

12F20585X

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
DECLARATION OF ARREST

ID#: _____

EVENT: 1212-07810

TRUE NAME: Howell, Jake Benton	DATE OF ARREST: 12-21-12	TIME OF ARREST: 1600 Hours
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OTHER CHARGES RECOMMENDED FOR CONSIDERATION:
PDW on School Property - 5 times

THE UNDERSIGNED MAKES THE FOLLOWING DECLARATIONS SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY FOR PERJURY AND SAYS: That I am a peace officer with the Clark County School District Police Department, Clark County, Nevada, being so employed for a period of 13 years.

That I learned the following facts and circumstances which lead me to believe that Howell, Jake Benton committed (or was committing) the offense(s) of Possession of Dangerous Weapon on School Property at the location of 8200 W. Tropical Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89149.

That the offense(s) occurred at approximately 1200 hours on the 21st day of December, 2012.

That on 12-21-12 at about 1030 hours, while on patrol, I was dispatched to North West Career Technical Trade Center, 8200 W. Tropical Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89149 to assist Lt. D. Burgess (L301) with an investigation regarding rumors of a possible shooting to occur at the school on this date.

Upon arrival I met with Lt. Burgess who informed me of the following: That he received a report from the fusion center indicating that associates of former student Steven Fernandez were possibly involved in a plot against the school. This information was initially forwarded to the fusion center by the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Las Vegas Division (FBI). The FBI has a current federal case against Steven Fernandez. The case against Fernandez involves unlawful possession of firearms, possession of explosives material and terrorist threats. Fernandez is currently in custody on the federal charges. Information received through the fusion center indicated that associates of Steven Fernandez might possibly be plotting a criminal action at the school as revenge for the incarceration of Fernandez. Burgess met with Kim Bauman (school principal) and requested information regarding current students that are known to associate with Steven Fernandez. Bauman provided a list of students known to associate with Fernandez. Included in the list were the names of [REDACTED] and Jake Howell. [REDACTED] is a current student at North West Career and Technical Center. Jake Howell is a former student and should not be at the school. Bauman advised Burgess that she became concerned about [REDACTED] due to his recent behavior. [REDACTED] sent an email to one of his teachers requesting permission to wear camouflage gear to school on December 21, 2012. [REDACTED] indicated in the email that he and another student wanted to guard the front of the school as students arrived for the school day.

Student [REDACTED] was removed from class and an administrative search was conducted on his person and belongings. No weapons were found. [REDACTED] stated that he was an acquaintance of Steven Fernandez but has not regularly associated with him. [REDACTED] had no knowledge of any revenge actions planned against the school. [REDACTED] was released to his mother with no criminal action taken.

At about 1200 hours, while interviewing [REDACTED] Lt. Burgess was contacted by Kim Bauman (school principal) who reported to him that Jake Howell just walked into the main entrance of the school. Bauman pointed the former student out and identified him as Jake Howell. Bauman confirmed that Howell is no longer a student at the school and should not be on the campus.

Lt. Burgess detained Howell and questioned him about his reason for being at the school. Howell told Burgess the following: That he lives in Orem, UT and attends Utah Valley University. He traveled to Las Vegas on this

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date to visit family, friends and two of his favorite teachers at North West Career Technical Center. He drove to the school and parked his blue Hyundai Elantra in the east parking lot. He intended to enter the school and visit with teachers Anthony Chapple and Roy Tight.

Lt. Burgess found a blue 2005 Hyundai Elantra, bearing UT plate Y841SS. Burgess approached the vehicle and could see in plain view a black rifle case laying on the back seat. Various survival gear items were also visible in the vehicle.

Burgess contacted FBI Special Agent Rob French and informed him of the incident. French requested that Howell be detained at the school until an agent arrived. Special Agent Rob French arrived at the school and interviewed Howell. Howell stated that he and his good friend Steven Fernandez started a militia group known as the 327th Recon Unit of Nevada. He was only at the school to visit previous teachers and denied any knowledge of an alleged plot against the school. Howell verbally consented to a search of his vehicle at the request of Agent French and Lt. Burgess. Howell also signed an FBI consent to search form.

Agent French is a certified bomb technician with the FBI. Agent French searched the vehicle for any evidence of explosive materials or bomb making material. Agent French found no explosive material in the vehicle. During his search he found an SKS 7.62mm rifle and a black .177 airsoft pistol in the rifle case.

Agent French conducted an additional interview of Howell regarding his knowledge of Steven Fernandez' activities and the activities of the 327th Recon Unit of Nevada. After completing his interview, Agent French released Howell to this officer.

I met with Jake Howell and informed him of his Miranda rights. Howell stated that he understood his rights and agreed to talk to me. Howell told me the following: That on this date he drove his vehicle from Orem Utah to Las Vegas, Nevada to spend the holidays with family and friends. He came to the school to visit his past teachers before meeting up with a friend of his. He parked his vehicle in the school parking lot and entered the school where he was contacted by Lt. Burgess. The SKS rifle in his vehicle was acquired on November 11, 2012 in Orem Utah. He traded a 1995 Oldsmobile Cutlass for the rifle to an unknown person. He brought the rifle with him to Las Vegas to show his friends. He loaded his vehicle with various survival gear items to be prepared for the "Society collapse" that was rumored to occur on December 21, 2012. Howell left the rifle and other gear secured in his vehicle prior to entering the school. Howell denied having any intention of doing harm to any persons or property at the school. Howell was not going to visit [REDACTED] and did not know about [REDACTED] being questioned.

Jake Howell was placed under arrest for possession of a dangerous weapon on school property.

During an inventory of Howells vehicle the following items were found: The SKS rifle (serial #129195), a black .177 airsoft pistol, an ammunition clip containing five 7.62 ammunition rounds, 35 of Winchester 7.62 ammunition rounds, a 16" bayonet, a black knife with 5 1/2" blade, a silver survival knife with a 6" blade, various military style uniforms, camouflage backpacks, shovels, stove, food items, water and various tools. Other personal items such as clothes and electronics were also in the vehicle.

A records check of the SKS rifle revealed that it is not reported stolen and is not registered.

Jake Howell was transported to the Clark County Detention Center where he was booked on five counts of possession of a dangerous weapon on school property.

The SKS rifle and four large knives were booked into the Clark County School District Police Department evidence vault. Other items were also booked for safekeeping.

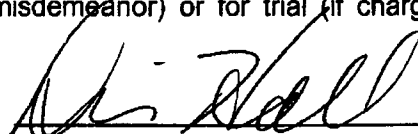
Howell's vehicle, bearing UT plates Y841SS, was towed by Quality Towing and is stored at their facility.

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Wherefore, Declarant prays that a finding be made by a magistrate that probable cause exists to hold said person for preliminary hearing (if charges are a felony or gross misdemeanor) or for trial (if charges are misdemeanor).



D. Hall, Declarant