent to distribute a mixture and substance containing fentanyl, a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

Count 2: On or about April 4, 2023, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, in the State and District of Minnesota, the defendant, Montez Eugene Brown, did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally possess a machinegun, that is, a Glock 17, 9mm, serial number LDS462, equipped with an extended magazine and a "switch," in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, the crime set forth in Count 1 of this Criminal Complaint, which is realleged and incorporated herein by reference, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(B)(ii).

I further state that I am a Task Force Officer, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

See Attached Affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof: Yes No



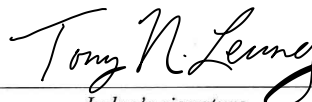
Complainant's signature

David J. Ligneel, Task Force Officer, FBI

Printed name and title

Subscribed and Sworn before me by reliable electronic means via FaceTime and e-mail pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(d)(3)

Date: April 5, 2023



Judge's signature

City and state: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Tony N. Leung, United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

ss.

Case No. 23-mj-283 (TNL)
AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID J. LIGNEEL
(FILED UNDER SEAL)

I, David J. Ligneel, being duly sworn, state the following:

1. I am a Sergeant with the City of Minneapolis and have been employed as a Peace Officer for the past 26 years. I am currently assigned to the Minneapolis Police Department's Robbery Unit, as well as a Task Force Officer (TFO) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Violent Crimes Task Force. My duties and responsibilities include conducting criminal investigations of individuals and entities for possible violations of Federal laws, particularly those laws found in Titles 21 and 18 of the United States Code. I am thus an investigative or law enforcement officer of the United States within the meaning of Section 2510(7) of Title 18 of the United States Code.

2. My current assignment involves the regular investigation of violent criminals, criminal organizations (including street gangs), and possession of firearms by prohibited persons. In the course of my investigations, I have used cooperating informants, pen register/trap and trace devices, wiretaps, and video and audio surveillance. Additionally, I have received training in conducting investigations of organized crime and street gangs, financial crimes investigations, basic narcotics investigations, how to utilize informants, how to conduct social media investigations, as well as training in how to field-test narcotics, concealment methods used to hide narcotics in vehicles, basic search warrant writing, and Cellular Analysis (GPS & Cell Tower Data) training. I have received this training from a number of different sources ranging from the U.S. Department of Justice,

Midwest Counter Drug Training Center, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Minneapolis Police Department.

3. This affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant charging MONTEZ EUGENE BROWN (hereinafter "BROWN") with possession with the intent to distribute a mixture and substance containing fentanyl, a controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A), and with possessing a machinegun, that is, a Glock 17, 9mm pistol, serial number LDS462, equipped with an extended magazine and a "switch," in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(B)(ii).

4. The facts and information contained in this affidavit are based upon my personal knowledge and observations of other officers and agents involved in the investigation. All observations referenced below that were not personally made by me were related to me by the persons who made such observations. This affidavit contains information necessary to support probable cause for this application. It is not intended to include each and every fact and matter observed by me or known to the government.

5. On April 4, 2023, law enforcement was in possession of a State of Minnesota search warrant, signed by Fourth District Court Judge Daniel Moreno on March 30, 2023, for BROWN's body, known Minneapolis residence, and all related vehicles.

6. Law enforcement conducted targeted surveillance of BROWN, and at approximately 2:30 p.m., observed BROWN came out of his known residence and approach a black 2010 Mercedes GL SUV, bearing Minnesota license HFM-921(hereinafter the "Mercedes") parked outside in the street. Officers observed BROWN

enter the Mercedes. After sitting inside the Mercedes for a short amount of time, BROWN got out, closed the door and locked it. BROWN walked back into his residence, and after a short period of time, BROWN exited his residence, got into a 2007 gold Chevrolet Tahoe, bearing Minnesota license JRU-955 (hereinafter the "Tahoe"), and drove away alone.

7. Law enforcement followed BROWN away from his residence and stopped the Tahoe at nearby business, BROWN was the sole occupant of the Tahoe. In a search of the vehicle, officers found approximately 1000 blue "M-30" pills commonly known to contain fentanyl in the center console.¹ The key to the Mercedes and \$2,728.00 in United States currency were recovered from BROWN's person. Once BROWN was in custody law enforcement executed the search warrant on his known address and the Mercedes.

8. Officers recovered approximately 8700 blue "M-30" pills² commonly known to contain fentanyl from a brown Cub Foods bag on the floor of the Mercedes between the 2nd and 3rd row seats. The pills were distributed evenly into approximately 87 plastic bags. I know from my training and experience, the distribution of a large amount of fentanyl pills into multiple plastic bags is indicative of narcotics sale.

9. A Glock model 17, 9mm, serial number LDS462³, equipped with an extended magazine and a "switch," was wrapped in a sweatshirt inside a blue backpack on the floor of the Mercedes between the second and third row seats, which was next to the Cub Foods

¹ A pill from the 1,000 recovered from the Tahoe was field-tested by law enforcement and tested positive for the presence of fentanyl.

² A pill from the 8,700 recovered from the Mercedes was field-tested by law enforcement and tested positive for the presence of fentanyl.

³ This handgun was run in NCIC and came back as a stolen firearm. This firearm was one of two handguns that were inside a lock box that was stolen in Goodhue County on June 21, 2019.

bag that contained the blue “M-30” pills. Under the front driver’s seat of the Mercedes, wrapped in a Target bag, law enforcement found a Glock model 42, .380 caliber, serial number ADWU454.

10. Officers recovered approximately \$6,000.00 in United States currency from Brown’s residence.




11. I know from my experience and training that a “switch” is a device for converting an otherwise semiautomatic firearm into a fully automatic firearm and that such a firearm and the “switch” itself are considered machineguns under federal law. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(23); 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b). I also know from my experience and training that 9700 pills of fentanyl is an amount typically possessed for distribution and not solely for personal use.

12. Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe that on or about April 4, 2023, the defendant, Montez Eugene Brown, did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally possess with the intent to distribute a mixture and substance containing a

detectable amount of fentanyl, a controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

13. Based on the foregoing, there is also probable cause to believe that on or about April 4, 2023, the defendant, Montez Eugene Brown, did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally possess a machinegun, that is, a Glock 17, 9mm pistol, serial number LDS462, equipped with an extended magazine and “switch,” in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, the crime set forth in Count 1 of the Criminal Complaint, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(B)(ii).



David J. Ligneel
Task Force Officer, FBI

Subscribed and Sworn before me by
reliable electronic means via FaceTime and
e-mail pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(d)(3)
this 5th day of April, 2023.



Tony N. Leung
United States Magistrate Judge