

OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

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February 23, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suspect charged in carjacking, fleeing case

The Anoka County Attorney's Office today charged Joseph William Heroff for his role in an armed carjacking and police chase on Sunday.

Heroff is charged with two felonies:

- First-degree aggravated robbery
- Fleeing police in a motor vehicle

The defendant made his first court appearance in Anoka County District Court today. Bail was set at \$500,000 with no conditions. Heroff's next appearance is set for March 15.

Heroff was one of two individuals involved in Sunday's incident, which began in Blaine (Anoka County) and ended near Braham (Isanti County). The Anoka County Attorney's Office will not be releasing any information on the second individual – beyond what is in the criminal complaint – or the concurrent investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

The complaint is attached for reference. The defendant's booking photo is available from the Anoka County Sheriff's Office at <https://www.anokacounty.us/727/Inmate-Locator>.

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

CA-2021-00339
02-CR-21-899

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSEPH WILLIAM HEROFF DOB: 01/28/1995

715 Davis Street
Hammond, WI 54015

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Aggravated Robbery in the First Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.245.1, with reference to: 609.11.5, 609.05.1

Maximum Sentence: 0-20 Years and/or \$10,500.00 - \$35,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/21/2021

Control #(ICR#): 21037369

Charge Description: On or about February 21, 2021, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JOSEPH WILLIAM HEROFF, did while intentionally aiding, advising, or conspiring with another or others, commit a robbery, while armed with a dangerous weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon and at the time of offense, the Defendant or an accomplice did use or possess a firearm, to wit: a handgun.

COUNT II

Charge: Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle

Minnesota Statute: 609.487.3

Maximum Sentence: 0-3 Years Plus 1 Day and/or \$1,500.00 - \$5,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/21/2021

Control #(ICR#): 21037369

Charge Description: On or about February 21, 2021, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JOSEPH WILLIAM HEROFF, did by means of a motor vehicle flee or attempt to flee a peace officer who is acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty, and the perpetrator knows or should reasonably know the same to be a peace officer.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

At approximately 12:57 PM on February 21, 2021, officers from the Blaine Police Department responded to a report of a shoplifting in progress at the Kohl's store located at 10311 Baltimore Street, in the City of Blaine, within Anoka County.

As officers were responding, they received information that the two male suspects were leaving the parking lot in a white Jeep Compass. Officers quickly located the vehicle and attempted to stop it, but the vehicle fled through the Kohl's parking lot into the adjacent Menards parking lot. After pursuing the vehicle through that lot, officers ultimately utilized a PIT maneuver to stop the vehicle. The two male occupants then fled on foot across a frozen drainage pond towards the Conquer Ninja Gym facility.

The males then carjacked a pickup truck and fled north on Highway 65. The pursuit ultimately ended near Braham, MN, and one of the males was taken into custody, and identified as JOSEPH WILLIAM HEROFF (DOB 1-28-1995), the defendant. A second male (for the purposes of this complaint identified as AAA) was pronounced dead at the scene near Braham.

Officers then spoke with the defendant, who stated that he and AAA had driven the white Jeep Compass to Kohl's. The defendant reported that he and AAA were inside the Kohl's store, and AAA decided to shoplift. The defendant stated that he told AAA not to do it, then went out to wait in the car. A short time later, AAA came running out of the store with a cart full of merchandise which he began shoving into the car. The defendant, who admitted to being the driver at this point, began to flee from law enforcement officers that had arrived. The defendant stated that after the PIT maneuver, he and AAA began to flee on foot. After reaching a nearby parking lot (the Conquer Ninja Gym), the defendant reported that he and AAA approached a pickup truck. AAA then brandished a gun and ordered the two occupants out of the pickup. The defendant stated that he then got into the passenger seat, and AAA drove the carjacked pickup off at a high rate of speed.

Officers also spoke with TFV, who told officers that he and his 9 year-old daughter JKV were waiting in his truck at the Conquer Ninja gym for a birthday party that was going to start shortly. TFV reported that as they were waiting, two males, one with a gun, approached the truck and demanded they get out. TFV stated that he and his daughter got out of the truck, which was then taken by the two men.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Orin T Christensen
DETECTIVE
10801 TOWN SQUARE DRIVE
NE
BLAINE, MN 55449
Badge: 183

Electronically Signed:
02/23/2021 08:42 AM
Anoka County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Wade A. Kish
Assistant County Attorney
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-2265
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:
02/23/2021 08:36 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: February 23, 2021.

Judicial Officer James Cunningham
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 02/23/2021 10:16 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Joseph William Heroff

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of
Detention upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: