

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

FILED

JUL 18 2024

Joseph B. Palsal 62
Clerk of the
Circuit Court

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS)
Plaintiff,)
-v-)
SEAN GRAYSON,)
Defendant.)

Case No.: 24-CF-909

**THE PEOPLE'S VERIFIED PETITION
TO DENY DEFENDANT PRETRIAL RELEASE**

NOW COME the People of the State of Illinois by John C. Milhiser, State's Attorney in and for the County of Sangamon, Illinois, by First Assistant State's Attorney, Mary E. Rodgers, and pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1, petition this Honorable Court to deny the above-named defendant pretrial release. In support thereof, the People state as follows:

1. In the above captioned matter, the defendant has been charged with **First Degree Murder, Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and Official Misconduct.**
2. The defendant is charged with a forcible felony, or any other felony which involves the threat of or infliction of great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement and the defendant's pretrial release poses a real and present threat to the safety of any person or persons or the community. See 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(a)(1.5).
3. Additional grounds upon which the defendant should be denied pretrial release are as follows:
 - a. Defendant has ample access to firearms, the instrument of murder in this case.
4. Factual basis in support of Pretrial Detention:

Please reference People's Exhibit A (subject to protective order), recording of deputies' body worn camera depicting the events regarding Ms. Sonya Massey on July 6, 2024.

On July 6, 2024 Defendant responded to 2868 Hoover St. in his capacity as a Sangamon County Deputy to investigate a call for service in reference to a prowler. Defendant and another deputy made contact with the 911 caller, Sonya Massey who indicated she needed assistance. Ms. Massey appeared to be calm, perhaps unwell, not aggressive, and was approximately 110 pounds.

Deputies entered Ms. Massey's home to gather further information, and ensure the residence was safe. At no time was Ms. Massey under arrest.

Defendant noticed a pot on the stove, and approved of Ms. Massey removing the pot to prevent any accidental fires. The pot was located in another room of the home, separated by a large counter.

During this time, the other deputy was clearing the house, and nothing dangerous was noted. Defendant then made a comment about the pot, which apparently contained heated water. Ms. Massey responded verbally and set the pot of water down on a counter in the kitchen. During this time, Defendant was still in the living room area of the home.

Despite his distance and relative cover, Defendant drew his 9mm firearm, not the less than lethal TASER located on his duty vest, and threatened to shoot Ms. Massey in the face. Seeing the drawn weapon, Ms. Massey put her hands in the air and stated, "I'm sorry," while ducking for cover behind the counter that separated her and Defendant.

Defendant, with his firearm still drawn, proceeded to close the significant gap between him and Ms. Massey. Defendant then aggressively yelled at Ms. Massey to put the pot down.

Defendant then fired his duty weapon three times in the direction of Ms. Massey, striking her in the face one time. Only at this time did Defendant activate his body worn camera. (please note, the body worn camera of the other deputy was activated when he first arrived on scene, and remained on during the entirety of the events).

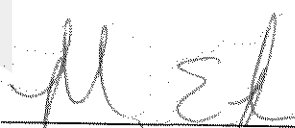
After this, the other deputy announced he was going to retrieve a medical kit from his vehicle, to which Defendant instructed him not to, because of the severity of the injury. The other deputy still rendered aid, and stayed with Ms. Massey until medical help arrived. Defendant at no time attempted to render aid to Ms. Massey.

An independent investigation of Defendant's actions was performed by the Illinois State Police. An expert in the field of "use of force" reviewed the recording made by body worn camera of both deputies. (Please see People's Exhibit B subject to a protective order) The expert concluded that Defendant was NOT justified in his use of deadly force. He likened the scenario to an officer intentionally and unnecessarily putting himself in front of a moving vehicle and then justifying use of force because of fear of being struck.

Defendant's disregard of his training as a law enforcement officer, and his disregard for human life, shows by clear and convincing evidence that he is a danger to persons in the community. He has ample access to firearms, and has shown a willingness to use lethal force, despite the availability of non-deadly alternatives, when there is little to no threat to his bodily safety.

5. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, and based upon the proffer the People request to make during the hearing on this petition pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(f)(2), the People pray that this Honorable Court deny the defendant pretrial release.

Respectfully submitted,
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
John C. Milhiser
Sangamon County State's Attorney

By: 
Mary E. Rodgers
First Assistant State's Attorney



ON YOUR SIDE