

STATE OF WISCONSIN

AMENDED CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Plaintiff,

-vs-

JEFFREY P. LEPSCH, DOB 4/22/73

AKA JEFFREY P. LEPSCH

27317 Fern Glen Road

Dakota, MN 55925

CASE NO.: 2012CF000691

DA Case No. 2012LC004153

Assigned DA/ADA: Tim Gruenke

ATN:

Defendant.

SEX: M RACE: W Height: 5 ft 4 in Weight: 175 lbs HAIR: Blonde EYES: Hazel OTHER:

Evan Stone, City of La Crosse Police Department, being first duly sworn on oath says that on information and belief:

Count 1: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

The above-named defendant on or about Saturday, September 15, 2012, at 423/425 Main Street, in the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of Paul A Petras, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.50(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Felony, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Count 2: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

The above-named defendant on or about Saturday, September 15, 2012, at 423/425 Main Street, in the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of Andrew J Petras, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.50(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Felony, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Count 3: ARMED ROBBERY WITH USE OF FORCE

The above-named defendant on or about Saturday, September 15, 2012, at 423/425 Main Street, in the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, with intent to steal, did take property from the person or presence of the owner, Paul A Petras, by use of force against the person of the owner, with intent thereby to overcome that person's physical resistance or physical power of resistance to the taking or carrying away of the property, and accomplished by use or threat of use of a dangerous weapon, contrary to sec. 943.32(1)(a) and (2), 939.50(3)(c) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

Count 4: POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A FELON

The above-named defendant on or about Saturday, September 15, 2012, at 423/425 Main Street, in the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, did possess a firearm subsequent to the conviction for the felony or other crime, as specified in sub. (1) (a) or (b), contrary to sec. 941.29(2)(a), 939.50(3)(g) Wis. Stats., a Class G Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than ten (10) years, or both.

and prays that the defendant be dealt with according to law; that the basis for complainant's charge of such offense is:

FACTUAL BASIS:

Sgt. Jansky of the La Crosse Police Department states that on September 15, 2012 at approximately 5:00 PM police were dispatched to the business "May's Photo Shop" at 423/425 Main St. in the City and County of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Upon arrival, the bodies of individuals identified as Paul Petras and Andrew (AJ) Petras were discovered deceased inside the business. Andrew was discovered behind the main vestibule, behind the main counter of the business lying on the floor in front of a safe. Paul Petras was discovered inside the bathroom of the business, the door to the bathroom was opened, and the hook used to latch the door appeared broken. Autopsies of both individuals were performed by Dr. Tranchida of the Dane County Medical Examiners Office and the cause of both deaths was determined to be gunshot wounds to the head. Andrew also appeared to have other injuries to his head consistent with blunt force trauma.

Sgt. Jansky states that the hours for the business for that day were 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. An employee of the business, William Metcalf, informed police he left the business at about 2:30 PM and Paul and Andrew were still there and alive. A customer wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt was in the store speaking with Paul at a glass display case full of camera equipment. The bodies of Paul and Andrew were then discovered by a family member at approximately 5:00 PM.

Sgt. Jansky states that during a search of the business it was discovered that numerous pieces of camera equipment were removed from the glass display case. The value of the equipment was in excess of \$16,000. It also appeared that one safe in the business had been opened and another safe had two gunshots in the door but remained locked. Police also discovered spent and unspent casings near the bodies of Andrew and Paul that appeared to be .22 caliber.

Sgt. Jansky also states that police discovered both victims did not have their cell phones on their persons and were not located at the scene. Family members indicated both had carried cell phones that day. He was able to determine that calls were placed to Andrew's phone at 3:02 PM, 3:43 PM, and 3:45 PM. Calls were made to Paul's phone at 3:06 PM and 3:36 PM.

Several witnesses indicated they were in the store just prior to closing and they described a white male in the store, about 5'5" to 5'6" wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt with the hood pulled up and also wearing a backpack.

Sgt. Jansky states that police were able to obtain surveillance video from various businesses in the area of May's Photo shop and police could observe a Blue Dodge van identified as a 2001-2007 Dodge Caravan parked at 400 Main St. A male subject exits the van wearing a grey sweatshirt with a hood over his head carrying a backpack at 1:52 PM. He enters the business at 1:53 PM. The same subject then exits the business at 2:58 PM carrying 4 bags including the backpack filled with unknown items. He enters the van and drive's Northbound on 4th Street. Other videos show the same Blue Dodge van with and upside down trailer hitch heading north.

Sgt. Jansky states that on September 26, 2012, a blue Dodge Caravan with an upside down trailer hitch was seen by an agent of the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation parked at 27317 Fern Glen Rd. in Dakota, MN. The license plate was 081-KGR and was registered to an Angie Lepsch. It was determined that Angie and Jeffrey P. Lepsch resided at that address in Dakota, MN. Jeff Lepsch was determined to have a prior felony conviction in La Crosse case number 03CF415 for a Class G felony theft where he had stolen over \$60,000 worth of items from Ace Hardware and sold it on E-Bay. He was convicted on December 30, 2003. Police also determined he had ties on his Facebook

page to National Camera Exchange, a camera store, Nikon, Canon, other photography based organizations and Enrapture Photography which he apparently owned.

Sgt. Jansky states that based on calls made to their phones and cell tower data, police learned that on September 15th, the victims' cell phones were in the general vicinity of:

- 100 Copeland Ave at 3:02 PM
- 1700 Rose St. at 3:06 PM
- Theater Rd and Hwy 16 in Onalaska at 3:36 PM
- Hwy 16 and Hwy 157 and I-90 at 3:43 PM
- I-90 near French Island at 3:45 PM

Inv. Secord of the La Crosse Police Department determined that on September 15, 2012 the defendant purchased an item at the Best Buy store on Hwy 16 in Onalaska at 3:25 PM.

Sgt. Jansky states that police also determined that the cell phone registered to Jeff Lepsch received a phone call on September 15th at 2:32 PM. The phone call went straight to voice mail indicating the phone would have been turned off at that time.

Sgt. Marco of the La Crosse Police Department states that on October 10, 2012 Police served a search warrant at the home of Jeff Lepsch and police recovered fourteen items of camera equipment all identified by serial numbers as being taken from May's Photo on September 15th. The items were located in various places throughout the house including inside a safe.

Lt. Malott of the La Crosse Police Department states that in an interview with Jeff Lepsch on October 10, 2012 he admitted having camera equipment inside his house, but wanted to show police which items were his as opposed to having been stolen. He also indicated that one piece of equipment that was identified as being taken from May's Photo he had bought three months prior from a person named "Isaiah" or "Isaac" that he found on Craig's List. He denied ever being at May's photo in La Crosse and said he was at Best Buy in Onalaska at about 1:00 pm that day and the rest of the time was with his family.

Subscribed and sworn to before me and approved
for filing. Dated October 10, 2012

Investigator Evan Stone, City of La Crosse Police
Department,
COMPLAINANT

Tim Gruenke, State Bar No. 1025046 District
Attorney
La Crosse County, Wisconsin