

United States District Court

for the
Western District of New York

United States of America

v.

Case No. 20-mj-1162

BRANDON WILSON

Defendant

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

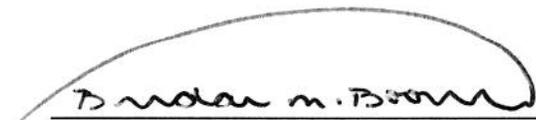
I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date of November 3, 2020, in the County of Erie, in the Western District of New York, the defendant, BRANDON WILSON, a United States Postal Service employee, did unlawfully secrete, destroy, detain, delay, and open any letter, postal card, package, bag, and mail entrusted to him and which came into his possession, and which was intended to be conveyed by mail, and carried and delivered by any carrier and other employee of the Postal Service, and forwarded through and delivered from any post office and station thereof established by authority of the Postmaster General and the Postal Service.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1703(a).

This Criminal Complaint is based on these facts:

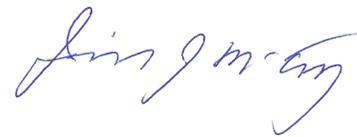
Continued on the attached sheet.


Complainant's signature

BRENDAN M. BOONE
SPECIAL AGENT
United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General
Printed name and title

Sworn to and signed telephonically.

Date: November 4, 2020


Judge's signature

City and State: Buffalo, New York

HONORABLE JEREMIAH J. McCARTHY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ERIE) SS:
CITY OF BUFFALO)

I, Brendan M. Boone, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent with the United States Postal Service (USPS), Office of Inspector General (OIG), in Buffalo, NY, and have been so employed since April 2020. Before my hiring with the USPS OIG, I was employed as a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service assigned to the Washington Field Office for over three years. My current duties include investigating allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse in matters involving the USPS. I am currently assigned to investigate allegations of mail theft committed by USPS employees or contractors. I have completed the Criminal Investigator Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Georgia. I have also received additional training covering various topics, including interviewing, legal issues, search warrants, investigative techniques, and fraud investigations. I have received specialized training regarding internal mail theft, mail processing, and schemes and techniques employed by internal mail thieves. In the course of my law enforcement career, I have conducted or participated in numerous types of investigations, including counterfeit United States currency, financial crimes, identity theft, fraud, and mail theft.

2. This affidavit is made in support of a Criminal Complaint charging BRANDON WILSON with violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1703(a) (Delay or Destruction of Mail).

3. The facts set forth in this affidavit are known to me as a result of my participation in this investigation and information made available to me by law enforcement. Since this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing a criminal complaint, I have not included each and every fact known to me relating to this investigation. Rather, I have set forth only those facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe BRANDON WILSON violated Title 18, United States Code, Section 1703(a).

PROBABLE CAUSE

4. USPS records establish BRANDON WILSON was hired by the USPS in 2019 and works as a city carrier assistant assigned to the West Seneca, NY Post Office. WILSON is frequently tasked with working at post offices throughout the City of Buffalo, to include the Westside Station, Eastside Station, Central Park Station, and Cheektowaga.

5. It is the goal of the USPS to deliver the mail in a timely and efficient manner. To this end, the USPS hires individuals to serve as city and rural carriers, commonly known as letter carriers. These employees are responsible for taking the mail to the street for delivery. Among the duties assigned to a letter carrier are to deliver all mail and parcels that are destined to an assigned mail route, and also to collect any outgoing mail that USPS customers place in outgoing residential mailboxes or in public blue drop boxes.

6. Once a letter or package has been accepted for delivery through any mailbox, drop box, or during an over-the-counter transaction, that item is within the care, custody, and

control of the USPS until it is delivered at its intended destination. It is the duty of every USPS employee to protect and ensure the safe delivery of each mail item.

7. On November 3, 2020, the USPS OIG received notification from the National Law Enforcement Communications Center of possible USPS employee misconduct. At approximately 7:34 p.m. on the aforementioned date, United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers encountered WILSON on inbound lane 9 at the Peace Bridge Port of Entry in Buffalo, New York, operating a 2016 Chevrolet Impala bearing New York State license plate JPN6601. As part of a standard CBP vehicle sweep, WILSON opened the trunk of the vehicle for CBP Officers. A USPS mail bin containing numerous mail pieces was observed by CBP inside the trunk of WILSON'S Chevrolet Impala. CBP officers also observed in the vehicle multiple USPS uniform items bearing the USPS logo along with a USPS identification badge bearing WILSON's name. WILSON stated the mail belonged to him (WILSON) and his mother, however, could not account for additional names printed on the mail pieces. WILSON informed the CBP he had intended to deliver the mail and had forgotten to return the mail pieces to the post office. WILSON was subsequently detained by CBP and taken to the CBP Station, 1 Peace Bridge Plaza, Buffalo, NY.

8. Continuing on November 3, 2020, your affiant responded to the CBP Station and retrieved all recovered USPS mail pieces, discovered both in and out of the USPS mail container, from the trunk compartment of WILSON'S vehicle.

8. Subsequent inventory of the recovered USPS mail pieces revealed three absentee ballots sent to two Buffalo, NY addresses from the Erie County, NY Board of Elections, 106 political mailings, 220 first class mailings, and 484 standard mailings for an approximate total of 813 mail pieces. The first-class letter mailings revealed mail to destination zip codes 14227, 14211, 14214, and with the majority destined for 14215. Cancellation dates of the first-class mailings showed seven dates between September 16, 2020 and October 26, 2020.

9. On November 3, 2020, USPS OIG Special Agents conducted a custodial interview of WILSON inside the CBP Station. WILSON admitted to placing mail from his assigned delivery routes into the trunk of his vehicle.

10. Beginning in September 2020, WILSON estimated he placed mail from his delivery routes into the trunk of his vehicle on more than four but less than ten instances after returning to the post office from his assigned route. WILSON intended to whittle down the amount of mail in the trunk of his vehicle by placing a small amount of the mail into USPS mis sort containers in the morning before his shift began. WILSON last reintroduced mailings into the mail stream in this fashion approximately three weeks prior the date of interview.

11. WILSON denied discarding mail pieces and denied stealing greeting cards, cash, or checks from his delivery route. WILSON denied knowledge of the three election ballots discovered within the recovered mail.

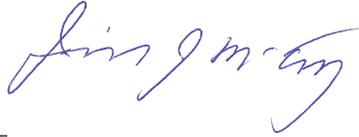
CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, based on the above facts and information, I submit there is probable cause to believe the defendant, BRANDON WILSON, did violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1703(a).



BRENDAN M. BOONE
SPECIAL AGENT
United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General

Subscribed and sworn to telephonically
this 4th day of November, 2020.



HONORABLE JEREMIAH J. McCARTHY
United States Magistrate Judge