



NORTHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Monte D. Nelson
Chief of Police

Mark W. Dukatz
Deputy Chief of Police



Press Release **Burglary/Invasion of Privacy Suspect Charged** **December 5, 2018**

On Monday, December 3, 2018, Northfield Police Officers responded to St. Olaf College after on-campus security had apprehended a male suspect who had been attempting to gain unauthorized access to several college buildings. Responding Officers recognized the male from photos taken from video surveillance as the suspect associated with recent on-campus break-ins and “peeping” incidents.

The suspect, Elijah Jermaine Gomez, was arrested and several criminal charges have been filed by the Rice County Attorney’s Office. The criminal complaint is attached to this press release and his booking photo is below.



If you have questions related to this investigation, please call or email the Northfield Police Department.

- Call Northfield Police at 507-645-4477.
- Contact Northfield Police via their website at <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/PublicLogin.aspx?txtRedirect=RequestTracker.aspx&strAction>Login&newURL=/forms.aspx?fid=105>

State of Minnesota
County of Rice

District Court
3rd Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0660043793
Court File No. 66-CR-18-2872

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ELIJAH JERMAINE GOMEZ DOB: 09/18/1996

445 Page St E
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

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: Burglary-3rd Deg-Steal/Commit Felony or Gross Misd

Minnesota Statute: 609.582.3

Maximum Sentence: 5 years and/or \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/24/2018 to 12/02/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18001769

Charge Description: On or between November 24, 2018 and December 2, 2018, in the County of Rice, Minnesota, Elijah Jermaine Gomez did enter a building without consent of the lawful possessor with intent to steal or commit a felony or gross misdemeanor while in the building, or did steal or committed a felony or gross misdemeanor while in the building, either directly or as an accomplice.

COUNT II

Charge: Burglary-3rd Deg-Steal/Commit Felony or Gross Misd

Minnesota Statute: 609.582.3

Maximum Sentence: 5 years and/or \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/24/2018 to 12/02/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18001769

Charge Description: On or between November 24, 2018 and December 2, 2018, in the County of Rice, Minnesota, Elijah Jermaine Gomez did enter a building without consent of the lawful possessor with intent to steal or commit a felony or gross misdemeanor while in the building, or did steal or committed a felony or gross misdemeanor while in the building, either directly or as an accomplice.

COUNT III

Charge: Burglary-3rd Deg-Steal/Commit Felony or Gross Misd

Minnesota Statute: 609.582.3

Maximum Sentence: 5 years and/or \$10,000 fine

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/24/2018 to 12/02/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18001769

Charge Description: On or between November 24, 2018 and December 2, 2018, in the County of Rice, Minnesota, Elijah Jermaine Gomez did enter a building without consent of the lawful possessor with intent to steal or commit a felony or gross misdemeanor while in the building, or did steal or committed a felony or gross misdemeanor while in the building, either directly or as an accomplice.

COUNT IV

Charge: Interfere w/Privacy-Previous Conviction

Minnesota Statute: 609.746.1(e)(1)

Maximum Sentence: 2 years or \$5,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/24/2018 to 12/02/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18001769

Charge Description: On or between November 24, 2018 and December 2, 2018, in the County of Rice, Minnesota, Elijah Jermaine Gomez did with intent to intrude upon or interfere with the privacy of the occupant, to wit: XY, enter upon anothers property, surreptitiously gaze, stare, or peep in the window or any other aperture of a place where a reasonable person would have an expectation of privacy and has exposed or is likely to expose their private parts or the clothing covering the immediate area of the intimate parts, while having been previously convicted of a violation of this offense.

COUNT V

Charge: Interfere w/Privacy-Previous Conviction

Minnesota Statute: 609.746.1(e)(1)

Maximum Sentence: 2 years or \$5,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/24/2018 to 12/02/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18001769

Charge Description: On or between November 24, 2018 and December 2, 2018, in the County of Rice, Minnesota, Elijah Jermaine Gomez did with intent to intrude upon or interfere with the privacy of the occupant, to wit: HVTN, enter upon anothers property, surreptitiously gaze, stare, or peep in the window or any other aperture of a place where a reasonable person would have an expectation of privacy and has exposed or is likely to expose their private parts or the clothing covering the immediate area of the intimate parts, while having been previously convicted of a violation of this offense.

COUNT VI

Charge: Interfere w/Privacy-Previous Conviction

Minnesota Statute: 609.746.1(e)(1)

Maximum Sentence: 2 years or \$5,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/24/2018 to 12/02/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18001769

Charge Description: On or between November 24, 2018 and December 2, 2018, in the County of Rice, Minnesota, Elijah Jermaine Gomez did with intent to intrude upon or interfere with the privacy of the occupant, to wit: RTAH, enter upon anothers property, surreptitiously gaze, stare, or peep in the window or any other aperture of a place where a reasonable person would have an expectation of privacy and has exposed or is likely to expose their private parts or the clothing covering the immediate area of the intimate parts, while having been previously convicted of a violation of this offense.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

Complainant and/or Signing Officer designated below, declares under penalty of perjury, that he/she has reviewed police reports relating to the above-named Defendant and the allegations contained herein, and/or has spoken with peace officers having knowledge of the incident, and based upon that information, believes the following to be true and correct.

On December 1, 2018 at approximately 2:30 p.m., Northfield Police Officer Klostermeier met with St. Olaf College Public Safety Captain Chad Christiansen regarding suspicious activity that had been occurring on the campus in the past several days. St. Olaf College is located in Rice County, Minnesota.

Officer Klostermeier learned that 3 female students had reported seeing a male “peep” and possibly video-record by phone while they showered. These reported incidents occurred in the Skoglund Center women’s locker room, Kildahl Hall 3rd floor women’s bathroom, and one in Hoyme Hall 3rd floor women’s bathroom between the dates of November 25 and November 29, 2018.

Buildings on campus are only accessible after hours through cards that are issued to those who have classes, reside on campus, or are otherwise issued to those who service the campus or have special permission to be present and access the buildings. The cards that are issued are known as “Ole Cards.” Anyone else accessing the buildings under other circumstances does not have permission or consent to enter any of the buildings on campus.

A female student at St. Olaf, LK, reported that her Ole Card was stolen from Christmas Festival rehearsal on Saturday, November 24, 2018. Rehearsal started at 7 p.m. and, after LK’s Ole Card was taken, LK’s Ole Card was used to gain entry into campus building Ytterboe at 7:51 p.m.

Campus security was later able to track LK’s card through video surveillance entering Ytterboe, Hoyme, Ellingson, and Kildahl buildings on campus on the night of November 24, 2018, and a male suspect was observed on the surveillance. The following day, LK’s card was again used to gain entry into Ytterboe, Hoyme, Ellingson, and Kildahl buildings. These are all residence hall buildings with young females residing therein.

Because the male suspect accessed so many residence halls, St. Olaf campus security was able to get a MAC address for his iPhone and track other places that he had been on campus. Through this tracking, the male suspect was later identified as Elijah Jermaine Gomez, dob 09/18/1996, herein the defendant. The defendant’s phone had attempted automatically to access St. Olaf’s WiFi network each time that he was on campus, and photographs were taken from the campus security system of the defendant as he entered

areas only accessible with the stolen Ole Card or others permitted on campus.

LK reported her Ole Card missing and was issued a new card on November 28th (the following Wednesday), and was issued a new Ole Card. This de-activated LK's old card, removing access to the residence halls for the defendant. A custodian cleaning the Skoglund Center came across the defendant on a chance encounter where the defendant identified himself by his first name, and this drew no more attention to the custodian until he saw the defendant's picture in a notice that went out to staff and students on campus.

Victim RTAH (a 19-year-old female) reported to staff that, on 11/25/18 at approximately 10:53 p.m., she was in the women's restroom shower on the third floor of Kildahl Hall, she got out of the shower and saw the defendant halfway in the bathroom. The defendant ran out of the bathroom. As RTAH left the bathroom, she saw the defendant again as she was walking to her dorm room, and the defendant came up and was walking behind her. RTAH rushed into her room and locked the door because she felt unsafe. RTAH then reported to residence staff what had happened.

Victim XY (an 18-year-old female) reported that on November 25, 2018 between 9:50 and 10:20 p.m., she was on the fourth floor of Hoyme Hall, taking a shower in the women's bathroom. XY did not have any clothes on while taking her shower. XY saw a moving shadow, so she opened the curtain but did not see anything. XY closed the curtain and continued to shower. XY again saw a moving shadow and saw a cell phone above the curtain, where she believed that someone was taking a picture or video. XY opened the curtain and saw a male wearing a gray hoodie and a baseball cap. The male was running out of the bathroom. XY described the phone as an iPhone 6 with a light blue case. XY stated that she had been able to see the male's hand holding the phone, and she further described the male as a white male of unknown race, skinny in build, and having black hair.

Victim HVTN (an 18-year-old female) reported that on November 29, 2018 at approximately 8:15 a.m., she was showering in the women's locker room for the pool at Skoglund Hall. HVTN was late for practice, so she was the only female athlete in the locker room. The locker room is for women only and males were not allowed to use it. HVTN had on a black swimming suit while she was showering.

HVTN stated that she saw a shadow on the wall by the edge of the shower area that was moving and then was still for about one minute. HVTN saw a male who appeared to be crouched down; the male then peeked around the wall and into the shower area where she was. HVTN only saw the male from the eyes up and did not see any more of the front of his face. The male then ran back toward the entrance to the locker room and left. HVTN described the male as having a darker skin complexion but not black, with black medium length hair, and wearing a blue or purple hoodie and long pants.

On December 3, 2018 at approximately 6:21 p.m., Northfield Police Officers Scott Carlson and David Jandro, and Sergeant Tussing responded to St. Olaf College and learned that the defendant had again been trying to break into the college buildings and had been apprehended by campus security. Officer Carlson immediately recognized the defendant from photos taken from video surveillance as the suspect associated with the break-ins and "peeping" incidents.

The defendant was taken into custody and transported to the Rice County Jail. The defendant was wearing the same jacket as the suspect in one of the videos. The defendant was also found to have two Ole Cards in the tennis shoes that he was wearing at the time. One of the Ole Cards was the card belonging to and reported stolen by LK; the other Ole Card belonged to 21-year-old female St. Olaf student JS.

The defendant has previously been convicted as an adult of Sexual Battery in June, 2016 and crimes involving Disorderly Conduct - Loitering about Toilets and Invading Privacy in May, 2017 in Sacramento, California. The defendant was also convicted on March 1, 2018 of Interference with Privacy against a minor victim as a felony in Ramsey County Case Number 27-CR-17-22355.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 609.49., intentional failure to appear for duly scheduled court appearances may result in additional criminal charges, and in addition to any arrest warrant that may otherwise be issued by the Court.

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

Mark Dukatz
Deputy Chief
1615 Riverview Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
Badge: 6402

Electronically Signed:
12/05/2018 10:25 AM
Rice County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Kristine H Word
Assistant County Attorney
218 NW 3rd Street
Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 332-6103

Electronically Signed:
12/05/2018 10:09 AM

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 218 NW 3rd Street, Faribault, MN 55021 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: \$
Conditions of Release:

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: December 5, 2018.

Judicial Officer

John T Cajacob

Electronically Signed: 12/05/2018 11:05 AM

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

**COUNTY OF RICE
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Elijah Jermaine Gomez

Defendant

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

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: