



# Office of the Washington County Attorney

---

Kevin Magnuson, County Attorney

## Press Release

**Contact:** Laura Perkins, Public Information Manager

**Phone:** 651-430-7994

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** September 21, 2023

### **St. Paul man sentenced to over five years in prison for aiding and abetting assault on Oakdale police officer**

STILLWATER, MN --- A St. Paul man convicted of aiding and abetting second-degree assault during an encounter with Oakdale Police last June was sentenced to over five years in prison, Washington County Attorney Kevin Magnuson announced.

On Monday, 30-year-old Robert Paul Braun pled guilty to one count of aiding and abetting second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon after he attempted to drive a vehicle from the passenger seat with an Oakdale police officer in the door frame. According to the criminal complaint, on June 21, 2022, Oakdale police officers were called to LA Fitness health club for a report of a theft. Officers were advised that LA Fitness staff had confronted a female suspect regarding a stolen duffel bag. When officers arrived, they saw the female suspect leave the health club and begin walking along the sidewalk. As an officer exited his patrol squad car, the female suspect fled on foot towards a parked Honda CR-V. She entered the driver's seat of the Honda with a male, later identified as Braun, sitting in the passenger seat.

As one officer positioned their squad car behind the Honda CR-V, another officer attempted to remove the female from the driver's seat. The female refused to comply and instead shifted the floor-mounted transmission gear shifter from park into gear. With the vehicle continuing to move forward with the officer in the door, the officer deployed their Taser on the female with limited effect. During the struggle, Braun reached across the console to keep the gear shift in drive and used his hand to depress the gas pedal. The officer managed to retreat behind an adjacent parked vehicle and narrowly avoided being struck by the Honda as it rammed the squad car and struck adjacent parked cars and a fence.

Braun exited the vehicle and ran from the scene while the female suspect fled in the Honda. Both the female and Braun were later apprehended in Anoka County on unrelated charges.

Following his petition to enter a plea of guilty in Washington County District Court Monday morning, Braun was sentenced to 63 months in prison. Additionally, he has been ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$4,929.50. The female suspect in this case continues to face several charges of first-degree and second-degree assault, first-degree criminal damage to property, fleeing police in a motor vehicle, and theft.

Assistant Washington County Attorney Tony Spector prosecuted this case.

#####

State of Minnesota  
County of Washington

District Court  
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.  
Court File No.

CR-2022-1251  
82-CR-22-4160

---

**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**  
Warrant

vs.

**ROBERT PAUL BRAUN DOB: 07/03/1993**

400 Luella St N  
Saint Paul, MN 55119

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: Aiding and Abetting Assault-1st Degree-Use of deadly force against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee**

Minnesota Statute: 609.221.2, with reference to: 609.221.2, 609.05.1

Maximum Sentence: 20 years and \$30,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/21/2022 to 07/21/2022

Control #(ICR#): 22009159

Charge Description: Aiding and abetting and being aided and abetted by another assault a peace officer or correctional employee, to wit: an Oakdale police officer, by using or attempting to use deadly force against the officer or correctional employee who was engaged in the performance of a duty imposed by law, policy, or rule.

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Aiding and Abetting, Dangerous Weapon – Non-Firearm Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon**

Minnesota Statute: 609.222.1, with reference to: 609.222.1, 609.05.1, 609.11.4

Maximum Sentence: 7 years and \$14,000.00.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/21/2022 to 07/21/2022

Control #(ICR#): 22009159

Charge Description: Aiding and abetting and being aided and abetted by another assault another, to-wit: an Oakdale police officer, with a dangerous weapon, to wit: a motor vehicle

**COUNT III**

**Charge: Aiding and Abetting Damage to Property - 1st Degree - Foreseeable Risk Bodily Harm**

Minnesota Statute: 609.595.1(1), with reference to: 609.595.1, 609.05.1

Maximum Sentence: 5 years and \$10,000.00.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/21/2022 to 07/21/2022

Control #(ICR#): 22009159

Charge Description: Aiding and abetting and being aided and abetted by another intentionally caused damage to physical property to wit: Ford Police Interceptor SUV, other parked civilian motor vehicles, and a metal wrought iron fence, of another, without the latter's consent, and the damage caused a reasonably foreseeable risk of bodily harm.

**COUNT IV**

**Charge: Aiding and Abetting Damage to Property - 1st Degree - Public Safety Motor Vehicle**

Minnesota Statute: 609.595.1(2), with reference to: 609.595.1, 609.05.1

Maximum Sentence: 5 years and \$10,000.00.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/21/2022 to 07/21/2022

Control #(ICR#): 22009159

Charge Description: Aiding and abetting and being aided and abetted by another intentionally cause damage to physical property, to-wit: Ford Interceptor Utility Police Vehicle, of another, without the latter's consent, the property damaged was a public safety motor vehicle, the defendant knew the vehicle was a public safety motor vehicle, and the damage to the vehicle caused a reasonably foreseeable risk of bodily harm.

**COUNT V**

**Charge: Fleeing a Peace Officer By a Means Other Than a Motor Vehicle**

Minnesota Statute: 609.487.6, with reference to: 609.487.6

Maximum Sentence: 90 days and \$1,000.00.

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 07/21/2022 to 07/21/2022

Control #(ICR#): 22009159

Charge Description: For the purpose of avoiding arrest, detention or investigation, or in order to conceal or destroy potential evidence related to the commission of a crime, attempt to evade or elude a peace officer who is acting in the lawful discharge of an official duty, by means of running, hiding or by any other means.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

---

Your Complainant is a licensed peace officer employed by the Oakdale Police Department and offers the following statement to establish probable cause:

On July 21, 2022, at approximately 7:45 p.m., Oakdale police officers in full uniform and driving fully marked squad cars responded on a call for service of a theft at the LA Fitness health club in Oakdale, Washington County, Minnesota. Officers were advised that LA Fitness staff had confronted a female suspect over a stolen duffle bag. Upon arrival, officers saw the female suspect, later identified as SAMANTHA RAE JASPER, DOB/12-29-1994, exit the health club and walk along the sidewalk. As an officer exited his patrol car, JASPER began to flee on foot. The officer told JASPER she was under arrest.

JASPER ran to a parked black Honda CRV, Wisconsin License No. AKP-1887 and entered the driver's side. An officer positioned his squad car behind the black Honda. Another officer opened the Honda's driver's door and attempted to remove JASPER who refused to comply and instead shifted the floor-mounted transmission gear shifter from park into gear.

There were vehicles parked on either side of the Honda. JASPER refused to comply with the officer, and it appeared to the officer that he would be dragged by the Honda or be pinned between the Honda and the adjacent parked vehicle. Said another way, the officer was in fear of death or great bodily harm by JASPER's actions. The officer reached into the Honda and tried to place the vehicle into park. The officer believed that was his only option, i.e., fighting for control of Honda in what seemed to be a deadly force encounter.

There was a front seat passenger later identified as ROBERT PAUL BRAUN, DOB/07-03-1993.

JASPER placed the Honda into gear and was moving the vehicle forward and back despite the officer in the open driver's side door area and a marked police car parked behind the Honda. The officer deployed a Taser with limited effect on JASPER. BRAUN reached across to keep the gear shift in drive, reached across the console, and used his hand to depress the gas pedal. The officer felt the driver side door begin to hyperextend against him as the Honda moved in reverse. The officer was becoming pinned against the moving car and the open driver side door.

The officer was unable to control the gear shift and JASPER. The officer retreated behind an adjacent parked vehicle and did so as the space between the Honda and the adjacent vehicle was narrowing significantly due to JASPER's attempt to escape. The officer narrowly avoided being struck by the Honda.

BRAUN exited the vehicle and ran northbound.

JASPER smashed the Honda into a fence, other cars, and the police car in order to escape. She fled in the Honda.

Damage to the fence, the squad car, and the parked vehicles, was estimated to be in the thousands of dollars. In addition, the damage to the property caused a reasonably foreseeable risk of bodily harm.

There were victims of JASPER's theft activities inside the LA Fitness health club. Those victims, identified in police reports, had items of value taken, which included financial transaction cards, a duffle bag, and a

wallet.

A subsequent law enforcement investigation determined the identities of JASPER and BRAUN. Law enforcement learned that JASPER and BRAUN were in custody in the Anoka County Jail on unrelated charges. During a visit by Oakdale Police to the Anoka County Jail, JASPER and BRAUN declined the opportunity to speak to law enforcement. Anoka County jail staff informed Oakdale Police that JASPER had been treated while in custody for a Taser probe that had broken off under her skin.

JASPER currently is in the Dakota County Jail on multiple pending felony charges. BRAUN remains in the Anoka County Jail on felony charges. BRAUN also has twelve (12) outstanding warrants for his arrest. For these reasons, a complaint-warrant is requested for both JASPER and BRAUN.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: YOU MUST APPEAR FOR EVERY COURT HEARING REGARDING THIS CASE. FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR COURT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE AND MAY RESULT IN ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES BEING IMPOSED AND PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 609.49.

## 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**

Megan Kissner  
Detective Sergeant  
1584 Hadley Avenue N  
Oakdale, MN 55128  
Badge: 190

Electronically Signed:  
12/02/2022 11:59 AM  
Washington County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Anthony Spector  
PO Box 6  
15015 62nd Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
(651) 430-6115

Electronically Signed:  
12/02/2022 11:07 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 as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court 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:

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 2, 2022.

**Judicial Officer**

Sheridan Hawley  
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 12/02/2022 03:27 PM

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

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Robert Paul Braun**

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:

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	7/21/2022	609.221.2 Assault-1st Degree-Use of deadly force against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee	Felony	A1F07	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Modifier	7/21/2022	609.05.1 Liability for Crimes of Another-Intentional	No-Level	A1F07	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Penalty	7/21/2022	609.221.2 Assault-1st Degree-Use of deadly force against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee	Felony	A1F07	X	MN0820800	22009159
2	Charge	7/21/2022	609.222.1 Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A2447	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Modifier	7/21/2022	609.11.4 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Use Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A2447	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Modifier	7/21/2022	609.05.1 Liability for Crimes of Another-Intentional	No-Level	A2447	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Penalty	7/21/2022	609.222.1 Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A2447	X	MN0820800	22009159
3	Charge	7/21/2022	609.595.1(1) Damage to Property - 1st Degree - Foreseeable Risk Bodily Harm	Felony	P1122	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Modifier	7/21/2022	609.05.1 Liability for Crimes of Another-Intentional	No-Level	P1122	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Penalty	7/21/2022	609.595.1 Damage to Property-1st Degree	Felony	P1122	X	MN0820800	22009159
4	Charge	7/21/2022	609.595.1(2) Damage to Property - 1st Degree - Public Safety Motor Vehicle	Felony	P1122	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Modifier	7/21/2022	609.05.1 Liability for Crimes of Another-Intentional	No-Level	P1122	X	MN0820800	22009159
	Penalty	7/21/2022	609.595.1 Damage to Property-1st Degree	Felony	P1122	X	MN0820800	22009159
5	Charge	7/21/2022	609.487.6 Fleeing a Peace Officer By a Means Other Than a Motor Vehicle	Misdemeanor	E5740	N	MN0820800	22009159
	Penalty	7/21/2022	609.487.6 Fleeing a Peace Officer By a Means Other Than a Motor Vehicle	Misdemeanor	E5740	N	MN0820800	22009159