

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE ST. JOSEPH SUPERIOR COURT
) SS:
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY) CAUSE NO. 71D0

STATE OF INDIANA)
)
VS.) SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT IN
MELVIN D. WARD III) SUPPORT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
DOB: 03/18/1982

ANTHONY BONTRAGER, upon information and belief, affirms under the penalties for perjury, states that:

Your affiant is a sworn law enforcement officer. I am employed by the South Bend Police Department and have been so employed since 1998. I currently hold the rank of Captain and am the Commander of the Investigative Division. Previously, I was assigned to the County Metro Homicide Unit for eleven and one half years. I make this affidavit after speaking with eyewitnesses and other law enforcement officers.

On or about August 24, 2017, [REDACTED] contacted the South Bend Police Department regarding her ex-boyfriend, MELVIN D. WARD III. Officer Erik Schlegelmilch responded to [REDACTED] home. [REDACTED] indicated that the father of her three (3) year old son had been driving in her neighborhood earlier that morning. WARD had been squealing his tires in an aggressive manner. She became scared and left the home before calling the police.

While Officer Schlegelmilch was speaking with [REDACTED], he overheard on radio traffic regarding an irate parent at Stanley Clark School located at [REDACTED] South Bend, Indiana. [REDACTED] believed that this may be WARD attempting to take their son, [REDACTED], out of the school. [REDACTED] also stated that she had given WARD a handgun approximately one week

prior. He had come to her and specifically asked for one of her handguns. She believed that WARD may have it in his possession.

Officer Schlegelmilch conveyed that information over the radio to police units on their way to the school. Officers engaged their red and blue emergency lights due to the indication that WARD may be armed.

Officer Michael Tutino was among the officers responding to the school. Officer Tutino noticed that all vehicular traffic was yielding to his vehicle except for one silver Mitsubishi. Officer Tutino was traveling northbound on Miami and the silver Mitsubishi was traveling southbound. The Mitsubishi crossed the center line and began travelling against on-coming traffic. The Mitsubishi was approaching Officer Tutino's vehicle head-on. Officer Tutino swerved to avoid a crash but the Mitsubishi also swerved and continued to come at him head on.

Officer Tutino ultimately veered off into a nearby yard to avoid colliding with the Mitsubishi. The Mitsubishi passed him, then made a U-Turn and came back at Officer Tutino. The Mitsubishi travelled into the yard and attempted to ram Officer Tutino's car. Officer Tutino sped away in order to keep from being hit.

Officer Tutino drove southbound on Miami Street. The Mitsubishi followed him. Officer Tutino attempted to evade the Mitsubishi but it continued to follow him. Other uniform and unmarked vehicles – all with emergency light engaged – began to pursue the suspect vehicle. The driver of the Mitsubishi, ultimately identified as MELVIN D. WARD III, failed to pull over.

Officer Christopher Kronewitter performed a PIT maneuver finally stopping the Mitsubishi in the area of Sample and Main Street. After the Mitsubishi was stopped, WARD exited the vehicle. Officer Kronewitter ordered him to stop at gun point. WARD continued toward Officer Kronewitter despite multiple commands to stop. WARD came so close to Officer

Kronewitter that he pressed up against the barrel of the officer's gun twice and had to be pushed back.

WARD fought with multiple officers as he resisted being placed into handcuffs. He ultimately had to be tased. WARD was transported to Memorial Hospital and then to the St. Joseph County Jail.

Meanwhile, Det. Galen Pelletier and I went to Stanley Clark School where we interviewed staff and faculty members including [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is the Head of the Upper School.

[REDACTED] stated that she had heard a loud screeching noise in the school parking lot. She looked out a window and saw a vehicle pull quickly into the parking lot. The vehicle had its flashers engaged. Employees believed there might be a medical emergency occurring. WARD was recognized as a parent and allowed to enter the building.

WARD came inside the building and began yelling, "Where's my son? Where's the [REDACTED] is my son?" [REDACTED] WARD was confrontational and abusive to the staff.

[REDACTED] attempted to calm him down. Ward stated, "Who the [REDACTED] are you? Redeem yourself."

WARD began walking down the hallway towards his son's classroom. When he reached the classroom, he found the door was locked due to the school wide lockdown. WARD paced around the hallway and smashed a clock.

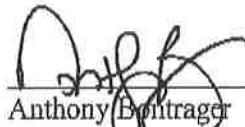
[REDACTED] again tried to calm him and WARD stated, "Get the [REDACTED] away from me. I will blow up this school and blow you up."

The administration from Stanley Clark School stated that WARD is no longer welcome on school property.

WHEREFORE, the State believes that WARD presents a danger to the community and requests a HIGHER THAN STANDARD BOND in the amount no-less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) corporate surety or five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) cash. As a condition of bond, the State requests that the MELVIN D. WARD III refrain from entering on the property of Stanley Clark School. Further, the State asks that MELVIN D. WARD III have no contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

All the above events occurred in St. Joseph County, Indiana.

I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that the foregoing representations are true.



Anthony Bontrager
SOUTH BEND POLICE DEPARTMENT