

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

DANE COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Plaintiff,

vs.

THISTLE M PETERSEN

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Alias:

Defendant,

Ref. Agency: Madison (City) Police
Department

DA Case No.: 2021DA007634

Assigned DA/ADA:

Agency Case No.: 2021-00903073

Court Case No.: 21CM_____

ATN:

For Official Use

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

The below-named complaining witness being first duly sworn states the following:

Count 1: DISORDERLY CONDUCT, HATE CRIME

The above-named defendant on or about Saturday, July 17, 2021, in the City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin, while in a public place, did engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud and/or otherwise disorderly conduct, under circumstances in which such conduct tended to cause a disturbance, contrary to sec. 947.01(1), 939.51(3)(b), 939.645(1) and (2)(b) Wis. Stats., a Class B Misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), or imprisoned not more than ninety (90) days, or both.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.645(1) and (2)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed a crime under chapters 939 to 948, and selected the property that is damaged or otherwise affected by the crime in whole or in part because of the defendant's belief or perception regarding the sexual orientation of the owner or occupant of that property, the penalty increase under this section changes the status of the crime to a felony and the revised maximum fine is \$10,000 and the revised maximum term of imprisonment is 2 years.

FACTS:

Your complainant is a detective with the City of Madison Police Department and for this complaint is relying on the written police report(s) submitted by City of Madison Police Officer(s) Kraig Kalka.

Officer Kalka operating a marked squad in full police uniform reports on July 19, 2021, he received a self-report authored by an individual who was identified and for this complaint is referred to as PJF, and he was requested to conduct a follow up into this investigation.

PHONE CONTACT WITH VICTIM PJF:

Officer Kalka reports that he made phone contact with PJF, who stated that he is the owner of Our Lives Magazine, which is Madison's LGBTQ magazine. PJF stated that they have many media boxes which the computer Our Lives Magazine owns, which are placed in and around the Capitol Square and State Street corridor in the City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin. PJF stated that stickers containing the word "TERF Collective" were placed onto at least one of his media boxes in the downtown area, which was specifically located at the State Street and Dayton Street intersection in the City of Madison. PJF stated that he was unable to fully remove the stickers and actually had to turn the glass backwards and place it behind the cover front of the magazine.

PJF stated that there is an individual whom he knows as Thistle Pettersen, the Defendant herein, who is an "anti-transgender activist" and has targeted the magazine in the past. PJF stated that he strongly believes that the Defendant is the individual who placed the stickers on the media box of Our Lives Magazine. PJF stated that he had retrieved a screenshot of an image from the Defendant's Twitter account, which shows what he believes are the stickers being created inside of her apartment. PJF stated that he did not give anyone consent to damage the property or place the stickers on the media boxes. PJF stated that "TERF" is an acronym for Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist." PJF stated that an example of individuals who would associate with "TERF" are not supportive of transgender women's rights.

Officer Kalka reports that he asked him how he had felt when he had observed the stickers being on the media boxes of Our Lives Magazine. PJF stated something to the effect of, "I felt attacked and intimidated." PJF stated that any readers who would approach the media box would also likely be disturbed by observing that sticker on the media box. PJF stated that he has also had readers contact him and explain to him that they also have the same feelings that he did about the stickers.

CITY CAMERA REVIEW:

Officer Kalka reports that PJF stated that he believed that the stickers may have been placed on the media boxes closer to July 13, 2021, and based off of that information, he began his search of the City cameras on July 13, 2021 starting at 9:00 a.m. Officer Kalka reports that between 10:28 a.m. and 10:32 a.m., he did observe a white female, wearing a red bicycle helmet, ride up on a bicycle. This female did ultimately stop directly by the media box and then began to manipulate what appeared to be the sticker being placed on the media box. Officer Kalka reports that he observed this individual then place the sticker on the exterior of the media box and then open the media box to look in, as if an attempt to make it seem as they were patronizing the media box.

Officer Kalka reports that based on his knowledge of the City cameras, he had observed this individual come from the State Capitol area, or down State Street. At this time, he focused his attention back to the camera located at State/Mifflin/Carroll #1, and at 10:28:32, he observed the same individual on the bicycle, traveling off of the Capitol Square on Mifflin Street, then turning onto State Street. Officer Kalka reports that he was able to obtain an image from this in which clearly showed a white female wearing a red bicycle helmet with holes in the top, what appeared to be a pair of red sandals, as well as operating a bicycle with a distinctive black crate on the back of it. Officer Kalka reports that at this time, he was able to run a data check of Thistle M. Pettersen, and did reasonably believe that this was the individual operating the bicycle. Officer Kalka reports that on the State and Lake camera, at 10:39:58, that same

female is seen placing a sticker onto a City telephone pole at that intersection. Officer Kalka reports that at this time, he observed the same bicycle, which also had a distinctive set of handlebars as well as a water holder on the frame. Officer Kalka reports that he observed that the female had a tattoo on the outside of her right shin on her right leg.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DEFENDANT:

Officer Kalka reports that a Department of Transportation photo of the Defendant resembled the female whom he did observe on City cameras. Officer Kalka reports that officers did review Thistle Petterson’s Facebook page, and he observed two photographs of the Defendant which were collected. In both photographs, the same bicycle is able to be observed in the Defendant’s possession.

CONTACT WITH THE DEFENDANT:

Officer Kalka reports that he made contact with the Defendant and explained to her that on July 13, 2021, there were “TERF” stickers placed onto the Our Lives Magazine media box at State Street and Dayton Street. Officer Kalka reports that at no point in time did the Defendant ever admit that she was the person who put the stickers there. The Defendant stated something similar to, “How are those stickers any different than the ones other people are putting up downtown?”

****THIS COMPLAINT IS BASED ON** the information and belief of your complainant, who is a Court Officer for the city of Madison Police Department, and who learned of the above offense from the reports of city of Madison Police Officer(s) Kraig Kalka, which report your complainant believes to be truthful and reliable inasmuch as they were prepared during the course of the officer(s) official duties.

Further, your complainant believes the information furnished by PJF to be truthful and reliable inasmuch as he is a citizen informant(s) and witnessed the events described.

Your complainant believes the statements of the Defendant(s) to be truthful and reliable insofar as they are admissions against penal interest.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
09/24/21

Electronically Signed By:
Dallas B. Montano
Assistant District Attorney
State Bar #: 1112901

Electronically Signed By:
Kristine Acker
Complainant