

18-Jan-2024 20:06

CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MO

BY Jeffrey S. Bush DCA

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Date: 01-18-2024

Police #: TF230078FE

I, Darren Rhoden, a Detective with the Jackson County Drug Task Force, upon my oath, and under penalties of perjury, state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that Byron D. KITCHEN committed one or more criminal offenses:

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

In September 2023, Jackson County Drug Task Force (JCDF) Detective (Det.) [REDACTED] received information that Byron D. KITCHEN "Bishop" was selling fentanyl pills and cocaine to local drug dealers and/or users. Det. [REDACTED] learned that KITCHEN worked at [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], in Independence, Jackson County, MO. Det. Rhoden also learned that KITCHEN lived at [REDACTED] in Blue Springs, Jackson County, MO. Det. [REDACTED] was told that KITCHEN conducts drug transactions at both his place of employment, and his residence. Det. [REDACTED] confirmed that KITCHEN is a convicted felon, involving drug crimes and domestic violence. Det. [REDACTED] finally learned that KITCHEN conducts these drug transactions while in possession of a handgun.

On 09-11-2023, at approximately 1100 hours, Det. [REDACTED] conducted surveillance at [REDACTED]. There, Det. [REDACTED] saw KITCHEN arrive in his gray Chevy Impala. Upon parking his vehicle, KITCHEN immediately walked to a [REDACTED]. KITCHEN got inside the vehicle, and made contact with the truck's driver. KITCHEN was inside the truck only briefly, before exiting and returning to his Chevy Impala. Subsequently, both vehicles left the [REDACTED] parking lot, driving in separate directions.

Subsequently, surveillance has followed KITCHEN from his home, directly to [REDACTED]. There, surveillance has witnessed KITCHEN park his vehicle, and wait for other vehicles to arrive in the parking lot. KITCHEN has rarely been seen entering [REDACTED], once he arrives. The vast majority of the time, KITCHEN is seen sitting in his vehicle, waiting on cars to arrive. Once other cars arrive, KITCHEN is seen making brief contact with the occupants. The contact is made either inside KITCHEN's vehicle, or within the newly arrived vehicle.

Between the dates of 09-13-2023 and 01-08-2024, Detective Rhoden coordinated four separate fentanyl pill purchases, from Byron D. KITCHEN. Each fentanyl pill purchase took place within Jackson County, Missouri. The Confidential Source (CS) purchased a total of 50 pills, of fentanyl, from KITCHEN.

On 09-13-2023, the CS met KITCHEN in the parking lot of [REDACTED], at [REDACTED], in Independence, Jackson County, MO, to purchase 10 pills of

fentanyl (Buy A), for \$300.00. There, KITCHEN and the CS conducted the fentanyl purchase inside the CS's vehicle.

On 09-26-2023, the CS again met KITCHEN in the parking lot of [REDACTED], at [REDACTED], in Independence, Jackson County, MO, to purchase 10 pills of fentanyl (Buy B), for \$300.00. The fentanyl purchase took place inside the CS's vehicle.

On 10-12-2023, the CS again met KITCHEN in the parking lot of [REDACTED], in Independence, Jackson County, MO, to purchase 10 pills of fentanyl (Buy C), for \$300.00. The fentanyl purchase took place inside the CS's vehicle.

On 01-08-2024, the CS met KITCHEN at his residence, at [REDACTED], in Blue Springs, Jackson County, MO, to purchase 20 pills of fentanyl (Buy D), for \$500.00. The fentanyl purchase took place inside KITCHEN's home. The CS reported that KITCHEN had a handgun on his person during this drug transaction.

These drug exhibits field-tested positive for fentanyl, via MobileDetect Fentanyl Test Strips. All drug exhibits have been sent to the Missouri Highway Patrol's Crime Lab for further drug analysis.

On 01-18-2024, JCDTF and Blue Springs Police Department personnel executed a search warrant on KITCHEN's residence, at [REDACTED], Blue Springs, Jackson County, MO. KITCHEN was taken into custody.

The following items were found, photographed, and seized, from KITCHEN's residence:

Garage (1-A)

- U.S. currency;
- 1 Glock 29 (Gen 4) 10mm handgun (SN: BYDH184), inside a black backpack;
- 9 rounds of 10mm ammunition and holster, inside a black backpack;
- 151 grams of marijuana, inside black backpack;
- 3 grams of suspected cocaine, inside a black backpack;
- 9 grams of suspected fentanyl, inside a black backpack;
- 42 grams of suspected ecstasy, inside a black backpack;
- Numerous plastic baggies and one yellow digital scale, inside a black backpack;
- \$840.00 in U.S. currency, on an end table; and
- One Motorola mobile phone and case, on blue couch.

Master Bedroom (1-F)

- 1 Glock box with 2 loaded gun magazines;
- 1 stolen Taurus G2C (SN: [REDACTED]) 9mm caliber handgun, inside the Glock box, inside the nightstand;
- 1 fully loaded gun magazine, with 9mm ammunition, found in Taurus G2C;
- 50 rounds of .40 caliber ammunition, inside nightstand; and

- 1 box containing 38 rounds of 9mm ammunition;

The suspected fentanyl field-tested positive for fentanyl, via MobileDetect Fentanyl Test Strips.

At the Blue Springs jail, KITCHEN was asked if he wanted to answer questions. KITCHEN then invoked his right to speak to an attorney before questioning.

On or about June 3, 2005, KITCHEN was found guilty of Possession of a Controlled Substance, a felony, and Trafficking Drugs in the 2nd Degree, a felony, in Jackson County, Missouri in case number 1 [REDACTED].

Print Name

Darren Rhoden



Signature (Detective)

Detective

Jackson County Drug Task Force