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IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

CHARLES WOODROW WASHINGTON, III,
Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Respondent.

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to
the Louisiana Supreme Court

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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Questions Presented

1. Whether the mandates announced in *Sgro v. United States*, 287 U.S. 206, (1932) were violated when the trial judge granted a search warrant despite there being a seventy-eight (78) day time delay from the latest drug activity that supported the basis for probable cause and the application for the search warrant and the affidavit lacking any factual allegations to support the presence of drugs for any extended period of time?

2. Whether the mandates announced in *Sgro v. United States*, 287 U.S. 206 (1932) were violated when the trial judge allowed the investigating officer to supplement the probable cause application with oral testimony?

Parties to the Proceeding

Petitioner, Charles Woodrow Washington, III, was the defendant at the district court and appellant at the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Third Circuit and the Louisiana Supreme Court.

State of Louisiana was the plaintiff at the district court and appellee in the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Third Circuit and the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Related Proceeding

Cathoula Parish, Trial Court

State of Louisiana v. Charles W. Washington, III,
Criminal Docket Nos.: 22-1894, 22-1895, 22-1896,
22-1897, 22-1898 22-1899, 22-1900, 22-1903,
22-1904, 22-1905

Ruling May 4, 2023

State of Louisiana, Court of Appeal

State of Louisiana v. Charles Woodrow Washington
NO: KW-23-00411

Ruling September 18, 2023

The Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana

State of Louisiana v. Charles Woodrow Washington

No. 2023-KK-01392

Ruling January 10, 2024

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IV. Petition for Writ of Certiorari

Petitioner, Charles Woodrow Washington, respectfully petitions this court for a writ of certiorari to review the ruling of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

V. Opinions Below

The decision by the Louisiana Supreme Court denying petitioner's writ application is unreported.

VI. Jurisdiction

Petitioner's writ application before the Louisiana Supreme Court was denied on January 10, 2024. Petitioner invokes this Court's jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. Section 1257, having timely filed this petition for writ of certiorari within ninety days of the Louisiana Supreme Court's judgment.

VII. Constitutional Provisions Invoked

United States Constitution, Amendment IV:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be

searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

VIII. Statement of the Case

Over 80 years ago, this Court held in *Sgro v. United States* that "... the proof [of probable cause] must be of facts so closely related to the time of issue of the warrant as to justify a finding of probable cause at that time." In other words, facts supporting probable cause have a shelf life and the timeliness of facts have to be examined at the time the warrant is executed. 287 U.S. 206 (1932).

This case explores whether the facts supporting the probable cause for the search warrant went "stale" when there is a seventy-eight (78) day time delay from the latest drug activity that supported the basis for probable cause and the application for the search warrant and the affidavit lacked any factual allegations to support the presence of drugs for any extended period of time. This case also addresses whether oral testimony during a suppression hearing can "un-stale" facts supporting the basis for probable cause.

Factual Background

Petitioner was arrested on October 26, 2022, and charged with possession with intent to distribute CDS 2 (cocaine); possession with intent to distribute CDS 2 (methamphetamine); possession with intent to distribute CDS 1(marijuana); possession with intent to distribute CDS 2 (crack cocaine); possession of a

firearm while in possession of CDS; three (3) counts of illegal use of CDS in the presence of a minor; possession CDS 4; three (3) counts of cruelty to a juvenile-non-violent; and possession of CDS.

On October 31, 2022, there was a 72 hour hearing wherein petitioner was held without bond. On December 6, 2022, petitioner was scheduled to be arraigned on all charges; however, undersigned counsel had a conflict on that day and the matter was passed without date, but bills of information were filed and discovery was provided. On January 3, 2023, petitioner was arraigned on all charges and entered pleas of “not guilty” to all charges; and the parties agreed to a status and bond reduction hearing on January 17, 2023. On January 17, 2023, there was a status hearing and appellant’s bond was reduced to \$250,000.00; and any and all defense motions were to be filed by March 24, 2023 with answers due by March 31, 2023.

Proceedings Below

On March 8, 2023, a Motion to Suppress was filed on behalf of petitioner. On April 4, 2023, the Motion to Suppress was heard and the matter was taken under advisement. In Written Reasons dated May 4, 2023, the Honorable Trial Court denied the Motion to Suppress. On May 12, 2023, a Notice of Intent for Supervisory Writs was filed and an Order was signed on May 15, 2023 setting a file date of June 14, 2023 before the Court of Appeal, Third Circuit.

On June 26, 2023, undersigned received notice the original writ application was dismissed due to certain documents were not included. However, after speaking to court personnel at the court of appeals, undersigned counsel was given an opportunity to file a corrective writ application, which was filed. In a decision dated September 18, 2023, the Court of Appeal, Third Circuit denied the writ application. Petitioner then filed a timely writ application with the Louisiana Supreme Court on October 19, 2023. In a decision dated January 10, 2024, the Louisiana Supreme Court denied the writ application.

IX. Reasons for Granting the Writ

- A. This Court should not find the presence of probable cause when there is a seventy-eight (78) day time delay from the latest drug activity that supported the basis for probable cause and the application for the search warrant and the affidavit lacked any factual allegations to support the presence of drugs for any extended period of time.

The general principles governing the delay between the known existence of facts and the issuance of a warrant were set forth by Chief Justice Hughes in *Sgro v. United States*, 287 U.S. 206 (1932) “It is manifest that the proof must be of facts so closely related to the time of the issue of the warrant as to justify a finding of probable cause at that time. *Id.* Whether the proof meets this test must be

determined by the circumstances of each case *Id.* at 210-11. In viewing the "circumstances" to determine whether probable cause exists in a given case, there should be applied "practical considerations of everyday life on which reasonable and prudent men, not legal technicians, act." *Brinegar v. United States*, 338 U.S. 160, 175, (1949). Further, in considering whether the time lapse is reasonable, heavy reliance is placed on the nature of the offense. *United States v. Beltempo*, 675 F.472, 477 (1982) Where the activity is of a continuing nature a greater time lapse is justified than where the offense is an isolated one. *Id.*

The question here is whether probable cause existed at the time the search warrant was issued or whether so long a period of time had passed to make it doubtful that illegal narcotics were still there. In *United States v. Beltempo*, smuggling heroin into the United States fits under an ongoing scheme of illegal importation so that a fifty-two (52) day lapse would generally not vitiate probable cause. However, in an instance of an isolated offense in *Schoeneman v. United States*, 115 U.S. App. 110 (D.C. Cir. 1963), a thirty (30) day delay after finding evidence rendered a search warrant nugatory. Undersigned counsel is not suggesting there should be a hard "drop dead" line of demarcation in terms of days or weeks depending on the suspected contraband because that would undercut the need for any vigorous analysis by a judge. However, time is an important factor that cannot be overlooked and can negate probable cause depending on the suspected activity, the object sought, its location and its state of observation.

The ruling of the Honorable trial court can be summarized as follows:

In a drug context, once probable cause is established, it remains in place until law enforcement officers receive information showing that criminal activity is no longer present.

The ruling of the trial court violates the holdings of *Sgro v. United States*, 287 U.S. 206 (1932). It is undisputed that probable cause existed for periods of time from January 3, 2020 to August 7, 2022. Additionally, a persuasive argument can be made that probable cause was present for a brief period after August 7, 2022. However, to say probable cause remained until October 25, 2022, given the contents of the affidavit, is a “bridge too far”. The last entry in the affidavit was an August 7, 2022 controlled drug buy involving defendant and a confidential informant. The probable cause window for an incident of that nature is relatively short. On the other hand, if the affidavit contained contentions that the confidential informant observed a large quantity of drugs in the residence that was expected to take several months to sell, or that appellant was scheduled to receive a shipment of drugs in or around October, 2022, then an argument could be made to justify an extended window for probable cause. It is also worth emphasizing that law enforcement knew the target (petitioner), location of the operation and the suspected criminal activity. So there was no ambiguity as to the most important

facts in this criminal pursuit. Moreover, there was no legal impediment that prevented the execution of the search warrant shortly after August 7, 2022. Accordingly, when the affidavit is analyzed under *Sgro v. United States*, 287 U.S. 206 (1932), probable cause was not present by October 25, 2022.

B. This Court should not allow the testimony of the law enforcement officer to “un-stale” the warrant application that otherwise lacks probable cause due to the passage of time.

Under *State v. Morris*, 444 So.2d 1200, 1202 (La.1984), a reviewing court is not permitted to go outside the “four corners” of the affidavit; the only exception is where there are inadvertent material omissions in the affidavit. The exception should be narrowly applied because without restriction, it allows for the easily violation of the Fourth Amendment and the mandates announced in *Sgro v. United States*, 287 U.S. 206 (1932). In this situation, the oral testimony did not address any inadvertent material omissions. Instead, the testimony was a veiled attempt to “un-stale” the facts in the search warrant and amounted to contemporaneously “re-dating” of the warrant application.

This case presents this Court with an opportunity to clarify how time can negate probable cause for a search warrant in a drug context. Absent intervention by this Court, the Louisiana Supreme Court will work to undermine the carefully-crafted procedural safeguards that this Court has spent

nearly 80 years developing.

X. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, petitioner respectfully requests that the Court issue a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

s/Malcolm X. Larvadain
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Appendices

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The Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana

STATE OF LOUISIANA

No. 2023-KK-01392

VS.

CHARLES W. WASHINGTON

IN RE: Charles W. Washington-Applicant Defendant;
Applying for Supervisory Writ, Parish of Catahoula,
7th Judicial District Court Number(s)
221894/95/96/97/98/99; 22-1900/03/04/05, Court of
Appeal, Third Circuit,
Number(s) KW-23-00411

January 10, 2024

Writ application denied.

JLW
SJC
JTG
WJC
JBM
PDG

Hughes, J, would grant.

Supreme Court of Louisiana
January 10, 2024

s/Katie Marjanouic
Chief Deputy Clerk of Court
For the Court

STATE OF LOUISIANA
COURT OF APPEAL-THIRD CIRCUIT

NO: KW-23-00411

Judgment rendered and mailed to all parties or
counsel of record on September 18, 2023.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
VERSUS
CHARLES W. WASHINGTON

FILED: 06/28/23

On application of Charles W. Washington for Writ of
Review in No. 22-1894, 22-1896, 22-897, 22-1898, 22-
1899, 20-1900, 22-1901, 22-1903, 22-1904, 22-1905 on
the docket of the Seventh Judicial District Court,
Parish of Catahoula, Hon. John C. Reeves

Counsel for:
Malcolm Xerxes Larvadain
Charles W. Washington

Counsel for:
Hon. Bradley R. Burget
State of Louisiana
Clinton Andrew Magoun, Esq.

Lake Charles Louisiana, on September 18, 2023.

WRIT DENIED: Defendant seeks review of the trial
court's May 4, 2023 denial of his motion to suppress
and the allowance of the law enforcement officer's
testimony to supplement the warrant.

We find no abuse of discretion in the trial court's rulings. Accordingly, the writ application is denied.

s/CGP

s/LJT

s/JWP

CGP

LJT

JWP

#22-1894/95/96/97/98/99; #22-1900/03/04/05
STATE OF LOUISIANA 7TH JDC COURT

VERSUS PARISH OF
 CATAHOULA

CHARLES WASHINGTON, III STATE OF LA

**RULING AND REASONS ON DEFENDANT'S
MOTION TO SUPPRESS**

For those reason cited in the Memorandum filed by the State and set forth hereinafter, the “Motion to Suppress” filed by the Defendant, Charles Washington III, is DENIED.

REASONS FOR RULING

This Court finds both the facts and the law as set forth in the Memorandum filed by the state to be a true and correct statement thereof and cites said Memorandum in part hereinafter.

Charles Washington was arrested October 26, 2022 for various felony drug and drug crimes following a lengthy investigation by Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Department. Pursuant to a Pre-trial Motion to Suppress tried before this court on the date of April 4, 2023, defendant seeks to suppress evidence of the drug crimes and gun crimes at issue.

FACTS

On January 3, 2020, the Catahoula Parish

Sheriff's Department began an investigation into the Jonesville, Louisiana drug activity of Charles Washington, III. On the date general surveillance indicated a likely hand to hand drug transaction that was confirmed through a confidential informant. In December 2020 Catahoula Sheriff's Office observed a second suspected hand to hand drug transaction through general surveillance.

On January 20, 2021, the Catahoula Sheriff's Office by use of a reliable confidential informant was able to conduct a controlled buy for \$40 of meth via a hand to hand transaction. The informant contacted Chad Green, Jr. who in turn went to the home of Charles Washington III. Chad Green gave Washington the money, Washington gave Green the meth, and Green in turn gave the meth to the informant.

On February 4, 2021, the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office by use of a reliable confidential informant was able to conduct a second controlled buy for \$120 of meth via hand to hand transaction. On that date the informant met with Herbert Jefferson at the defendant's residence. The informant gave Jefferson \$120 in exchange for methamphetamine. Jefferson explained to the informant that he was selling drugs for the defendant.

On April 5, 2021, through the use of a Confidential Informant, Catahoula Sheriff's Office receives information detailing the presence of drugs and guns at a location in Jonesville, La. The CI reported that the defendant was the owner of the

drugs and guns present. Law enforcement then set up surveillance on the location and observed the defendant and Decorian Bowman. The defendant pulled up in a maroon Ford Explorer that is relevant for the search conducted later, the defendant walked inside the location for a few minutes, and the defendant and Bowma exited the location both holding guns. Later on April 5, 2021, Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office through the use of a reliable confidential informant, was provided information that the CI witnessed the defendant sell Reginal Bowie suspected methamphetamine from his home in Jonesville, Louisiana.

On April 12, 2021, Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office through the use of a confidential informant was able to get the CI inside the home of the defendant for general observation. The informant relayed to the Sheriff's Office that drugs were present, there were other individuals present besides the defendant, and the defendant was discussing selling drugs with other unknown individuals who were present.

On May 28, 2021, a person by the name of Reginal Bowie was arrested for possessing methamphetamine, ad while at the Catahoula Parish Jail, reached out to Sheriff's Office Detectives to provide information of the defendant. Bowie explained that he received his methamphetamine from the defendant whom he had purchased drugs from for a while and who would front him drugs for use or sale when he was short on money. Bowie stated that the defendant kept the drugs at his home

or next door in an abandoned residence.

On June 1, 2021, the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office was again able to put a confidential informant inside the home of the defendant. Again the informant relayed information of discussions of drug sales between the defendant and unknown persons at the home. In addition the Informant stated that Washington would retrieve drugs from a location in his kitchen behind a speaker where he witnessed Washington retrieve what he termed an ounce of meth. The informant indicted he witnessed the exchange of money and drugs between the defendant and the unknown individuals or individuals.

On September 11, 2021, the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's office conducted a controlled buy in Jonesville, Louisiana through the use of a reliable confidential informant. On the date, the Informant went to the defendant's home. The defendant told the informant to drive the block and come back. The CI drove around and eventually returned to the defendant's home. The CI called the defendant. At the direction of the defendant, the informant backed his car into the residence's driveway and walked to the yard to meet the defendant who was returning from a shed on the property. The informant handed the defendant money, the defendant handed the CI approximately one ounce of meth. The meth was tested and weighed at the State Crime Lab and was 28.0 grams.

On March 17, 2022, law enforcement arrested Jamarious Jackson on drug charges. Catahoula

Sheriff's Office interviewed Jackson and was provided information that he was selling drugs for the defendant, Charles Washington III. He added that sometimes the defendant would come to him with drugs and sometimes he would go to the defendant for drugs but the defendant had meth, pills and marijuana at his home.

On April 21, 2022, by use of a Confidential Informant, the Catahoula Sheriff's Office received methamphetamine from a drug sale by the defendant.

Then, on July 9, 2021, the defendant was involved in a shooting whereby the defendant was shot by an unknown person for an unknown reason. The defendant refused to cooperate with investigators regarding the shooting.

Lastly, on August 7, 2022, the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office through the use of a reliable confidential informant again made a controlled buy. The Informant with funds in hand approached the defendant and was able to buy crack cocaine from the defendant at his residence.

From January 3, 2020 until August 7, 2022, a comprehensive investigation of drug activity regarding Charles Washington, II resulted in the following:

- Five controlled buys including one for more than 28 grams.
- Four suspected transactions witnessed by

- officers and/or informants.
- Two informants inside the home of defendant reporting drug sale discussions
- Observation of guns
- Two arrested defendants saying they sold drugs for defendant

Darren Randall of Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office then puts this information into an application for a search warrant regarding the defendant's property and vehicles and was granted a search warrant on October 25, 2022, and thereafter searched the property as directed finding an assortment of drugs, guns and cash. The officers recovered two pounds of methamphetamine packaged in bulk in the Ford Explorer mentioned previously being driven by the defendant.

Staleness/Probable Cause

Defendant contends that the warrant to search the defendant's property was stale. Staleness is an issue that arises in assessing probable cause when the officer's information is dated. However, when reviewing staleness challenges, the courts do not apply a talismanic rule which establishes arbitrary time limitation. Rather courts take a case by case assessment including the maturity of the information, nature of the suspected crime, habits of the accused character items sought, and nature and function of the premises to be searched to draw a fair conclusion of whether their information establishing a continuous large scale and ongoing operation especially where there is minimal information indicting the business

was unlikely to be suddenly abandoned.

Essential in the concept of probable cause is the reasonable belief that the items or contraband sought will be present at the location to be searched when the warrant is issued. The affidavit must set forth time specific facts. The delay to be justified depends on the facts of each case. Among, the major facts to consider are whether the object by its nature is one that can be expected to be retained and whether the illegal conduct involved was of a continuing nature. A minimal number of days up to a number of years have been held to be a justified delaying depending on the circumstances.

ARGUMENT

As stated previously, from January 3, 2020 until August 7, 2022, a comprehensive investigation of drug activity regarding Charles Washington, III resulted in the following:

- Five controlled buys, including one for more than 28 grams;
- Four suspected drug transactions witnessed by officers and/or information's;
- Two informants inside the home of defendant reporting drug sale discussions;
- Observation of guns;
- Two arrested defendants saying they sold drugs for defendant.

Based on the following it is obvious Charles Washington, III is in fact a drug dealer running a

steady operation of distribution of methamphetamine and other controlled dangerous substances all based upon verified facts from Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office Investigation as detailed in Darren Randall's Affidavit of Probable Cause.

There is notably a 78 day delay from the last controlled buy to the application and issuing of a search warrant. There is no information that Charles Washington had suddenly abandoned his business as stated by Officer Randal when he testified to Washington's continuous movement and travel in and out of the area when officers searched on October 26, 2022, they found two (2) pounds of methamphetamine as well as pills, marijuana and cocaine plus three guns including an AR styled rifle. That is the exact size methamphetamine distribution business defendant was operation.

Drug distribution businesses of the size and complexity of this defendant are continuing and ongoing by their very nature. There is no question that there would be a continuing presence of controlled dangerous substances at the location. The defendant worked to shield himself from direct street level deals and insured the majority of transactions there was a go between to get to him. In addition, the presence of guns and the fact that the defendant was shot in Juuly 202 escalated the tension of the dangers to putting an informant into the defendant's business.

Counsel for the defendant worked to establish an arbitrary ten day staleness period that Officer Randall stated he likes to adhere to when acting on

information received through investigation. Perhaps that may be a good rule of thumb in isolated cases dealing with small amounts of information, but the magnitude of Washington's operation took time to develop the information necessary to establish probable cause and keep informants safe. The volume of information as it relates to controlled buys and general surveillance also takes time to piece together. There is no arbitrary time period and the cases vary from a few days to a few years. The question is always whether based on the totality of the information at hand evidence of Washington's illegal drug business would be present event after the passage of seventy eight days. The seize of two pounds of meth and smaller amounts of cocaine, marijuana and pills plus three guns and cash is the answer.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the totality of the circumstances as set forth herein and considering the law applicable to the facts established in the Affidavit of Probable Cause as testified to in court, the Motion to Suppress filed by defendant must be denied.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED this 4th day of
May, 2023 at Harrisonburg, Louisiana.

s/John C. Reeves
JUDGE JOHN REEVES-DIVISION "B"

TRUE COPY
/Shannon Boothe, Deputy
Clerk of Court

IN THE SEVENTH DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF CATAHOULA
STATE OF LOUISIANA
APPLICATION FOR AND SWORN PROOF OF
PROBABLE CAUSE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A
SEARCH WARRANT

I, DETECTIVE RANDALL, Darren Randall, DO ON
OATH MAKE COMPLIANT, SAY AND DEPOSE
THAT FOLLOWING ON THIS 25 DAY OF
OCTOBER 2022. THAT I HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE AND I DO
BELIEVE THAT I HAVE CAUSE TO SEARCH:

**LOCATION, PROPERTY, AND/OR PERSONS TO
BE SEARCHED:**

608 Troy St. Jonesville, La s/DRR

White Trailer with steps to the front door and a back
porch leading to a back door

606 Troy St. Jonesville, La s/DRR

White Trailer with brown trim with a door leading to
the front.

297 Deville Dr. Jonesville, La s/DDR

White Trailer with wood steps leading to front door.

Persons

Any or all persons in or on the property and curtilage.

ITEMS TO BE SEIZED

1. Any drugs or drug-related paraphernalia, including but not limited to, marijuana, marijuana plants, methamphetamine, crack cocaine, illegal prescription drugs, scales, or any other drug-related items.
2. Any monies that might be reasonable associated with drug-related paraphernalia marijuana, marijuana pants, methamphetamine, crack cocaine, illegal prescription drugs, scales, or any other drug-related items or weapons.
3. Proof of ownership of the residence, including but not limited to electric bills, water bills, information as to the owner.
4. Any firearms or firearm accessories, including but not limited to pistols, rifles, shotguns, any magazines or rounds.
5. Any electronics such cell phones, computers, or
6. Ipads related to the sales or negotiating of illegal narcotics.

AFFIANT'S QUALIFICATIONS

1. Fourteen years as a full-time, POST-certified

peace officer, including military experience.

2. Two years' experience as a Supervisor over the Narcotics Task Force.
3. Supervisor overseeing several major narcotics investigations.
4. Varied certifications from Investigation and Narcotics-specific schools

PROBABLE CAUSE

On January 3rd, 2020, I, Det. Randall of the Narcotic Task Force received a complaint in reference to suspected drug activity at 608 Troy Street. I then began observations on the residence. During observations, a subject identified as Reginald Bowie aka Po Chicken came to the residence and knocked on the door. A subject identified as Charles Washington came to the door and a conversation took place and a suspected hand to hand exchange took place. Reginald has a criminal history of illegal narcotics. Later, I learned through a proven reliable informant that Reginald was buying suspected meth from Charles and had been for a while. The informant confirmed this information with firsthand knowledge. Later that evening while continuing observations, this subject Reginald returned to the

residence. After knocking on the door, Charles came to the door and walked outside. After a conversation, Charles walked to a trailer next to his (606 Troy St), he exited, and a suspected hand to hand took place,

and then Reginald left the area on foot. I was contact by a reliable informant that this exchange was suspected meth.

On December 21, 2020, I, Det. Randall of the Narcotics Task Force received a complaint in reference to suspected activity at 608 Troy Street. I then began observations on the residence. During observations, a subject identified as Reginald Bowie aka Po Chicken came to the residence and knocked on the door. A subject identified as Charles Washington came to the door and a conversation took place and a suspected hand-to-hand exchange took place. Reginald has a criminal history of illegal narcotics. Later I learned through a proven reliable informant (that has led to arrests and some convictions) that Reginald was buying suspected meth from Charles and had been for a while. The informant confirmed this information with firsthand knowledge. Later that evening while continuing observations, this subject Reginald returned to the residence. After knocking on the door, Charles came to the door and walked outside. Charles then walked to the back area of the trailer next to his (606 Troy St) trailer and reached under it. After a few minutes, a hand-to-hand exchange took place. Reginald then left the area on foot and Charles went back inside the residence.

On January 20, 2021, Det. Randall of the Narcotics Task Force was conducting investigations in the Jonesville area. During the investigation, I contacted a reliable confidential informant (that has led to arrests and some convictions) to assist in the

investigation. I met the informant at predetermined location and the CI was searched with no contraband being found. The CI was handed \$40 of task force funds, counted, and placed in the front pocket. The informant was then given instructions and left on foot and followed and observed by Task Force. Once in the area of 10th Street, the informant contacted a subject named Chad Green Jr. aka Weebe. Chad met with the informant and they walked to 608 Troy Steet white trailer house. The informant handed Chad the task force money and chad went and knocked on the door of 608 Troy Street. A black male subject identified as Charles Washington came to the door and Chad handed him the money. After a few minutes, Charles came back to the door and a hand-to-hand exchange took place. Chad then went to the informant and a hand-to-hand took place. I then followed the informant to a predetermined location. The informant placed a baggie of suspected meth in my hand and it was placed in an evidence bag and sealed. All parties then left the area.

On Feb 4, 2021, I, Det. Randall contacted a proven reliable informant in reference to Narcotics investigations in the Jonesville area. I met the informant at a predetermined location and the informant was searched with no contraband being found.

The informant explained that a subject named Herbert Jefferson was suspected selling meth for Charles Washington. The informant was given \$120 task force funds, counted and placed in the front pocket. The informant then left on the foot being followed by Task Force. The informant then went to

604 Tenth Street followed by Task Force. The informant made contact with Herbert and an exchange took place. The informant explained that Herbert told him he was getting the suspected meth from Charles Washington. Herbert drives a maroon Ford Mustang and this vehicle has been seen at Charles' residence at 608 Troy Street. I then followed the informant to a predetermined location and he placed the suspected meth in my hand and it was sealed in an evidence bag. He was again searched with no contraband being found. All parties then left the area. On April 5, 2021, I, Det. Randall was contacted by a proven reliable informant (that has led to arrests and some convictions) in reference to suspected drug activity at 1503 Front Street. The informant explained that guns and dope were at this residence and they belonged to Charles Washington. I then conducted observations on the residence. During observations, a maroon Ford Explorer driven by Charles Washington pulled up and Charles exited the vehicle. He walked inside and stayed a few minutes. He then walked outside along with another black male suspect Decorian Bowman. They were both holding rifles black in color and talking. After a few minutes of talking, Bowman walked back inside with both guns. Charles then left and drove back to his house on 608 Troy Street. Throughout the observations, several times I observed this vehicle pull up to the residence and Charles walk inside.

On April 5, 2021, I, Det. Randall contacted by a proven reliable informant (that has led to arrests and some convictions) in reference to suspected drug

activity at 608 Troy Street. I then met the informant at a predetermined location to discuss the suspected activity. The informant explained that Reginald Bowie asked him to go to the residence with him while he bought dope. I then searched the informant with no contraband being found. While being followed by Task Force, the informant went to Tenth Street and met with Reginald Bowie. The both then walked to 608 Troy Street and Reginald knocked on the door. A subject identified as Charles Washington came to the door and took money from Reginald. After a few minutes, Charles returned and handed Reginald a small baggie of suspected meth.

On April 12, 2021, I, Det. Randall was contacted by a reliable informant (that has led to arrests and some convictions) in reference to suspected drug activity as 608 Troy Street. I met the informant at a predetermined location to discuss the suspected activity. The informant then left on foot walking to 604 Troy Street followed by Task Force. Once at the residence, the informant knocked on the door and Charles Washington answered. The informant entered the residence. After a few hours, the informant left the residence followed by Task Force and we met at a predetermined location. The informant explained that once inside the residence suspected marijuana was sitting on the table in the living room. There were several male subjects sitting around the table. The informant explained that discussions were over the informant left the residence.

On May 28, 2021, a subject identified as

Regional Bowie was arrested and brought to the jail for Possession of Schedule II (meth) and other charges. Once at the jail, I, Det. Randall made contact with Reginald, advised him of rights and conducted an in interview. During the interview, Reginald explained that he was getting his meth from Charles Washington on 608 Troy Street. He explained that he would go to him, knock on the door, give money, and Charles would bring him meth. He explained that he knew Charles for a long time and he would sell it to him sometimes front him if he didn't have money. Reginald explained that he keeps it in his house or next to the house that's abandoned.

On June 1, 2021, I, Det. Randall was contacted by a proven reliable informant (that has let to arrests and some convictions) in reference to suspected drug activity at 608 Troy Street. The informant explained that he was asked to come to the residence by Charles Washington. I then went and conducted observations on the residence. During observations, I witnessed the informant walk into the residence. After a few minutes, I observed an unknown black male walk into the house. After a few minutes, he exited. This sequence of events look place several times over the next few hours. I then observed the informant leave the residence. I was contacted by the informant and advised that he was called to discuss business in relation to drug activity. As they were talking several times, he observed unknown black males come into the residence. Charles would walk to the kitchen and reach behind a speaker and pull out approximately an ounce of suspected meth.

Money would exchange between them and he would break off some suspected meth and hand it to them.

On September 11, 2021, the Catahoula Parish Narcotic Task Force conducted a controlled buy in the Jonesville area. A C.I (confidential informant) who has been proven reliable and has given information that has led to past arrests and some convictions, was contacted for the purpose of buying drugs. The C.I. was met at a predetermined location by members of the Narcotics Task Force, given Task Force monies. And was supplied with a car. The C.I. was searched, with no contraband being found, and was given a camera. While being followed by Task Force agents, the C.I. drove to 608 Troy Street. The C.I. then walked next door to 604 Troy Street, the residence of Charles Washington III (aka Whop) As the C.I. approached the residence, Charles was seen closing the door of a shed at the end of his trailer. The C.I. asked Charles for "one" and Charles told him to "make a block and come right back". The C.I. drove around for approximately 12 minutes, drove back to 608 Troy Street and pulled onto the shoulder of the road. The C.I. then called Charles and told him he was outside. Charles came outside and told the C.I. to back his car up. The C.I. backed up into the driveway of 604 Troy Street. The C.I. then walked to the front yard of Charles' house. Charles was walking back from a shed that is on the end of his trailer. Charles' right hand was closed and his left was open. Charles walked up to the C.I. and a transaction took place. The C.I. handed him money and Charles handed the C.I. approximately one ounce of suspected methamphetamine. The C.I. then

walked back to his car and left. The C.I. drove back to a predetermined meeting place and the suspected methamphetamine was retrieved by Narcotics Task Force agents. The C.I. and the car were searched again with no more contraband being found. The Narcotics Task Force agents then took possession of the camera and of the car. The suspected methamphetamine was placed into an evidence locker. The suspected methamphetamine was then brought to the North Louisiana Crime Lab in Alexandria. On January 31, 2022, the North Louisiana Crime Lab sent the results of the suspected methamphetamine and its total weight was 28.9 grams. On March 17, 2022, a Jamarious Jackson got arrested on drug charges and was booked into the jail. I, Det. Randall was contacted and came to the jail to interview the subject. He was advised of rights and I began asking questions. Jamarious explained he was selling the suspected drugs for Charles Washington. He explained that Charles would come to him with suspected illegal narcotics and sometimes he would go to Charles' house on 608 Troy Street. He explained Charles had suspected meth as well as pills and marijuana at his house.

On April 21, 2022, the Catahoula Narcotics Task Force conducted a controlled buy in the Jonesville area. A. C.I. (confidential informant) who has been proven reliable and has given information that has led to past arrests and some convictions, was contacted for the purpose of buying drugs. The C.I. was met at a predetermined location by Task Force and given Task Force money. The C.I. was

searched with no contraband being found. The C.I. then walked to a location in the Jonesville area followed by Task Force with no stops being made. A few minutes later, the Task Force observed a red Ford Expedition known to be driven by Charles Washington pull up to the location and a black male identified as Charles Washington exited. He was wearing a white shirt. Charles went inside the location and stayed a few minutes. Charles then left the location, got back in the vehicle, and left. At that time, the Task Force met the C.I. at a predetermined location. The C.I. then handed the suspected methamphetamine to the task force and it was sealed in an evidence bag. The C.I. was again searched with no contraband being found.

All parties then left the area. On the evening of Saturday, July 9th at approximately 1751 hours, Deputy Trace Taylor, along with Deputies Tyler Hill, Ethan House, Justin Spinks, Bobby Alexander, as well as Jonesville Police Officers Corey Hall, Destiny Davis and Tyler White were advised of a victim of a gunshot wound being enroute to the Jonesville Police Department via caller's POV (personally owned vehicle) NELA (Northeast Louisiana Ambulance) was also notified

Upon arrival, Deputy Taylor approached the vehicle in which the subject was still sitting in the passenger seat with Deputy Spinks applying pressure to, what Deputy Taylor assumed was, the area of the wound with some type of fabric. It was at that time, that Deputy Taylor asked the victim, later identified as Charles Washington, if he knew who

shot him at which time he stated that it happened to fast. Deputy Taylor then asked him if he believed that it was a random shooting with no apparent motive to which he responded that a lot of people “hate” him and that it might have been “one of us”. At that time, seeing that Mr. Washington had no interest in communicating, Deputy Taylor returned to his patrol car and awaited the arrival of the responding investigator(s). While waiting in Deputy Taylor’s patrol vehicle, Deputy House approached him and advised that he had learned from the caller the shooting had occurred on Deville Drive and that he was about to go try to locate and secure the scene. Deputy Taylor advised Deputy House that he would go assist him in that, as Deputy Taylor felt, due to the amount of personnel on scene at the police department, advised by one of the nearby residents which house was the caller’s at which time they parked their vehicles on either side of the driveway with their emergency lighting activated. While policing the area, the only thing Deputy Taylor observed out of place was what appeared to be a pattern of disturbed gravel at the foot of the driveway that looked as if someone rapidly accelerated as they were leaving. Moments later, Detectives Ben Adams, Gary Vines, and Kyle King arrived at the residence at which time Deputy Taylor took a written statement from the caller, who Deputy Taylor learned to be Shawanda Harbor, as requested by Detective Adams. While Ms. Harbor was writing her statement, Deputy Taylor observed a female standing at the end of the driveway at the neighboring residence at which time Deputy Taylor went to ask her if she saw anything. Upon speaking

with the female, she stated that she been gone, but her father had been home earlier and pointed Deputy Taylor to the backyard area stating that he could be located there. At that time, Deputy Taylor walked back where he located two male subjects, one of whom he knew to be Toney Stevenson and Mr. Stevenson did inform Deputy Taylor that he and observed a burgundy SUV in the driveway of the residence earlier but that was only information Deputy Taylor was able to be provided. At that time, Deputy Taylor returned to Ms. Harbor, retrieved the completed statement form, and provided it to Detective Adams as well as advised him of the information Deputy Taylor had received from Mr. Stevenson. The remainder of the investigation was carried out by the investigators. On August 7, 2022, I, Det. Randall was in the Jonesville area conducting street-level narcotics investigations. During the investigation, I was contacted by a proven reliable informant (that has led to arrests and some convictions) in reference to suspected drug activity at 604 Troy Street. I met the informant at a predetermined location and the informant was searched with no contraband being found. The informant was given Task Force funds and then left walking on foot followed by Task Force. The informant was observed going into 604 Troy Street. The informant made contact with Charles Washington. The informant handed Charles Task Force funds and the informant was handed suspected Crack Cocaine. The informant then left the residence followed by Task Force and met at a predetermined location. The informant then placed a small baggie of suspected crack cocaine that was

placed in an evidence bag and sealed. The informant was then searched with no contraband being found. All parties then left the area.

OPINIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

By virtue of my training, experience, and investigations spanning over two years, I believe that I, Det. Randall, has shown cause beyond a reasonable doubt that illegal drug sales are being conducted from the residence of 608 Troy St.

At this time, I ask that a no-knock search warrant be issued for Charles Washington's residence, outbuilding, vehicles, travel trailers and curtilage at 608 Troy St. I also ask that this warrant be allowed to be served at night and/or on Sundays. The reason for the request of a no-knock warrant is that the Catahoula Narcotics Task Force has often found that drug dealers keep weapons in the presence of narcotics and money and to prevent the destruction of any evidence. The purpose of this warrant is to search and seize any illegal drugs or drug-related items that the Catahoula Parish Narcotics Task Force believe to be concealed inside the residence, or on the property around the residence.

AFFIANT: s/Det. Randall

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME
THIS 25TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2022

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE: s/Kathy
Johnson