

**AFFIDAVIT
STATE OF VERMONT
CALEDONIA COUNTY S.S.
Case # 24SJ001490**

Now comes **Sergeant George Johnson**, Affiant, being duly sworn and on oath, states he has probable cause to believe that, **John Stelzl DOB: 11/10/1988** has committed the offenses of **False information to Law Enforcement Authorities, Impeding Public Officer, Assault on Law Enforcement Officer 3 counts, Resisting Arrest and Disorderly Conduct**, which are violations of **Title 13 Vermont Statutes Annotated 1754(a), 3001(a), 1028(a)(1), 3017(a)(1), and 1026(a)(1)** respectively.


BASED ON THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

1. On 05/10/2022, I was working as a uniformed police officer for the Town of St. Johnsbury Caledonia County in the State of Vermont.
2. At approximately 1712 hours, I was traveling south on Bay Street in St. Johnsbury in the area of the bike path Pavilion located at 195 Bay Street. I observed a hooded male standing under the pavilion. I traveled into the south parking area of the pavilion and the male immediately left heading out the north side traveling north. I exited the pavilion and traveled north on Bay Street and when I neared the male he quickly changed direction and traveled south. I am familiar with the pavilion area through past police involvements and am aware that drugs are used in it. I turned around to travel south and the male then jay walk across Bay Street in front of me instead of walking to the nearby crosswalk a violation of Title 23 Vermont Statutes Annotated 1052(c).
3. I asked the male for his name and informed him that he had not used the crosswalk when he had crossed in front of me. The male stated that he was "Taylor Hay." This male was later positively identified by booking photos and tattoo's as John Stelzl DOB: 11/10/1988.
4. I exited my cruiser and Stelzl changed directions and began to run away. I caught up to Stelzl and grabbed him to stop him and informed that he was being detained. Stelzl attempted to pull away and I took him to the ground. Once on the ground Stelzl continued to fight against me grabbing my leg. I ordered Stelzl to stop multiple times and he continued to fight. While on the ground Stelzl wriggled off his backpack. Once he had removed his backpack he began yelling multiple times "I don't have anything. I don't have anything." Leading me to believe he was concealing something illegal in his backpack. Based on my training and experience it is known to me that illicit substances are often carried in backpacks such as these.


5. I informed Stelzl that he was under arrest for disorderly conduct. Stelzl continued to grab my wrist and hands. Stelzl grabbed my left thumb and twisted it causing pain. I peppered sprayed Stelzl and he wiped it off his face and with his rights hand and with the same hand gouged his finger into my left eye causing me pain and loss of vision in that eye. Stelzl continued to fight grabbing my wrists and hands. A small glass tube had fallen out of Stelzl's pocket along with other items. This glass tube contained steel wool as a filter. Based on my training and experience I know that tubes such as these are often used in the smoking of illicit substances and are commonly referred to as crack pipes. Stelzl then reached up ripped the Taser out of my holster but could not fire immediately because of the safety being engaged. I fought Stelzl to get my Taser back from him. I regained my Taser and then tased Stelzl. Stelzl continued to resist and I tased him. Stelzl then grabbed the Taser from me ripping it from and hand and then shot me in the leg with it. Both probes from the Taser entered my right leg in the calf area causing me pain and causing me to fall injuring my elbow.
6. Ofc. McKendrick Johnson arrived on scene and tased Stelzl who continued to resist. Ofc. Johnson later informed me that when he arrived he observed Stelzl yanking on my gun attempting to free it from the holster. I struck Stelzl with the side of my Taser and we were able to wrestle Stelzl to his stomach but he refused to place his hands behind his back. I was unsure as to if Stelzl had a weapon that he could reach for. I struck Stelzl twice in the back of the head and ordered him to place his hands behind his back. Stelzl refused to comply. I struck Stelzl in the back and he still refused to comply. I repeated my order for Stelzl to place his hands behind his back and he did not comply. I tased Stelzl in the lower back area using it in the stun configuration. Stelzl finally complied.
7. I have probable cause to believe that on 05/10/2024 at approximately 1712 hours, John Stelzl DOB: 11/10/1988 committed the crime False Information when he gave the false name of Taylor Hay as his own, a violation of Title 13, Vermont Statutes Annotated 1754(a).
8. I have probable cause to believe that on 05/10/2024 at approximately 1712 hours John Stelzl DOB: 11/10/1988 committed the Impeding a Public Officer when he removed my Taser a weapon from me a police officer by ripping from my holster and then after I fought regained control of it from him he then ripped it out of hand and then shot me with it, a violation of Title 13, Vermont Statutes Annotated 3001(a).
9. I have probable cause to believe that on 05/10/2024 at approximately 1712 hours John Stelzl DOB:11/10/1988 committed the crime Assault on Law Enforcement Officer when he poked me a Law Enforcement Officer in the eye causing pain who was performing his lawful duty, a violation of Title 13, Vermont Statutes Annotated 1028(a)(1).

10. I have probable cause to believe that on 05/10/2024 at approximately 1712 hours John Stelzl DOB:11/10/1988 committed the crime Assault on Law Enforcement Officer when he twisted my thumb a Law Enforcement Officer who was performing his lawful duty causing pain, a violation of Title 13, Vermont Statutes Annotated 1028(a)(1).
11. I have probable cause to believe that on 05/10/2024 at approximately 1712 hours John Stelzl DOB: 11/10/1988 committed the crime Assault on Law Enforcement Officer when he took my Taser and shot me with it a Law Enforcement Officer causing me pain who was performing his lawful duty pain, a violation of Title 13, Vermont Statutes Annotated 1028(a)(1).
12. I have probable cause to believe that on 05/10/2024 at approximately 1712 hours John Stelzl DOB: 11/10/1988 committed the crime Resisting Arrest when he after being told that he was under arrest refused to comply and continued to resist and assault me the arresting officer, a violation of Title 13, Vermont Statutes Annotated 3017(a)(1).
13. I have probable cause to believe that on 05/10/2024 at approximately 1712 hours John Stelzl DOB: 11/10/1988 committed the crime Disorderly Conduct when he in public yelled fought, tased and assaulted me, a violation of Title 13, Vermont Statutes Annotated 1026(a)(1).

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON
THIS 11th DAY OF MAY, 2024**



(NOTARY PUBLIC)



(AFFIANT)

5/11/2024

(DATE)



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May 17, 2024

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All Other Caledonia County Defense Attorneys

Dear Counsel,

It has come to my attention that Sgt. George Johnson of the St. Johnsbury Police Department has engaged in violent conduct during an incident that took place on May 10, 2024 in the village of St. Johnsbury. [State v. Stelzl Docket No. 24CR04931].

This matter has been referred to the Vermont State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations and an investigation has been opened.

The above stated information is disclosed consistent with the State's Constitutional and ethical requirements, including V.R.Cr.P. 16(a)(2)(G) and (b)(2) to ensure awareness of this matter for purposes of discovery and disposition of pending cases where Sgt. Johnson was the investigating officer.

I have determined that the information surrounding the incident bears sufficient credibility to provide this initial notice, consistent with *Brady v. Maryland* and *Giglio v. United States*, however, wrongdoing has not yet been substantiated or unsubstantiated by any criminal or internal investigation.

Additional relevant information will be updated as it becomes available, and disclosures will be made consistent with our legal obligations. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. J. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.