

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of Columbia

United States of America

v.

BLAKE A. REED

Date of Birth: XXXXXXXX*Defendant(s)*

Case: 1:21-mj-00089

Assigned To : Faruqui, Zia M.

Assign. Date : 1/16/2021

Description: Complaint w/ Arrest Warrant

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 January 6, 2021 in the county of _____
 _____ in the District of Columbia, the defendant(s) violated:

*Code Section**Offense Description*

18 USC 1752(a)(1),(2) Knowingly Entering or Remaining in any Restricted Building or Grounds Without Lawful Authority
 40 USC 5104(e)(2)(D) & (G) Violent Entry and Disorderly Conduct on Capitol Grounds

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached statement of facts.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Daniel J. Senters, Special Agent

Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1
 by telephone.

Date: 01/16/2021


2021.01.16
 18:57:45
 -05'00'

*Judge's signature*City and state: Washington D.C.

Zia M. Faruqui, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On January 6, 2021, your affiant, Daniel J. Senters, was on duty and performing my official duties as a Special Agent. Specifically, I am assigned to the Washington Field Office, tasked with investigating criminal activity in and around the Capitol grounds. As a Special Agent, I am authorized by law or by a Government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detention, investigation, or prosecution of a violation of Federal criminal laws.

The U.S. Capitol is secured 24 hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by U.S. Capitol Police. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the U.S. Capitol was also closed to members of the public.

On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the United States Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the United States Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on November 3, 2020. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Mike Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

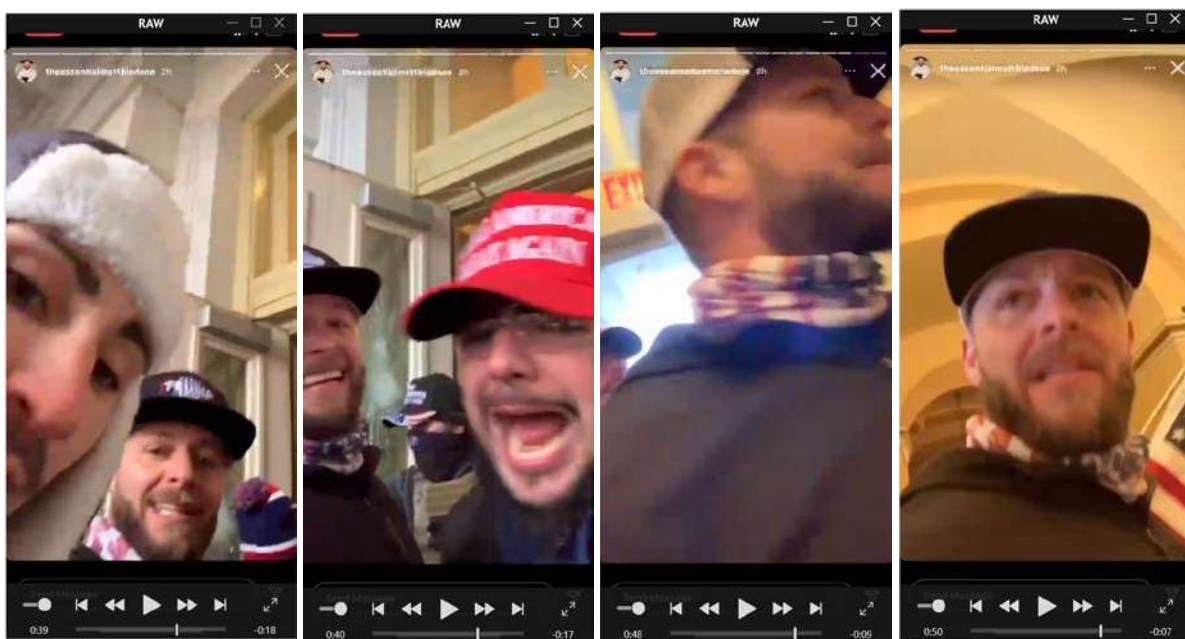
At such time, the certification proceedings still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the U.S. Capitol Police attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, shortly after 2:00 p.m., individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of the U.S. Capitol Police, as others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts.

Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m. members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, the joint session of the United States Congress was effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the sessions resumed.

During national news coverage of the aforementioned events, video footage which appeared to be captured on mobile devices of persons present on the scene depicted evidence of

violations of local and federal law, including scores of individuals inside the U.S. Capitol building without authority to be there.

FBI Agents received a tip that Matthew Bledsoe had been part of the group that entered the Capitol illegally. Upon following up, they received a video compilation that was posted to his Instagram account – theessentialmattbledsoe – which included several selfie photographs of Mr. Bledsoe throughout the day and some videos clips. These images appear to be captured by Mr. Bledsoe on a device he is carrying. Bledsoe is seen both outside and inside the Capitol. In the video of him entering the Capitol, Bledsoe turns the camera to show the door then says, “In the Capitol. This is our house. We pay for this shit. Where’s those pieces of shit at?” As he’s walking and talking, the video shows him passing through the outer door and into the hallway. Below are several still frames from that video..



The video ends with another video clip captured by a person out of view of the camera where the crowd is chanting, “Stop the steal! Stop the steal!,” as they march through the halls of the Capitol.

Bledsoe was identified and a Complaint and Arrest warrant were issued for him by Magistrate Jude Zia M. Faruqui in Washington, D.C., on January 13, 2021. He was arrested in Shelby County, Tennessee on January 15, 2021.

One of the photographs provided by the tipster in the Bledsoe case showed Mr. Bledsoe and a man smiling together in what appears to be the inside of the Capitol building based on the background of the photograph. The man with Mr. Bledsoe in the photograph has lowered a gray respirator with purple and yellow tape bands around the filter cartridges where they meet the main part of the mask. The man also has a distinctive pair of ski goggles with multi-colored glass on his upper forehead.



The tipster also provided a screenshot of the Blake Austin Reed Facebook account. That account had posted a series of photographs of the events leading up to the breach of the Capitol. Prominently featured in the upper lefthand corner photograph is a man in a distinctive pair of ski goggles with multi-colored glass on the upper portion of his face and a gray respirator with purple and yellow tape bands around the filter cartridges where they meet the main part of the mask on the lower portion of his face. This unusual outfit choice matches the attire of the man smiling alongside Mr. Bledsoe inside the Capitol. The Blake Austin Reed Facebook account screenshot includes the words, “We The People have spoken and we are pissed! No antifa, no BLM... We The People took the Capitol!”



An open records search shows a Blake Reed with a Pinterest account – blakeareed90 – whose profile picture appears to depict the same person in the photograph with Mr. Bledsoe.



Blake Reed

48 Followers • 135 Following



Law Enforcement was also able to find LinkedIn profiles for Blake Reed and Mr. Bledsoe showing that they both attended Germantown High School in Memphis, Tennessee from 2000-2002.

LinkedIn



Blake Reed

Custom Residential Builder

Greater Nashville Area, TN • 500+ connections

Education



The University of Memphis

Bachelor of Professional Studies - Organizational Leadership

2004 - 2009

Activities and Societies: Pi Kappa Phi



Germantown High School

High School Degree

2000 - 2004



Southwest Tennessee Community College

CAD/CADD Drafting and/or Design Technology/Technician

LinkedIn

Matt Bledsoe



Matt Bledsoe

Owner/Operator at Primetime Movers

Greater Memphis Area • 55 connections

Education



Germantown high school

2000 - 2002



Finally, law enforcement was able to confirm the identification of Mr. Blake Austin Reed by comparing his Tennessee state-issued driver's license photo (on the left) against the photo of Mr. Reed and Mr. Bledsoe inside the Capitol (on the right).



Based on the foregoing, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that Blake Austin Reed violated 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (2), which makes it a crime to (1) knowingly enter or remain in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do; and (2) knowingly, and with intent to impede or disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions, engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct in, or within such proximity to, any restricted building or grounds when, or so that, such conduct, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions; or attempts or conspires to do so. For purposes of Section 1752 of Title 18, a “restricted building” includes a posted, cordoned off, or otherwise restricted area of a building or grounds where the President or other person protected by the Secret Service, including the Vice President, is or will be temporarily visiting; or any building or grounds so restricted in conjunction with an event designated as a special event of national significance.

Your affiant submits there is also probable cause to believe that Blake Austin Reed violated 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) and (G), which make it a crime to willfully and knowingly (D) utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct, at any place in the Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress, or the orderly conduct in that building of a hearing before, or any deliberations of, a committee of Congress or either House of Congress; and (G) parade, demonstrate, or picket in any of the Capitol Buildings.


 DANIEL J. SENTERS
 Federal Bureau of Investigation

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone, this the 16th day of January 2021.

 2021.01.16
 18:56:33
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ZIA M. FARUQUI

U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE