

State of Minnesota
County of Hennepin

District Court
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 17A03492
Court File No. 27-CR-17-16658

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

Warrant

vs.

ZHAXI TAXING DOB: 05/03/1976

6938 MEADOWBROOK BLVD
ST LOUIS PARK, MN 55426

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Engages in the sex trafficking of an individual

Minnesota Statute: 609.322.1a(4), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.05.2, 609.322.1a

Maximum Sentence: 15 YEARS AND/OR \$40,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/01/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16010120

Charge Description: That on or between November 1, 2016 and January 3, 2017, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, ZHAXI TAXING, acting alone or intentionally aiding, advising, hiring, counseling or conspiring with another or otherwise procures the other to commit the crime, engaged in the sex trafficking of an individual, Victim 1.

COUNT II

Charge: Engages in the sex trafficking of an individual

Minnesota Statute: 609.322.1a(4), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.05.2, 609.322.1a

Maximum Sentence: 15 YEARS AND/OR \$40,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/01/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16010120

Charge Description: That on or between November 1, 2016 and January 3, 2017, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, ZHAXI TAXING acting alone or intentionally aiding, advising, hiring, counseling or conspiring with another or otherwise procures the other to commit the crime, engaged in the sex trafficking of an individual, Victim 2.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Complainant, a licensed peace officer with the Bloomington Police Department, has investigated the facts and circumstances of this offense and believes the following establishes probable cause:

On November 1, 2016, officers were investigating prostitution crimes in Hennepin County, Minnesota. They came across a commercial sex advertisement on Backpages.com for an Asian woman. The officers had dealt with several Asian Human Trafficking Organizations (“AHTO”) and this one appeared to be set up the same way. Officers called the number from the advertisement and were directed to a call center, who then directed them to the actual location of the victim.

With the first advertisement, the officers were directed to an apartment in the City of Edina, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Upon arrival at the apartment, one of the officers was met by an identified adult female (“Victim 1”), who was dressed in lingerie. The officer identified himself as a police officer and showed Victim 1 his badge. While police were present, another male arrived and admitted he was there to visit Victim 1.

Victim 1 only spoke Chinese so a translation service was used to communicate with her. Victim 1 said she was from China but lives in New York. Victim 1 engages in prostitution to save money for medical issues. Victim 1 showed the officer a large medical scar down her spine. Victim 1 said she earned approximately \$1,000 through prostitution. Victim 1 was transported from New York to Minnesota for the sole purpose of working as a prostitute and had to give a large portion of her earnings to the AHTO.

Officers obtained the rental information for the apartment and learned that it was rented using a fake name that had been used in another prostitution investigation. Further investigation revealed that an apartment in Richfield was rented using the same fake name and fake social security number. Officers obtained a warrant for a phone number given to the Edina apartment management. Through surveillance and the warrant information, officers identified one of the main suspects as ZHAXI TAXING, the defendant herein.

On November 16, 2016, after the Edina apartment had been shut down by the police, the defendant was observed moving items out of the Edina apartment directly to the Richfield apartment.

A tracker was placed on a suspect vehicle being used by the defendant. Officers were able to determine that the defendant made frequent trips to the suspect address in Richfield. Surveillance also captured up to 10-12 short term, male visitors, visiting the Richfield apartment. Complainant knows this to be an indicator of prostitution occurring within the apartment. The surveillance further confirmed that the defendant went to the apartment in question and used a key to open the door.

Officers also confirmed prostitution activity within the Richfield apartment by watching a co-defendant exit the apartment with a garbage bag he placed in the dumpster. Officers found multiple condom wrappers and tissues with apparent bodily fluids in the bag.

On January 3, 2017, officers responded to another Backpages.com prostitution advertisement and were directed to the Richfield apartment. Upon arrival, the officer was met by an identified adult female (“Victim 2”). Victim 2 also reported engaging in prostitution. Victim 2 said she takes customers all day and night. The customer pays her money, she uses condoms which are provided to her, and then she passes the money to the co-defendant. Victim 2 is supposed to pay \$50 for every \$140 she makes. The men pay \$180 for an hour or \$140 for a half hour.

During the investigation, the defendant’s cell phone was seized and searched. Officers located an app

used for chatting called "WeChat". The communications showed that the defendant was speaking with a woman known to law enforcement from other prostitution investigations. The chats show that the defendant was instructed to pick up females from the airport and was given caretaking instructions for the women. The chats show discussion about getting locations ready and how they are earning less than their competitors. There are additional topics of discussion that appear to be related to commercial sex.

A review of the defendant's bank account showed large deposits totaling more than \$52,000 in less than five months. That total did not even include deposits under \$1,000 that were made during the same time period.

Given the seriousness of the allegations and the defendant's known ties to other states including California and New York, the State is requesting a warrant.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Matthew Heinzmann
Detective
1800 W Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
Badge: 254

Electronically Signed:
07/07/2017 02:44 PM
Hennepin County, MN

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Dan Allard
300 S 6th St
Minneapolis, MN 55487
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:
07/07/2017 02:14 PM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM before the above-named court at 300 S Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

- Execute in MN Only* *Execute Nationwide* *Execute in Border States*

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$100,000.00
Conditions of Release: No Contact with Co-Defendant(s)

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: July 7, 2017.

Judicial Officer Michael Burns Electronically Signed: 07/07/2017 03:14 PM
District Court Judge

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff
vs.

ZHAXI TAXING

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant
upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: