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2 Deputy County Attorney
3 MATT JENNINGS
4 Missoula County Attorney
5 Missoula County Courthouse
6 Missoula, Montana 59802
7 (406) 258-4737
8 Attorneys for Plaintiff

9 MONTANA FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, MISSOULA COUNTY

10 STATE OF MONTANA,
11 Plaintiff,

12 -vs-

13 ANGELO AVERILL GOWDY,
14 Defendant,

Dept. No 3
Cause No. DC-26-384

MOTION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR
LEAVE TO FILE INFORMATION

15 STATE OF MONTANA)
16 :ss
17 County of Missoula)

18 William Haney, Deputy County Attorney of Missoula County, Montana,
19 being first duly sworn, moves the Court for leave to file an Information
20 charging the above-named Defendant with allegedly committing the
21 offense(s) in Missoula County of COUNT I: CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT,
22 a Felony, in violation of Montana law, namely: Mont. Code Ann. 45-5-207;
COUNT II: FALSE REPORT TO PEACE OFFICERS- CRIME REPORTED
WAS A FELONY, a Felony, in violation of Montana law, namely: Mont. Code
MOTION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR LEAVE TO FILE INFORMATION

1 Ann. 45-7-205; COUNT II: FALSE REPORTS TO PEACE OFFICERS-
2 CRIME REPORTED WAS A FELONY, a Felony, in violation of Montana law,
3 namely: Mont. Code Ann. 45-7-205; COUNT IV: FALS REPORTS TO
4 PEACE OFFICERS- CRIME REPORTED WAS A FELONY, a Felony, in
5 violation of Montana law, namely: Mont. Code Ann. 45-7-205.
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7 The Motion is based upon the following facts which have been
8 obtained from reports of the law enforcement officers which, if true, I believe,
9 constitute sufficient probable cause to justify the filing of the charges. The
10 facts from those reports are as follows:

11 On July 6, 2026, Defendant Angelo Gowdy, hereinafter "Defendant"
12 falsely accused three people of taking his vehicle from him at gunpoint. The
13 three Falsely Accused Persons (FAPs) were located by peace officers at
14 Missoula's popular Southgate Mall. Believing that the FAPs were armed,
15 dangerous, and had just perpetrated a carjacking, numerous law
16 enforcement officers employed by the Missoula County Sheriff's Office,
17 Missoula City Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation
18 descended on the Southgate Mall. Consistent with tactics utilized against
19 high-risk offenders, officers utilized physical force and the display of deadly
20 force through the exhibition of handguns and AR-15 patrol rifles to take the
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1 three FAPs into custody. All three falsely accused persons were lodged in
2 the Missoula County Detention Facility on Robbery charges until Sheriff's
3 investigators determined that the Defendant fabricated his accusations.

4 **Defendant's Armed Robbery Report**

5 On July 6, 2026, the Defendant reported to a 911 operator that two
6 males pulled guns on him and robbed him of his truck by force and menace.
7 The Defendant stated that he picked up the two males and a female at a gas
8 station in Butte and was giving them a ride to Missoula. He reported that
9 while traveling on Interstate 90 near East Missoula, a male in the rear
10 passenger's seat placed a gun to the back of his head and told him that they
11 were taking his truck. The Defendant stated that he felt the "cold steel"
12 against the back of his head and immediately recognized it as a firearm.
13

14 The Defendant provided a description of his vehicle and the three
15 assailants. He stated that the second male exhibited a black and silver
16 handgun to him by lifting his shirt during the robbery. The Defendant
17 claimed that the two males made gang-related statements during the
18 robbery. The Defendant stated that he was familiar with the gang claimed
19 by the two men due to the time he spent in prison. A review of the
20 Defendant's criminal history confirms that he has previously been confined
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1 at the Montana State Prison.

2 The Defendant stated that the three individuals forced him to exit his in
3 the vicinity of mile marker 107 on Interstate 90.

4 The Defendant provided a description of the three individuals. He
5 provided the name of FAP1, along with a description of his race (other than
6 white). The Defendant identified FAP2, a male, by his full name after
7 purportedly looking him up on Facebook. The Defendant identified FAP3, a
8 female, by providing her alias and physical description.
9

10 **Defendant's Vehicle Located at Southgate Mall**

11 Corporal Garrett Brown is a peace officer employed by the Missoula
12 City Police Department. On July 6, 2026, at approximately 4:30 p.m.,
13 Corporal Brown located the Defendant's Chevrolet Silverado in the
14 Southgate Mall parking lot near Dillards. The vehicle's sole occupant,
15 FAP1, was seated in the driver's seat.
16

17 **Arrest of False Accused Person No. 1 (FAP1)**

18 Believing that FAP1 committed an armed robbery earlier in the day,
19 Corporal Brown documented his mental state and actions concerning his
20 duty to take the alleged armed robber into custody. Corporal Brown
21 considered that in his training and experience, people who are willing to use
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1 firearms in robberies are willing to use those firearms against law
2 enforcement and that people who engage in such behavior pose an
3 incredibly high risk to officers and the public. Because the mall is a high
4 traffic area with people coming and going from the parking lot, Corporal
5 Brown felt compelled to gain swift compliance from FAP1 by depriving him of
6 the opportunity to run, drive away or fight back. Corporal Brown pulled in
7 quickly behind the truck, activated his overhead lights and drew his AR-15
8 patrol rifle. Corporal Brown pointed the rifle at FAP1 and issued commands
9 for him to surrender.
10

11 Officer Schlenker responded to the mall parking lot to pack up
12 Corporal Brown. He exited his vehicle and pointed his handgun at FAP1.
13 Schlenker reported that he perceived FAP1 to be an immediate threat due to
14 the report that FAP1 just committed an armed robbery with a firearm.
15 Accordingly, he assisted Corporal Brown by providing "lethal coverage"
16 when taking FAP1 into custody.
17

18 **Arrest of Falsey Accused Persons No. 1 and No. 2 (FAP1 & FAP2)**

19 Uniformed officers drew their weapons and set up a perimeter around
20 the mall to identify and arrest the two outstanding armed robbery suspects.
21 Sheriff's personnel and an FBI Agent wearing civilian clothing entered the
22

1 crowded mall to take the reportedly armed and dangerous suspects into
2 custody by surprise.

3 FAP2 and FAP3 were located as they walked out of Hobby Lobby.
4 Sheriff's personnel tackled and knocked FAP2 to the ground. FAP2
5 sustained a bleeding injury to his person. FAP3 was arrested
6 simultaneously with FAP2.
7

8 **Vehicle Search**

9 Pursuant to a judicially authorized search warrant, officers seized a
10 Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun from the truck. Sheriff's
11 personnel returned the vehicle to the Defendant following the execution of
12 the search warrant.
13

14 **Statements of Falsely Accused Persons**

15 Detective Mike Sunderland (MCSO) interviewed FAP1 and FAP2 at
16 the Missoula County Detention Facility. Detective Sunderland observed that
17 FAP1 and FAP2 appeared confused when claiming that they did not
18 understand the reason for their arrests. Both men insisted that they did
19 nothing wrong.
20

21 FAP1 provided a statement after receiving a *Miranda* warning. FAP1
22 advised that he has known the Defendant since childhood. He learned that

1 the Defendant was arrested and lodged in the Toole County jail on July 2nd.
2 The Defendant asked FAP1 to post bond for him. FAP1 claimed that the
3 Defendant offered to give FAP1 his truck if he agreed to provide
4 approximately \$200 to a bondsman to secure a surety bond on his behalf.
5 FAP1 subsequently arranged the Defendant's release and drove with FAP2
6 to Shelby, Montana to pick the Defendant up on July 5, 2026. The three men
7 the returned to Butte.

9 According to FAP1, on July 6, 2026, the Defendant requested a ride to
10 Missoula to address court matters. He stated that along with FAP2 and
11 FAP3, they traveled with the Defendant without incident. FAP1 insisted that
12 no robbery occurred and that the Defendant was not threatened with a
13 firearm to turn his truck over. According to FAP1, the Defendant requested
14 to be dropped off near his sister's home on South Russell Street. He
15 described stopping at a gas station near Russell Street and 39th Street
16 (Jackson's) According to FAP1, the Defendant exited the truck near
17 Jackson's gas station. The Defendant gathered his belongings and walked
18 towards his sister's home without incident. FAP1 insisted that Jackson's gas
19 station surveillance video would confirm the truth of his statement.
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22 FAP1 conceded that he possessed a firearm and acknowledged that

1 he is not lawfully allowed to possess a gun due to his felony conviction
2 history. He advised that he keeps the gun for bear protection while fishing.

3 Detective Sunderland interviewed FAP3. She stated that she is in a
4 relationship with FAP2. She recalled that on July 5th, FAP1 asked FAP2 to
5 help him pick the Defendant up. FAP2 agreed. After picking the Defendant
6 up, the group stayed in Butte. FAP3 was aware that the Defendant traded
7 his truck for bail money. On July 6, she and FAP2 agreed to go to Missoula
8 with FAP1 and the Defendant. The group of four traveled to Missoula
9 without conflict. According to FAP3, the group eventually stopped at a gas
10 station at 39th Street and Russell Street so that the Defendant could be
11 dropped off near his sister's house. According to FAP3, the Defendant
12 removed his belongings from the truck and walked away. FAP3 expressed
13 confusion over any allegation that a robbery had occurred. She suggested
14 that the Defendant may have fabricated the report because he regretted
15 trading his truck.
16

18 **Jackson's Gas Station Video**

19 On July 8, 2026, Detective Sunderland reviewed video footage from
20 the Jackson's gas station located at 1250 39th Street, Missoula. The
21 surveillance video demonstrated that on July 6, 2026 at approximately 3:30
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1 p.m., the Defendant's truck entered the parking lot from Russell Street. After
2 the truck parked at the gas pumps, FAP3 exited the vehicle and entered the
3 store. All three males then exited the truck.

4 After FAP3 returned from the store, she entered the truck with FAP1
5 and FAP2. The vehicle left without incident. The Defendant was captured
6 on surveillance video standing at the pump island. He appeared to speak on
7 the phone, slip on a backpack, and walk away without incident while pulling
8 a suitcase.

10 Detective Sunderland reported that the video directly contradicts the
11 Defendant's account that he was forced out of the truck on Interstate 90 at
12 gunpoint.

14 Detective Sunderland contacted Toole County authorities. He
15 confirmed that consistent with FAP1's claim of innocence, the Defendant
16 was arrested on July 2nd, bonded on July 5th, and was picked up by FAP1.

17 Detective Sunderland informed the undersigned Deputy County
18 Attorney that he seeks the Defendant's arrest. Based on the circumstances
19 set forth above, the undersigned Deputy County Attorney asserts probable
20 cause to believe that the Defendant falsely accused FAP1 and FAP2 of the
21 commission of armed Robbery. The Defendant provided sufficient false
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1 information to cause the Sheriff's Office to believe that FAP3 was
2 accountable for the crime of armed Robbery. The Defendant's likely motive
3 was to re-acquire possession of his truck after utilizing the vehicle as an
4 incentive to induce FAP1 to arrange his bail bond. When making a false
5 report that FAP1, FAP2, and FAP3 were armed, dangerous, and had just
6 perpetrated a violent felony offense against him – the Defendant knowingly
7 and purposefully subjected all three falsely accused persons to a high-risk
8 felony arrest by law enforcement. The Defendant's malicious false report of
9 an armed robbery caused a multitude of peace officers to descend with
10 weapons at the ready on the Southgate Mall, thus endangering FAP1,
11 FAP2, and FAP3 and disrupting the mall's business operations.
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16 This case is being filed direct to District Court.

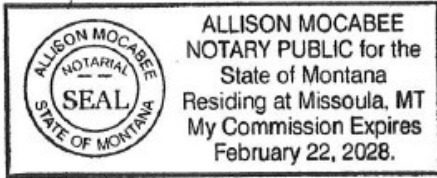
17 DATED this 14th day of July, 2026.
18

19 /s/ William Haney
20 William Haney
21 Deputy County Attorney

22 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 14th day of July,
2026.

MOTION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR LEAVE TO FILE INFORMATION

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Allison Mocabee

NOTARY PUBLIC FOR STATE OF MONTANA