

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO
CRIMINAL DIVISION

State of Ohio,

CASE NO. 24-CRM-052

Plaintiff

VS.

George A. Back Jr.,
715 Elsmere Street
Middletown, OH 45042
DOB: 8/2/1984
SSN: XXX-XX-0949

COMPLAINT

Defendant.

Count One Safecracking - F4
§2911.31(A), 2911.31(B)

Date of Offense On or about May 19, 2024

Complainant being duly sworn states that George A. Back Jr., in the City of Celina, Mercer County, Ohio, on or about May 19, 2024, unlawfully

with the purpose to commit an offense, did knowingly enter, force an entrance into, or tamper with a vault, safe, or strongbox.

The offense is contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

Count Two Theft - F5
§2913.02(A)(3), 2913.02(B)(2)

Date of Offense On or about May 19, 2024

Complainant being duly sworn states that George A. Back Jr., in the City of Celina, Mercer County, Ohio, on or about May 19, 2024, unlawfully

did with purpose to deprive the owner, Victim # 1, of property or services, to wit: \$1100 dollars in U.S. Currency, knowingly obtain or exert control over either the property or services by deception.

Furthermore, the property or services stolen is valued at one thousand dollars or more and less than seven thousand five hundred dollars.

The offense is contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

MERCER COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
119 NORTH WALNUT ST
CELINA, OHIO 45822
419-586-8677
FAX: 586-8747

FILED

2:10

MAY 29 2024

Shirley J. Thomas
MERCER COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
CELINA, OHIO



Officer Nathan Miller
Celina Police Department

Sworn before me by Officer Nathan Miller, Celina Police Department on May 29, 2024.



JUDGE/Clerk/Notary Public

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IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT, MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

STATE OF OHIO,
Plaintiff

CASE NO.

vs.

GEORGE A. BACK, JR.,
Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT ON COMPLAINT
(O.R.C. 2935.09)

STATE OF OHIO, MERCER COUNTY, SS:

I, do hereby state that I am employed at the Celina Police Department. The following did occur:

On May 19, 2024 at approximately 9:36 P.M, the Celina Police Department received a report of a theft from the Plaza Laundromat, located at 934 N. Main Street, Celina, Mercer County, Ohio. Officers responded and found that someone had manipulated the change machine and stole quarters and bills. Management stated that they would be able to provide video surveillance footage.

On May 20, 2024 Officer Poppe met with the owner, Kent Ludeke. Ludeke had accessed the video footage and provided it to Poppe. On May 19, 2024 at about 3:30 P.M, a male wearing a bright colored shirt can be seen getting a book bag out of a silver in color Saturn, which was parked outside the business. The male enters and removes the bright colored shirt. He had a dark colored tee shirt on underneath that had writing that read, "Aeropostle" and "California." The male puts some clothes from the bag, along with the brightly colored shirt, into a dryer.

The male sits around and once the business is empty, other than him, he retrieves a tool from the book bag, approaches the coin dispenser and begins manipulating the machine. He unlocks it and opens it up.

He then begins tampering with the cash bin and a large amount of cash falls onto the floor. He picks it up and puts it into his bag. Another customer comes into the business and the male closes the cash machine and walks away. After that person leaves, he gets up, again with his tool, and unlocks it again. He can be seen dumping two bins of quarters into his bag, as some fall onto the floor. The male closes the machine up, walks over and gets his clothes out of the dryer and exits the business. He can be seen getting into the silver Saturn and leaving the parking lot.

The owner, Ludeke, estimates the loss of funds at being at least \$1100.00 based on the capacity of the machine. He went on to say that this would be a conservative estimate.

On May 24, 2024, Detective Brian Taylor posted images of the suspect and suspect vehicle on Social Media asking for assistance in identifying the male.

On May 26, 2024, the Celina Police Department Dispatch received a call from a female who is employed at the Randolph County Sheriff's Office in Winchester, Indiana. The female said

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MERCER COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
CELINA, OHIO


that she is a Corrections Officer at the jail and had seen the Celina Police Department's Facebook page, asking to identify the suspect. The female said that a George A. Backs, Jr. matches that person. Backs, Jr. was arrested in Randolph County, just after midnight on May 20, 2024. He was taken into custody because of an outstanding warrant out of Warren County, Ohio for a Probation Violation. When he was booked into the Randolph County Jail, just hours after the theft in Celina, he was wearing the same dark colored "Aeropostle" shirt and has matching tattoos.

Officer Poppe viewed his mugshot photos from Randolph County and Backs, Jr. did match the video. Poppe also found that Backs, Jr. had numerous prior arrests, including one for Tampering with Coin Operated Machines.



Officer Nathan Miller
Celina Police Department

Sworn to before me by Officer Nathan Miller, Celina Police Department on May 29, 2024.


JUDGE/Clerk/Notary Public

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