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AFFIDAVIT AND APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

Docket No. _____

The undersigned Special Agent Ronald "Ret" Trubey, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am an officer of the State of Georgia charged with the duty of enforcing the criminal laws, and that I have probable cause to believe that in Baldwin County, Georgia, on the person, premises or property described as follows:

Black in Color Samsung Galaxy S10 IMEI: [REDACTED]

There is now located certain articles namely:

Telephone numbers, text and chat messages, photographs and images, address book listings, telephone call listings, and fruits of the crime.

Which is evidence of the crime of: **False Statements (O.C.G.A. 16-10-20), Violation of Oath by Public Officer (O.C.G.A. 16-10-1)**

The facts tending to establish probable cause that a crime has been, or is being committed and the above described instruments, articles or things described above are presently located at the above described premises or property are as follows:

I, Ronald "Ret" Trubey, being duly sworn, hereby state the following:

1.

Information in this affidavit is based on my personal knowledge and on information provided to me by other law enforcement officers. This affidavit is not intended to be an exhaustive summary of the investigation regarding Michael Thompson, but is for the purpose of setting out probable cause in support of search warrant.

2.

Affiant, Ronald "Ret" Trubey is a Special Agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and is authorized under the laws of the State of Georgia to conduct investigations, make arrests for offenses under Georgia Statutes and to perform other duties as required by law Your affiant has been employed by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent since July 2015 and a sworn peace officer since September 2012. Your Affiant holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia College and State University. Your Affiant has received over 1000 hours of law enforcement training, including search and seizure, search warrants and affidavits, and criminal procedure. Your affiant has participated in numerous criminal investigations. Many of these investigations have involved other agencies including various state, police and sheriff's

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departments. Affiant has also testified in court regarding criminal investigations. Many of these investigations have involved other agencies including various state, police and sheriff's departments. Affiant has also testified in court regarding criminal investigations. Your affiant knows based on his experience with these types of investigations that the perpetrators many times utilize cellular telephones and social media applications to talk and text about, schedule and document their involvement in the illegal act.

3.

On Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at approximately 3:00 p.m., at the request of District Attorney Steve Bradley, Special Agent Ret Trubey made contact with DA Bradley, Attorney Carl Cansino, and GBI Confidential Informant# 827 (from here on will be referred to as IT) at the GBI Region Six Office. While at this location, SA Trubey was notified of inappropriate contact between Jones County Sheriff's Deputy/Milledgeville Police Department Officer Michael "Mike" Thompson and IT. It should be noted, Cansino initially contacted DA Bradley about the situation. DA Bradley made a formal request for an investigation.

During an interview with IT on May 14, 2019, IT advised on January 25, 2019 he was arrested by Milledgeville Police Department Officer Mike Thompson and charge with a marijuana violation and trafficking cocaine. IT was arrested along with two other individuals during a traffic stop conducted by Officer Thompson. IT stated shortly after bonding out, IT was approached by Officer Thompson to work IT's charges off. IT eventually met with Officer Thompson and later during a telephone conversation with Officer Thompson, Officer Thompson then asked IT for a \$2000 loan for money to go to Las Vegas with. Officer Thompson asked IT for a loan on a Friday night and was leaving for Las Vegas on Saturday. IT contacted Officer Thompson via telephone and during a recorded phone call advised Officer Thompson "you know the convo that we had earlier? Alright I was able to come up with \$1000, is that good for you?". Officer Thompson advised that would be good for him. IT refers to this transaction as a "friendly loan". Officer Thompson then states that "if it gets back that me and you are kinda buddies, it could be bad". IT makes statements that Officer Thompson knows what IT has "riding" on this and IT is the one "at risk here". Officer Thompson mentions about bringing IT a shotgun until he arrives back from Las Vegas and notes it was his wife's idea. Officer Thompson and IT then agree to meet at the Walmart on Gray Highway. Later that day, IT advised IT met with Officer Thompson at the Murphy Gas Station across from the Walmart on Gray Highway and IT provided Officer Thompson with the \$1000 in cash. Officer Thompson was in his Milledgeville Police Department patrol car wearing regular street clothes. Officer Thompson got in IT's vehicle to conduct the exchange.

IT advised Officer Thompson contacted him via text messages and phone calls from the cell phone number [REDACTED]. Officer Thompson would tell IT about possible work that could be done utilizing drug buys to help work off its charges, but would never follow through with setting up the work. Officer Thompson even began asking IT for \$7500 dollars to purchase a motorcycle for him. Officer Thompson was requesting IT call the subject known to him as "CG" and advise IT was buying the bike for Officer Thompson. After the GBI interview on May 14, 2019 with IT, IT was given a recorder and instructed to record any and all phone conversations between IT and Officer Thompson.

On May 15, 2019 IT conducts a recorded a phone call to Deputy Thompson and there was a discussion in which IT mentions being able to get that "loan" for that motorcycle. IT stated he could get around \$7000 for the purchase of the motorcycle. Deputy Thompson and IT discuss the price of the motorcycle where IT states the subject selling the motorcycle was asking \$12,000 for it and Deputy Thompson states it should only be \$8500. Deputy Thompson then tells IT he doesn't want IT to have to do that because it would not be ethical. IT states he does not think this is a bribe and that it is just a loan.

On May 16, 2019 IT conducts a recorded phone call to Deputy Thompson. During the conversation, Deputy Thompson explains to IT how a female is working as a paid informant to purchase pills from a male subject whom sells pills from a pharmacy. Deputy Thompson explains how the female previously came forward to the Jones County Sheriff's Office about the pills being sold and then later Deputy Thompson encounters the female and they began to work the case. Deputy Thompson is noted to state the female is purchasing these pills to get paid and because someone she knows overdosed after being sold pills from this subject. Deputy Thompson is asked by IT if he is going to tell the District Attorney about IT being involved in this case. Deputy Thompson then explains to IT how IT came to Deputy Thompson because "the guy lives on the lake and IT see's him on the lake all the time and knew he was dirty and wasn't doing right." When Deputy Thompson brought it to the attention of his Captain, his Captain "was already familiar with it." Deputy Thompson also stated "if it wasn't for IT coming forward it would have been raked under the rug so to speak". Deputy Thompson explained to IT how IT has done surveillance for him, been by the house, and told Deputy Thompson when the subject was leaving on times they were making buys. Deputy Thompson explains that he is going to tell the District Attorney that he believes it would be worth dropping all of IT's charges because IT has gone out on a limb for them and learned his lesson. IT informed SA Trubey that he has never told Deputy Thompson about any time the subject was leaving when buys were being made. Deputy Thompson then goes on to discuss with IT that if the case went to court, he would go in court and state that he wanted to drop IT's charges.

On Monday, May 20, 2019 IT conducts a recorded phone call to Deputy Thompson. During the phone conversation, Deputy Thompson asks IT if IT's father-in-law will pick up that motorcycle for \$7500 dollars. IT questions Deputy Thompson if he wants to get the father-in-law involved. Deputy Thompson responds stating he "does not want it to seem like some kind of bribe between me and you dude and then we all get our ass in a whole lot of trouble". IT stated "if nobody knows, how are we getting in trouble?". Deputy Thompson responds stating "you know how folks are dude" and "the guy needs \$7500 today, will you just pick the motorcycle up and carry it to your shop and when my money comes from my 401K, I'll pick it back up." Deputy Thompson goes on to explain the motorcycle is a customized motorcycle that has never been titled out before. Deputy Thompson advises he would just use a tag from other motorcycles to ride around on the motorcycle. Deputy Thompson states he swapped the motorcycle with this guy and he is now wanting the title to the motorcycle. Deputy Thompson makes the comment the guy can't get it titled because "it is sort of still in my name, it is sort of still my bike really". IT advises IT does not want the father-in-law involved because IT has "proved myself with the \$1000 and that nobody knows a fucking thing about that" and IT asks to keep the father-in-law out of IT's

business. Deputy Thompson responds acknowledging he is aware there are charges against IT and he was the arresting officer involved in those charges and "it aint like, you know, I'm saying hey dude I'm gone drop these charges if you don't, you know what I'm saying? It aint like that and I don't want you to think it's like that." IT acknowledges by stating "yeah" and "right". Deputy Thompson states IT would be a "blessing in disguise if you could go grab that". IT states "ok" and "you better help me out big time man, this is, I'll help you, God dang you've got to do your job today for real. Have you met with him?". IT and Deputy Thompson discuss Deputy Thompson meeting with the District Attorney. Deputy Thompson then explains that he was notified by the Sheriff's Office that a subject was taking him to court over the motorcycle. Deputy Thompson states the subject with the motorcycle has to have the money today and if he doesn't then Deputy Thompson will owe court fees. IT states "let me see what I can pull real quick, \$7500?", Deputy Thompson states "yeah", and IT replies "alright, let me call you right back".

On June, 7, 2019 SA Trubey interviewed Charles Gilbert "CG" Knight, whom was noted to be the subject with the motorcycle Deputy Thompson was inquiring about during the conversations with IT. Knight advised he purchased the motorcycle from Deputy Thompson in 2017 before the month of August. Knight is unable to provide the exact date of purchase. Knight recalled being contacted by Deputy Thompson about him selling the motorcycle because they have been friends for quite some time. Knight and Deputy Thompson worked out a deal in which Knight traded a four wheeler and between \$4000-\$6000 in cash for the 2004 Custom Built Motorcycle. Knight believed Deputy Thompson would provide him with the title within 2 weeks. Deputy Thompson never provided the title. Every time Knight would attempt to get the title, Deputy Thompson would always make an excuse as to why he could not provide him the title yet, but that it would still be provided soon. Knight stated Deputy Thompson has not provided him the title for nearly two years. Knight states Deputy Thompson has mentioned buying the motorcycle back for \$12,500 and has offered to pay \$7500 up front and the rest later. Knight stated a subject was calling in May of 2019 advising he was going to purchase the bike for Deputy Thompson. The phone number observed in Knight's phone by the subject contacting him to purchase the motorcycle for Deputy Thompson was noted to be the number to IT's cell phone. Knight recalled when attempting to get a loan against the title on the motorcycle in May of 2019 at the Peoples Bank in Eatonton, Georgia, he was notified there was already a lean on the title by another bank located in Sandersville, Georgia. Knight spoke with an attorney who informed Knight he should go file a warrant at the Jones County Courthouse. Upon filing this warrant, on May 20, 2019, Knight was contacted by Deputy Thompson who was advising he would bring him \$7500 dollars that day. This is noted to be the same day Deputy Thompson was discussing IT to purchase the motorcycle for him. IT was also instructed by SA Trubey on this date to inform Deputy Thompson IT could not provide the \$7500 for the motorcycle. Knight noted Deputy Thompson never showed up with the money to pay him. Deputy Thompson did request the court date be delayed 2 weeks for him to acquire the money and Knight did delay the court date.

On June 11, 2019, SA Trubey was located at the The George D Warthen Bank in Sandersville, Georgia. While at this location, SA Trubey executed a court order for Michael Dee Thompson's Bank Records at The George D Warthen Bank. SA Trubey was provided with these records and while reviewing the records noted Deputy Thompson combined three loans in June of 2017 for a

total of \$63,708.85. Deputy Thompson became in default of this loan in December of 2017 and in March of 2018 Deputy Thompson began the process to file for bankruptcy, which was granted in September of 2018. As of June of 2019, Deputy Thompson was noted to be in default of his Bankruptcy payments.

On June 13, 2019 SA Trubey conducted an interview with Deputy Thompson. Deputy Thompson was advised the interview was criminal in nature and Deputy Thompson agreed to speak with SA Trubey. The interview began with questioning related to the traffic stop involving IT and noted IT became a confidential informant for Deputy Thompson after the arrest. During the interview with Deputy Thompson, he was asked if he has ever received any money from IT. Deputy Thompson advised he has received \$1000 from IT. Deputy Thompson explained IT offered him the \$1000 after finding out Deputy Thompson lost a lottery ticket he won \$500 on just before a trip to Las Vegas. Deputy Thompson stated he never asked IT for the \$1000. IT allegedly offered the \$1000 to Deputy Thompson for him to utilize in Las Vegas for fun. Deputy Thompson made statements that he knew it wouldn't be right for IT to give him money, but Deputy Thompson still took the money anyway. Deputy Thompson was asked if he ever asked IT for money and Deputy Thompson stated he has not. Deputy Thompson stated he has never promised IT that he would drop his charges. Deputy Thompson was noted to have given false statements during this interview based on the above mentioned facts. Deputy Thompson did advise he contacted IT, utilizing his own personal cell phone which SA Trubey observed to be a black Samsung. Deputy Thompson was arrested within approximately 2 hours after the interview with SA Trubey. During the arrest affected by the Jones County Sheriff's Office, deputies were instructed to seize Deputy Thompson's personal cell phone. At that time, Jones County Sheriff's Office Deputy James Clark seized the Black Samsung cell phone and turned it over to Jones County Chief Deputy Barbara Burdette. SA Trubey received this cell phone from Chief Deputy Burdette on June 14, 2019 and logged it into evidence. SA Trubey noted the phone to be a black Samsung Galaxy S10 IMEI: [REDACTED]

Through this investigation, it is noted that communication often between IT and Officer/Deputy Thompson occurred in the format of text messages and phone calls. Through this communication it is noted Officer/Deputy Thompson utilizes this electronic device to conduct conversations with IT that involved key details for this investigation. These phone calls and text messages were conducted via the personal cell phone belonging to Officer/Deputy Thompson utilizing telephone number [REDACTED] which at the time of his arrest was "attached" to the Samsung Galaxy S10 mentioned above.

The above described cellular phone/electronic storage device is currently located at the GBI Region 6 Office in Milledgeville, Georgia. The cellular phone/electronic storage device described above is available located in evidence storage at the GBI Region 6 Office in Milledgeville, GA for the forensic extraction of the electronically stored data contained within the device in the event Affiant's application for a warrant to search is granted by the Court.

It is through your Affiant's experience that conducting a search of a cell phone/electronic storage device, locating particular records, documenting the search, and making evidentiary and discovery copies is a lengthy process. The entire period of the search can take days or even

weeks, depending upon the technical problems encountered. Cell phones/electronic storage devices are extremely vulnerable to tampering or to destruction through error, electrical outages, and other causes, removal of the system from the premises will permit retrieving the records authorized to be seized, while avoiding accidental destruction or deliberate alteration of the records. It is also common to store records in compressed or archival formats, which require that appropriate software be employed to "unarchive" or "uncompress" each record before it can be viewed.

Affiant states that certain local/county/multi-jurisdictional/state law enforcement agencies such as an office of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation or a Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force have forensic equipment (like the Cellebrite™ Universal Forensic Extraction Device (UFED) systems for cellular phone/electronic storage devices, Smartphone and PDA's) capable of extracting the electronically stored data contained within most cellular phones/electronic storage devices, Smartphone and PDA devices, and civilian and/or sworn personnel knowledgeable of the operation of this type of equipment and the forensic extraction of electronically stored data contained within most electronic storage devices.

To minimize the intrusiveness of the search, an effort will be made to identify potential evidence by reviewing the directory structure of the system and related storage media. The forensic copy will be used for all processing actions to include, but not limited to, the recovery of data files, hidden files, deleted files, erased files, compressed files, encrypted files, data located in slack space, and data embedded but not recognized in other files. The Forensic Computer Specialist and/or authorized GBI personnel will provide all information retrieved to include files, text found within the cell phone documents to the affiant or other officer/agent designated by the affiant. The affiant or designee will determine what information constitutes evidence of the offense(s) described above. Evidence copies of the items relating to these offenses will be created, retained for further proceedings, and made available to the appropriate law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities. The forensic copy will be retained until after completion of the forensic examination and none of the contents of the forensic copy, other than those which may be required for prosecution will be disclosed, used, copied, or displayed to any person other than the Forensic Computer Specialist and case officers/agents. The original items of media will also be retained by the appropriate law enforcement agency. If the analysis of the cell phone and/or cellular phone related storage media proves negative then that particular cell phone and/or cell phone related storage media would be returned to its owner in a reasonable period of time.

Your Affiant wishes legal authority to enter this cellular phone/electronic storage device and its contents for the purpose of obtaining evidence of the crime of false statements and violation of oath by public officer. Your Affiant requests permission to photograph any and all incoming and outgoing phone calls, any and all incoming and outgoing messages/chats, any and all social media messages/chats, and any and all photographs on the above described cellular phone/electronic storage device. Your Affiant also requests that the Forensic Computer Specialist and/or authorized GBI personnel be allowed to copy images and videos from said cellular phone/electronic storage device. The contents of this cellular phone/electronic storage device are tangible evidence in the crime of aggravated assault.

Affiant further states the forensic extraction of the electronically stored data may necessitate the transporting of the cellular phone/electronic storage device to another location not in the county where this search warrant was signed. Affiant states that O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-66.1(c) further states and addresses this issue: "Search warrants for the production of stored wire or electronic communications and transactional records pertaining thereto shall have state-wide application or application as provided by the laws of the United States when issued by a judge with jurisdiction over the criminal offense under investigation and to which such records relate."

Based on the above facts and your Affiants training and experience working false statements investigations, violation of oath of by public officer, and general crime investigations, your Affiant has knowledge that persons involved in criminal acts often use cellular phones' storage media to maintain files and data related to illegal acts as well as discuss the acts through messages, chats, and phone calls. This Affiant believes that in all probability the above described cell phone may contain information pertaining to the false statements and violation of oath by a public officer that occurred by MICHAEL DEE THOMPSON. Judicial authority is requested by way of this search warrant to search the above described cellular phone because of the unique privacy issues surrounding the search of this electronic device. It is also requested that a Computer Forensic Specialist and/or authorized GBI personnel of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation be granted authority to conduct an analysis of the information stored on/within the cellular phone/electronic storage device or cellular phone related items seized.

Based on the above mentioned facts your affiant feels that there is sufficient probable cause to conduct a search of the **Black in Color Samsung Galaxy S10 IMEI: [REDACTED]** for items of evidentiary value that relate to **False Statements (O.C.G.A. 16-10-20), Violation of Oath by Public Officer (O.C.G.A. 16-10-1)**.

I swear or affirm that all of the information contained in this Affidavit and all other testimony given by me under oath is true to the best of my knowledge and belief

AFFIANT: [Signature]

TITLE: Special Agent

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 1st day of July, 20 19, at 4:22 (~~A.M.~~) (P.M.)

[Signature]
Judge of the Superior Court Baldwin County
Oral Testimony: Yes ___ No X

Hon. Amanda S. Petty

SEARCH WARRANT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Docket No. _____

TO: ALL PEACE OFFICERS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Affidavit having been made before me by Special Agent Ronald "Ret" Trubey, an officer charged with the duty of enforcing the Criminal Laws that he has reason to believe that in Baldwin County, Georgia on the following described person, premises, or property described as follows:

Black in Color Samsung Galaxy S10 IMEI: [REDACTED]

There is now located certain articles namely:

Telephone numbers, text and chat messages, photographs and images, address book listings, telephone call listings, and fruits of the crime.

Which is evidence of the crime of: **False Statements (O.C.G.A. 16-10-20), Violation of Oath by Public Officer (O.C.G.A. 16-10-1)**

Based upon the affidavit given under oath or affirmation and all other evidence given to me under oath or affirmation, I am satisfied that there is probable cause to believe that a crime is being committed or has been committed and that the property described above is presently located on the person, premises, or property described above.

You are hereby commanded to enter, search and seize within ten (10) days of this date, the person, premises, or property described above. A copy of this Warrant is to be left with the person searched, if no person is available, on the premises or vehicle searched, and a written return, including an inventory of any things seized, shall be made before me or a Court of competent jurisdiction without unnecessary delay after the execution of this Search Warrant.

SO ORDERED this 15th day of July, 20 19, at 4:23 P.M.

Amanda S. Petty
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
Hon. Amanda S. Petty