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FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

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ESTATE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that letters testamentary or of administration have been granted to the following estates. All persons indebted to said estates are required to make payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the administrators or executors named.

Third Publication

PATRICIA ANN BROWN, late of Dunbar

Borough, Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: Amy Lynn Gallagher c/o 815A Memorial Boulevard Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: Margaret Zylka House

JAMES DONALD BUNGARD, late of

Wharton Township, Fayette County, PA (3) Executor: Troy Allen Bungard c/o 815A Memorial Boulevard Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Margaret Zylka House

LOUIS DALESSIO, late of Connellsville,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: Roseanna Knisley 1955 South Creek Front Lane P.O. Box 359 Hatch, Utah 87435 c/o Sepic Law 892 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Douglas Sepic

DOROTHY L. DUNLAP, late of Dunbar

Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Executor: Daniel Mark Dunlap and George Thomas Dunlap
519 Donatello Drive
Irwin, PA 15642
c/o Bononi & Company
20 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 201
Greensburg, PA 15601
Attorney: Keegan E. Miller

WILBUR E. FELTON, late of Connellsville,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Executrix: Mary Catherine Piper c/o Casini & Geibig, LLC 815B Memorial Boulevard Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: Jennifer M. Casini

ROBERT FESTOG, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Executrix: Cathryn Giffin 997 Treasure Lake DuBois, PA 15801

EMIL GEORGE HAMBURG, late of Saltlick

Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: Mary Lou Kuhns
c/o 815A Memorial Boulevard
Connellsville, PA 15425
Attorney: Margaret Zylka House

IVAN HAYDEN, late of Farmington, Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: Richard Hayden

2187 Dinnerbell Five Forks Road Farmington, PA 15437 c/o Tremba Kinney, LLC 1310 Morrell Avenue, Suite C Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: John Greiner

JOHN HUDOCK, a/k/a JOHN M. HUDOCK, a/k/a JOHN MICHAEL HUDOCK, late of

Uniontown, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Leslie A. Hudock c/o George & George 92 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Joseph M. George

OPAL JORDAN, a/k/a OPAL K. JORDAN,

late of Masontown Borough, Fayette County, PA (3)

Executrix: Robin S. Jordan c/o 9 Court Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Vincent J. Roskovensky, II

CYNTHIA MIHALKO, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Administratrix: Katherine A. Lacek 506 Stonebridge Court Uniontown, PA 15401 c/o Tremba, Kinney, Greiner & Kerr 1310 Morrell Avenue, Suite C Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: John Greiner

BEATRICE WAITE, a/k/a BEATRICE C. WAITE, late of Acme, Fayette County, PA (3)

Executor: John R. Waite 80 Ballard Road Bervard, North Carolina 28712 c/o Sebring & Associates 339 Old Haymaker Road, Suite 1101 Monroeville, PA 15146 Attorney: Brenda Sebring

Second Publication

MARION BASINGER, late of 1250 Anderson

Highway, Cumberland, Virginia 23040 (2) *Co-Executors*: James Basinger and John Basinger

122 Sweitzer Road Acme, PA 15610 c/o 17 North Diamond Street Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 Attorney: Marvin Snyder

CHARLES JEFFREY BAXTER, late of South

Union Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Executor: Jeffrey Joshua Baxter
c/o DeHaas Law, LLC
51 East South Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Ernest P. DeHaas, III

WILLIAM FRANCIS BILLER, III, late of

South Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (2)

Administrator: Babbette Miele
140 Lower Oliver 3

Uniontown, PA 15401
c/o Tremba, Kinney, Greiner & Kerr, LLC
302 West Otterman Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

Attorney: Timothy B. Kinney

JESSIE J. HUSAK, late of Bullskin Township,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Executor: Richard S. Husak 243 Sweitzer Road Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 c/o 17 North Diamond Street Mount Pleasant, PA 15666 Attorney: Marvin D. Snyder

CONNIE A. MYERS, late of German

Township, Fayette County, PA (2) Executrix: Shauna R. Smith c/o 52 East South Street Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Webster & Webster

PAUL ALLEN SANDUSKY, late of

Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representative:

Susan Jane Sandusky

c/o 208 South Arch Street, Suite 2

Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: Richard A. Husband

RALPH SUTTON, a/k/a RALPH EVERETT SUTTON, a/k/a RALPH E. SUTTON, late of

Georges Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Executrix: Jacqueline J. Sutton
c/o Kopas Law Offices
556 Morgantown Road
Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: John Kopas

SUSAN M. WAITE, late of Bullskin Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Co-Executors: Lydia A. Snyder and Courtney A. Snyder 730 Maxwell Avenue Boulder, Colorado 80304 c/o 231 South Main Street, Suite 402 Greensburg, PA 15601 Attorney: Marilyn M. Gaut

First Publication

CAROL A. ASSAD, a/k/a CAROL ANN **ASSAD**, late of East Brownsville Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executor: Andrew G. Assad c/o Davis & Davis 107 East Main Street Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: James T. Davis

ROBERT M. CHUEY, a/k/a ROBERT M. KENNEDY-CHUEY, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) Administrator: David F. Chuev c/o Goodwin Como, P.C. 108 North Beeson Boulevard, Suite 400 Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Benjamin F. Goodwin

LORRAINE KOSCHOCK, a/k/a LORRAINE J. KOSCHOCK, late of Wharton

Township, Fayette County, PA (1) Administratrix: Melissa R. Minko P.O. Box 123 Gibbon Glade, PA 15440 c/o Tremba, Kinney, Greiner & Kerr 1310 Morrell Avenue, Suite C Connellsville, PA 15425 Attorney: John Greiner

ROBERT L. NAGY, a/k/a ROBERT NAGY,

late of Holiday, Pesco County, Florida (1) Administratrix: Carole Morgan Nagy c/o Goodwin Como, P.C. 108 North Beeson Boulevard, Suite 400 Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Benjamin F. Goodwin

LEGAL NOTICES

*** NO LEGAL NOTICES ***

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johnfranciswarman@gmail.com

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JUDICIAL OPINION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CRIMINAL DIVISION

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

v.

ANTOINE DEVAUGHN BAKER, JR.,

Defendant.

No. 1250 of 2023

Honorable Linda R. Cordaro

OPINION AND ORDER

Linda R. Cordaro, J.

April 16, 2024

Before this Court is Defendant's Omnibus Pretrial Motion for suppression. A hearing on the Motion was held on March 27, 2024. After consideration, and for the following reasons, Defendant's Motion is denied.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The following facts were established according to testimony at the March 27, 2024 hearing. On February 27, 2023, Patrolman Frederick Kampert came to 124 South Beeson Avenue in Uniontown, Fayette County to conduct a code enforcement inspection of the inside and outside of the residence. Patrolman Kampert did so at the request of the owner of the property, Ben Venick, who had leased one unit to Mark Lint. Mr. Lint did reside at the address, and he let the officer into the unit to perform the inspection. While inspecting the interior of the unit, Patrolman Kampert went to the basement which was used for storage and laundry and was not a livable space.

As Patrolman Kampert was inspecting the furnace, he heard a noise and looked over to see a male individual, the Defendant, stand up in the corner of the basement. The officer approached the Defendant, attempted to find out who he was and why he was there, and informed him of his own identity and reason for being there. The Defendant did not respond and instead began ascending the stairs. The officer followed him and grabbed his arm, but the Defendant pulled away, and the officer grabbed his arm again. As the two reached the living room, the officer attempted to handcuff the Defendant, who struggled. During the struggle, the Defendant pulled out a plastic baggie with suspected drugs from his pocket. The officer eventually got the Defendant on the ground and informed him he was under arrest. During a search incident to arrest, the officer found another baggie with suspected drugs, a mobile phone, and over \$1,000 currency in the Defendant's pocket. According to Patrolman Kampert, Mr. Lint had not informed him there were any other individuals in the residence.

Mr. Lint testified that he had let the Defendant stay with him, and he believed the Defendant was not in the house when he let the officer enter. He did not tell the officer about the Defendant staying with him, nor did he accompany Patrolman Kampert into the basement, and only came in from the outside during the scuffle in the living room.

DISCUSSION

Defendant's Motion posits that he was seized by Patrolman Kampert without sufficient cause and that the subsequent formal arrest and search therefore constituted an illegal seizure. Accordingly, Defendant has moved for suppression of evidence obtained as a result of the unlawful seizure(s).

Any evidence obtained by police conduct that violates an individual's constitutional rights may be subject to suppression. The purpose of this "exclusionary rule" is to discourage law enforcement officers from constitutionally violative conduct. Commonwealth v. Santiago, 160 A.3d 814, 827-28 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2017) (citing Commonwealth v. Edmunds, 586 A.2d 887, 908 (Pa. 1991)).

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 8 of the Pennsylvania Constitution prohibit unreasonable searches and seizures. A warrantless seizure is presumptively unreasonable but for a few specific exceptions, which include circumstances in which police have reasonable suspicion that criminal activity is afoot. Commonwealth v. Chase, 960 A.2d 108, 113 (Pa. 2008). In those circumstances, police may briefly detain an individual for an investigation. Id. (citing Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968)). "In order to determine whether the police officer had reasonable suspicion, the totality of the circumstances must be considered." Commonwealth v. Fulton, 921 A.2d 1239, 1243 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2007) (quoting Commonwealth v. Hughes, 908 A.2d 924,927 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2006)). The determination must give due weight to specific reasonable inferences that an officer is entitled to draw from the facts in light of his own experience. Id. Furthermore, the determination is not limited only to consideration of facts that clearly indicate criminal conduct but also includes a combination of "innocent facts" that, when taken together, may warrant further investigation by the police. Id.

This case involves two levels of detention. First, when the officer could not ascertain the Defendant's identity or reason for being in the basement, and the Defendant began to leave the scene, the officer attempted an investigatory detention. Second, when the Defendant continued attempting to avoid the officer and removed suspected contraband from his own pocket, the officer formally arrested him. Therefore, the analysis here must be whether, in the totality of circumstances, there were facts to support at least reasonable suspicion of criminal activity in order to briefly detain the Defendant for investigation and, subsequently, facts to support at least probable cause in order to arrest him.

First, it is reasonable that because Mr. Lint did not tell Patrolman Kampert anyone else was in the residence, the officer did not expect to encounter anyone else in the basement. The basement was not a livable space, so unexpectedly finding the Defendant there would, reasonably, lead the officer to make inquiries. It also was reasonable for the officer to directly ask the Defendant questions about his identity and purpose, since Mr. Lint was not present in the basement at the time. When the Defendant instead avoided interaction and attempted to leave the scene without responding, even though the officer had informed him of his own identity and reason for being at the scene, it is reasonable that the officer would suspect that some criminality may be afoot. Here, the

combination of "innocent facts," taken together, warranted further investigation. The officer's attempt to briefly detain the Defendant to investigate therefore was justified.

Second, when the officer did attempt to investigate, the Defendant continued to pull away and his efforts to avoid the officer eventually resulted in a physical struggle. During that struggle, the Defendant pulled suspected contraband out of his own pocket. Therefore, while the officer was investigating his suspicions, additional evidence of criminality was revealed, and this established a sufficient basis for probable cause to make a full arrest.

Consequently, any evidence obtained as a result of a search incident to arrest was validly obtained.

Therefore, the Court enters the following:

ORDER

AND NOW, this 16th day of April, 2024 in consideration of Defendant's Omnibus Pretrial Motion and after a hearing on the matter it is hereby ORDERED and DI-RECTED that Defendant's Motion for suppression of the evidence is DENIED. The Commonwealth shall list this case for trial.

BY THE COURT: Linda R. Cordaro, Judge

ATTEST: Clerk of Courts

LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

The Fayette County Bar Association's next presentation in its Lunch & Learn Series will be:

- Date: Wednesday, June 26th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Location: Courtroom No. 4 of the Fayette County Courthouse
- Discussion topics: Avoiding Problems in the Preparation of Prenuptial Agreements and Marital Settlement Agreements
- Presenters: Samuel J. Davis, Esquire

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