

U.S. DISTRICT COURT - N.D. OF N.Y.  
**FILED**  
NOV 6 2014  
AT \_\_\_\_\_ O'CLOCK \_\_\_\_\_  
Lawrence K. Baerman, Clerk - Syracuse

AO 106 (Rev. 01/09) Application for a Search Warrant

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
Northern District of New York

In the Matter of the Search of )  
(Briefly describe the property to be searched )  
or identify the person by name and address )  
U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail Express Parcel )  
EU915675352US, addressed to: Mick T., 308 N. )  
Crouse Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203, currently located )  
at 5640 East Taft Road, Syracuse, N.Y. )

Case No. 5:14-MJ- **405 (DEP)**

## APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that there is now concealed on the following person or property located in the Northern District of New York (identify the person or describe property to be searched and give its location): U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail Express Parcel EU915675352US, addressed to: Mick T., 308 N. Crouse Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203, currently located at 5640 East Taft Road, Syracuse, N.Y.

The person or property to be searched, described above, is believed to conceal (identify the person or describe the property to be seized): **contraband and evidence of violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846, including illegal controlled substances; proceeds, including currency; packaging materials; shipping records, notes and correspondence; and/or other evidence tending to identify the source and recipient of the packages.**

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (check one or more):

- evidence of a crime;
- contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;
- property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
- a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) & 846, and the application is based on these facts:  
See Attached Affidavit

- Continued on the attached sheet.
- Delayed notice of      days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days:                     ) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Applicant's signature

Matthew R. Puro, Postal Inspector

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 11/06/2014

Judge's signature

City and state: Syracuse, New York

Hon. David E. Peebles, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

AFFIDAVIT

City of Syracuse        )  
County of Onondaga ) ss.:  
State of New York     )

U.S. Postal Inspector Matthew R. Puro, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am a United States Postal Inspector currently assigned to Syracuse, New York, and am assigned to various types of investigations, including the use of the U.S. mails to transmit dangerous items, and I am primarily responsible for investigations involving the illegal use of the U.S. mail in the trafficking of narcotics, controlled substances, illegal drugs or proceeds derived from the sale of controlled substances in violation of Title 21, United States Code, §§ 841 and 846. I have been so employed for over 20 years, with over 14 years as a Postal Inspector assigned to our Syracuse, NY domicile. These investigations have involved the mailing of methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, steroids and other controlled and non-controlled prescription drugs. I have also been involved in the investigation of the mailing of U.S. currency as payment for illegal drugs sent through the U.S. mails, or as payment for illegal drugs brought into the Northern District of New York by other means. These investigations have led to the arrests of individuals mailing or receiving illegal drugs or proceeds from the sale of illegal drugs from Puerto Rico, Florida, Nevada, Texas, California, and Arizona to the Northern District of New York. I make this affidavit as part of an application for a Search Warrant to search a U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail Express Parcel currently in the Northern District of New York, in the custody of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service located at 5640 East Taft Road, Syracuse, NY 13220.

2. While employed as a U.S. Postal Inspector, I have also assisted other experienced U.S. Postal Inspectors, Federal Law Enforcement Officers and State and Local investigators in

various narcotics investigations throughout the United States involving the transportation of controlled substances, as well as those involving proceeds derived from the distribution of controlled substances via the mail, in violation of Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 841 (a)(1), 843(b), and 846. As a Postal Inspector, I have also worked on many investigations involving the use of the mail and the Postal Service to launder and smuggle currency derived from specified unlawful activities, including narcotics distribution, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 981, 982, 1956, and 1957, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 5324 and 5325. I have also participated in various interdiction operations targeting parcels containing illegal narcotics, and proceeds thereof, in Indianapolis, Indiana and Los Angeles, California, and most recently in San Juan, Puerto Rico. While conducting investigations relative to the mailing of firearms, narcotics, and currency, I have had the opportunity to become familiar with known trafficking source and destination areas, various smuggling methods and techniques used by traffickers, as well as the manner in which traffickers package illicit firearms, narcotics, and related proceeds.

3. On Monday, November 3rd, 2014, I was contacted by a manager at the Teall Station Post Office. The manager advised of a strange circumstance regarding the attempted delivery of U.S. Postal Service Priority Mail Express Parcel EU915675352US (hereafter referred to as Parcel #1). The manager explained that on the prior Saturday, November 1st, 2014, a U.S. Postal Service Letter Carrier had attempted delivery of Parcel #1 to the delivery name and address listed on the parcel of "Mick T, 308 N. Crouse Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203," and determined that the address was a vacant garage. The letter carrier left a U.S. Postal Service Form 3849, Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt at the address and notified the manager that the address was vacant. The manager advised that earlier in the day on November 3rd, the manager placed a telephone call to the return telephone number listed on Parcel #1, and stated that the call was answered; however, the person stated they had not mailed Parcel #1 and had no knowledge of a parcel being mailed to Syracuse, NY. The manager said he/she then called the number listed in the "To" section on Parcel #1, and found the number was out of service. Later in the day, a female called the Teall Station Post Office and provided telephone number 706-750-2032 and requested the parcel be re-delivered to 308 N. Crouse Ave, and left outside.

4. In the evening of Monday, November 3rd, 2014, your affiant responded to the Teall Station Post Office and spoke with a manager at the facility. The manager again mentioned the circumstances regarding the attempted delivery of Parcel #1, and I examined the outside of the parcel. Parcel #1, was a large, sturdy cardboard box weighing 22 pounds, 5.8 ounces according to the US Postal Service Mailing Label (USPS Label 11-b) affixed to the outside of Parcel #1. The parcel bore the name and address of Abraham More, 1550 Terrell Mill Rd, Marietta, Georgia 30067 in the "From" section of the mailing label, and the name and address of Mick T, 308 N. Crouse Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203 in the "To" section of the mailing label. The parcel was secured by your affiant, and transported to U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) Offices located at 5640 east Taft Road in Syracuse, NY 13220. While at USPIS offices, the parcel was measured at approximately 18 ½" x 18 ½"x 17 ¼", and it was noticed the parcel bore 124.90 in postage. A photograph of the Parcel #1 is attached as Exhibit #1.

5. On November 4th, 2014, your affiant requested a CLEAR report (a fee-based database of names and addresses commonly used by law enforcement to query information) on the return name and address listed on Parcel #1. The search returned that the name "Abraham More" was not associated with the address of 1550 Terrell Mill Rd. in Marietta, Georgia. A more general search (using CLEAR) for the name Abraham More in Marietta, Georgia returned as "no results were found..." A search in CLEAR for the name associated with 308 N. Crouse Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203 returned with 13 names, however none of the names returned with the first name "Mick" or a last name beginning with the letter "T" as listed on the mailing label of Parcel #1. Your affiant is aware through prior investigations that it is common for recipients of narcotics and the proceeds from drug-related activity to use addresses other than their own address to obtain the mailing in order to avoid detection.

6. On November 4th, 2014 a canine exam was conducted by New York State Police Canine Handler Eric Knapp and his Canine, "Kenny" of USPS Priority Mail Express Parcel # EU915675352US at 5640 East Taft Road in Syracuse, NY. Canine Handler Knapp advised your affiant that canine Kenny positively alerted to the parcel at 3:38pm. You affiant was

present and observed this positive canine exam. Canine Handler Knapp provided a detailed supporting deposition of the narcotics detection training completed by him and Canine Kenny. This deposition is attached as Exhibit #2.

7. On November 5th, and again on November 6th, your affiant was advised by a U.S. Postal Service manager at Teall Station that a female had repeatedly called the Teall Post Office looking for the parcel, and requesting the parcel be redelivered. The female caller provided the telephone number of 706-750-2032 to the Postal Manager. On November 6th, your affiant placed a recorded consensual telephone call to 706-750-2032. In the call your affiant was acting in an undercover capacity as a U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Clerk. During the call a female answered the telephone and said that the parcel was for her. She provided the tracking number of EU915675352US as well as the delivery address of the parcel. When asked if the parcel was for her she replied "Yes, yes, this is a business place," she also stated the address was not vacant and they would be there all day. She mentioned that she did not want the parcel returned to the sender. You affiant advised he would attempt to deliver it later in the day.

8. Your affiant is aware that individuals who regularly handle controlled substances often leave the scent of controlled substances on the box, packaging materials, and other package contents which they handle. Packaging materials are also often stored in close proximity to the controlled substances, transferring the odor of the controlled substance to the packaging materials, contents and parcel. Narcotics detection canines receive training to alert on these scents.

9. Your affiant is aware, through his training and experience, that drug traffickers often utilize the U.S. mails, including Priority Mail Express, for the delivery of controlled substances for many reasons, including but not limited to:

- A. Items sent via Priority Mail Express are considered First Class Mail, and therefore cannot be examined without a federal search warrant.

- B. Priority Mail Express is generally expected to be delivered in 1 business day. This ensures the drug dealer of expedited delivery.
- C. Various dispatch times (times which a mailed item is transported to the next destination) are available to customers, upon request, and gives the mailer the opportunity to have some control over the arrival of the mailed item.
- D. Individuals desiring to either send or receive controlled substances and payments for these substances through the U.S. Mails can do so without having to provide identification; therefore, reducing the possibility of revealing their true identity.

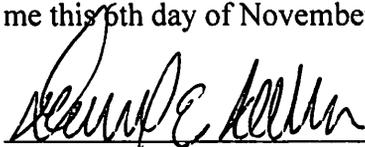
10. Based on the above facts set forth in this affidavit, and based on my training and experience, your affiant believes that the foregoing facts establish probable cause to believe that there are controlled substances and/or narcotic proceeds, packaging, shipping records, notes and correspondence, and/or evidence tending to identify the source of the package and the intended recipient of the above-described parcel. These items could constitute evidence of violations of federal law, including Title 21, United States Code, §§ 841(a)(1) and 846. I respectfully request that the court issue the requested search warrant so that this package can be searched and any evidence recovered become available for use for further investigation(s) or criminal prosecution(s). Additionally, your affiant requests the seizure of the parcel, controlled substances, currency, and/or negotiable instruments contained therein.



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Matthew R. Puro  
Postal Inspector

Subscribed to and sworn to before  
me this 6th day of November, 2014



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Honorable David E. Peebles  
U.S. Magistrate Judge

# EXHIBIT 1



# EXHIBIT 2

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
-- vs.

Defendant(s)

INCIDENT LOCATION: STATE OF NEW YORK LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT COUNTY OF ONONDAGA TOWN of CLAY
LOCATION OF DEPOSITION: STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ONONDAGA TOWN of CLAY

On 11/04/2014 at 04 25 PM I, ERIC F KNAPP

State The Following:

Be it known that by this supporting deposition, Trooper Eric F. Knapp swears that he is a duly appointed Police Officer and has been employed as such since May 20, 1999 by the New York State Police. Trooper Knapp has also been trained and certified as a canine handler since October 17, 2008. Trooper Knapp is currently paired with Canine "Kenny", a German Shepherd who is trained and certified as a narcotics detection canine by the New York State Police. Said canine is certified in the detection of marijuana, crack cocaine, powder cocaine, ecstasy, methamphetamine, heroin and LSD. On the 4th day of November, 2014 at 3:38 pm at the United States Post Office, Taft Road, Town of Clay, County of Onondaga, State of New York, Trooper Knapp and Canine Kenny did conduct a canine sniff of a United States Express Mail package bearing the United States Postal tracking number of EU915675352US. The package measured 18 1/2" X 18 1/2" X 17 1/4" and was being sent to Mick T, 308 N Crouse Ave, Syracuse, NY 13203 with a return address from Abraham More, 1550 Terrell Mill Rd, Marietta, GA 30067. Said canine sniff did produce a canine alert for the presence of narcotics emanating from within the package.

The above allegations of fact are made by Trooper Eric F. Knapp on direct knowledge.

Handwritten signature of Eric F. Knapp

Notice

(Penal Law §210.45)

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the state of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor.

Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this 04 TH day of NOVEMBER, 2014

SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT

- OR -

\* Subscribed and Sworn to before me

this day of

WITNESS: ERIC F. KNAPP Time Ended 11/04/2014 04:40 PM NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION

\* This form need not be sworn to, if the deponent is not a police officer.