

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Eastern District of Michigan

United States of America,

Plaintiff,

v.

Cheryl D. Cheatham

Case: 2:16-mj-30466

Judge: Unassigned,

Filed: 10-14-2016 At 01:05 PM

CMP: USA v CHEATHAM (MAW)

Defendant(s).

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

On or about the date(s) of October 14, 2016, in the county of Wayne
in the Eastern District of Michigan, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)

Offense Description

Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substance

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See Attached Affidavit



Continued on the attached sheet.



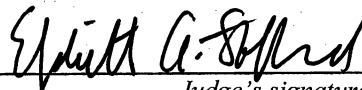
Complainant's signature

Special Agent Chad Hermans, DEA

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: October 14, 2016



Judge's signature

City and state: Detroit, Michigan

Elizabeth A. Stafford, United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT

I, Chad Hermans, being duly sworn, state the following:

1. Affiant is a Special Agent (SA) of the Drug Enforcement Administration and has been employed as such since May of 2012. Affiant is a law enforcement officer empowered to conduct investigations and make arrests for violations of Title 21 of the United States Code.

2. On October 14, 2016, DEA Task Force Officers assigned to the Detroit Metropolitan Airport were alerted to the suspicious activity of Cheryl CHEATHAM. CHEATHAM had arrived in Detroit from Las Vegas, Nevada at approximately 5:39 a.m., on Delta flight 1979. Agents know Las Vegas to be a source city in which illegal narcotics, to include cocaine and heroin, are flown from Las Vegas to be distributed in the Metro Detroit area. Task Force Officers established surveillance on CHEATHAM and observed her to take custody of two large suit cases at the Delta baggage claim. Officers observed her to look at several pieces of luggage on the carousal, specifically at the luggage tags, as if she did not own the luggage for a very long period of time. CHEATHAM was followed on foot to the Metro Car stand at Metro Airport, where she waited for approximately ten to fifteen minutes, before turning around, walking up to the Departure area, pausing to make sure she was not followed, and entering a taxi cab which was parked in the departure area of the airport.

3. At approximately 6:43 a.m., Agents/Officer's followed CHEATHAM to the Westin hotel located at 1500 Town center, Southfield, MI. Agents observed CHEATHAM to walk directly to the hotel restaurant with her two suitcases. She did not appear to stop at the front desk to check into a room.

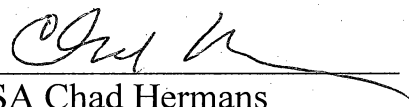
4. At approximately 8:45 a.m., Agents observed CHEATHAM exit the hotel and enter the passenger side of a Metro Car Lincoln Navigator, which is associated with the Westin Hotel. Agents observed both suit cases to be placed in the rear of the Metro Car. Agents followed the Metro car as it left the hotel. Agents contacted Trooper Sonstrom of the Michigan State Police and requested that he conduct a traffic stop on the Metro Car. Trooper Sonstrom was in full Michigan State uniform and a fully marked Michigan State patrol vehicle. At the request of DEA, Trooper Sonstrom initiated a traffic stop on the Metro Car as it travelled on Southfield Road near Fenkell Avenue in Detroit, Michigan. Trooper Sonstrom made contact with the driver of the Metro Car who stated that he was a paid driver of Metro Car and was transporting a guest of the Westin Hotel. The driver gave consent to search the vehicle; however, out of an abundance of caution, Trooper Sonstrom utilized his police K-9 (Otto) to conduct a K-9 sniff of the vehicle. K-9 Otto is certified to detect the scent of narcotics to include Cocaine. Subsequently, K-9 Otto alerted positive to the scent of narcotics coming from inside the vehicle. A physical search by Trooper Sonstrom resulted in finding two

large packages, one in each piece of luggage, bundled in clear plastic. One bundle contained eight (8) individually wrapped kilograms of suspected cocaine and the other bundle contained nine (9) individually wrapped kilograms of cocaine.

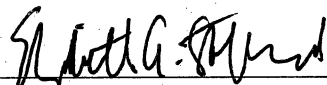
5. At the request of DEA, CHEATHAM was placed under arrest for Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, a violation of Title 21, Section 841(a)(1), and transported to DEA Headquarters in Detroit for processing. The cocaine was field tested positive for cocaine.

6. A query of CHEATHAM's Criminal History revealed a conviction for transporting/selling controlled substances on July 18, 1986 (Unknown Jurisdiction); and an arrest by United States Customs for Importing a Controlled Substance on September 29, 1972 (Unknown disposition).

7. Based on the aforementioned facts, your affiant maintains that probable cause exists to believe that Cheryl CHEATHAM, did knowingly and Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1).


SA Chad Hermans
Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
14th day of October, 2016.


Honorable Elizabeth A. Stafford
United States Magistrate Judge
Eastern District of Michigan