





RECEIPT

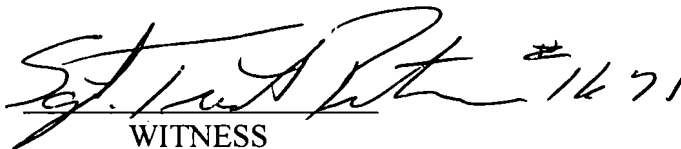
The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the following described property seized from 6101 Cornhusker Highway Unit #340 Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska:

2 toys w/ misc. decorations  
Wii Controller

LANCASTER COUNTY  
2024 JAN 25 PM 2:47  
CLERK OF THE  
DISTRICT COURT

DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

  
Law Enforcement Officer

 #1671  
WITNESS



**IN THE COUNTY COURT OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

LANCASTER COUNTY

2024 JAN 25 PM 2:47

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

**STATE OF NEBRASKA )**  
**) ss. AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT**  
**COUNTY OF LANCASTER )**

Jon Rennerfeldt, being first duly sworn upon oath deposes and states that he is an Investigator for the Lincoln Police Department, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. AFFIANT states he is currently involved in the investigation of Theft by Unlawful Taking, 28-511 (class IIa felony), occurring on December 18, 2023, at 2830 Fletcher Avenue Lincoln, Lancaster County Nebraska. AFFIANT has reviewed case reports regarding this investigation prepared by other involved Law Enforcement Officers.

Affiant's Background

Your AFFIANT has been a police officer for the Lincoln Police Department since 2006. Since 2006 Affiant has been investigating misdemeanor and felony crimes with the Lincoln Police Department to include homicide, burglary, robbery, assault, weapon offences, narcotics, sexual assault, human trafficking, child enticement, and pornography. Your AFFIANT has training and experience in conducting criminal investigations.

This Affidavit is submitted in support of a search warrant. Since this Affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing a search warrant, your AFFIANT not set forth every fact known to me regarding this investigation. The statements contained in this Affidavit are based in part on the investigation that your AFFIANT has conducted, and information provided to your AFFIANT by other law enforcement officers verbally, and through written reports.

Case Facts

On December 19, 2023, at approximately 1642 hours, Savannah Sanchez and Rolando Sanchez, victims, reported a theft of multiple storage bins/ totes from their detached apartment garage #52 (Northridge Heights Apartments). Savannah stated she received a phone call from the apartment manager that their garage was left open, and a neighbor saw two individuals looking through their garage. Savannah and Rolando both said multiple items were missing including Rolando's comic book collectable/action figures and Savannah's porcelain Christmas angels which were passed down by her grandmother. The totes the items were stored in were plastic and were a range of colors from black with yellow lids, clear with white/grey lids, clear with red lids, light grey with grey lids,

and red with red lids. Samara Sabin, a witness, stated she called the apartment leasing office after she confronted two individuals going through garage #52. Samara stated she returned home from work on December 18, 2023, at approximately 2300 hours and witnessed a white male, 40-60 years old, bald and a white female, 40-60 years old and short in stature, going through the detached garage (#52) with flashlights and stacking multiple storage containers outside. Samara confronted the two individuals who said they were not going through any of items in which they walked away. Samara said she noticed the garage had been open for almost a week.

On December 26, 2023, Rolando sent numerous screenshots to AFFIANT containing photos of the stolen items. These were then placed on a document that was sent to several comic bookstores and collectible toy stores in the Lincoln and Omaha area.

On January 4, 2024, Leo Bretta, the owner of Toys From The Past in Lincoln, called AFFIANT and informed him a male identified as Jesse Brown (DOB 09/09/1976), came into the store earlier that day and sold several items, all of which were listed on the stolen items document. Leo was not at the store at that time, but said he would contact the AFFIANT on January 5, 2024, with further details.

On January 5, 2024, at approximately 1337 hours, AFFIANT called Leo Bretta to inquire about the items he purchased. Leo said he identified the male as Jesse Brown by his Nebraska driver's license and said he was driving a silver Mazda SUV with Nebraska plate WKT391. Leo said he would email the list of items he purchased from Jesse Brown on January 4, 2024, but that email did not come before Jesse went back to the store to sell more items. Leo called AFFIANT at approximately 1600 hours and informed him Jesse Brown left several items at the store to be appraised. Leo said these items were also on the list of stolen items. Leo said he would call Jesse, at 402-802-5691 which is the number Jesse provided to Leo, after appraising them to let him know if he would purchase the items. AFFIANT requested funds from the Lincoln Police Department to cover the cost of the purchase Leo was planning to make and Investigator O'Connor #1889 delivered \$200 in US Currency to Leo at approximately 1725 hours. The serial numbers for the bills given to Leo were documented before they were used. At approximately 1730 hours, Jesse Brown and an unknown white male passenger (later identified as Guy Bradford DOB 02/24/1977) arrived in the silver Mazda bearing Nebraska plate WKT391 and parked in front of the store. Leo agreed to purchase \$200 worth of items from Jesse Brown and asked that he leave some of the Japanese items to be appraised further. Leo said he would need the weekend and would contact Jesse Brown on January 8, 2024, with further details. Leo also asked Jesse Brown if he had more items he was trying to sell, and Jesse admitted he did. He then described several more items that were on the stolen items list. Leo provided the money, given to him by

Investigator O'Connor #1889, to Jesse to pay for the items purchased.

On January 10, 2024, Jesse Brown and Guy Bradford arrived at 2840 S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska to receive payment for the Japanese items left for appraisal on January 5, 2024. Both were subsequently arrested for felony theft by unlawful taking. Guy denied any knowledge of the items being sold and said he was just going for a ride. A search warrant was then served upon 5250 Cornhusker #254 Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, which is where Guy Bradford had been staying, in reference to this case. During the service of the search warrant, more stolen items were found in room #254. Melissa Bradford (DOB 12/22/1975) was also contacted inside room #254 where she stays with Guy Bradford. She admitted to LPD Sergeant Ground #1582 that she has a storage unit (#232) at Big Red Storage located at 7001 Custer Street Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. Melissa said she is currently locked out of the storage unit due to non-payment and has been for over 30 days. Melissa also claimed the items Guy was selling belonged to her deceased husband and there may be more items or receipts in the storage unit. It should be noted none of the investigative funds were found during the execution of the search warrant at the hotel and neither Jesse nor Guy had any in their possession.

Later on January 10, 2024, after the warrant had been served, Investigators with the Lincoln Police Department were following up with other rooms at the hotel when they contacted Jowlene Mason (DOB 12/27/1990). Jowlene was subsequently arrested for two outstanding felony warrants out of Iowa, and she agreed to speak with investigators. Jowlene said while investigators were serving the warrant in room #254, Thomas Larsen (DOB 01/15/1974) was moving totes from room #140 and placing them into his grey 2002 Ford F-150 pickup. Jowlene said these were also items that were stolen in this case and would be items the investigators were looking for. She doesn't know where the unit is located, but knows he has two of them and he was gone for approximately one hour. Jowlene went on to say Thomas is the ringleader and Guy helps him steal items throughout the city. She said they recently broke into a storage unit, but she doesn't know where. She knows they stole a jewelry box and jewelry but doesn't know what happened to it.

On January 11, 2024, Officer Alesch #1186 called Big Red Storage to inquire about Melissa's unit. Officer Alesch #1186 spoke to Michele Ferguson, a manager at Big Red Storage by phone, and she indicated Melissa Bradford has unit #232 rented, but it was currently on lockout because she is behind on payments. Michelle said the last time Melissa had access to the unit was back in November of 2023. She stated Melissa contacted her by phone on January 10, 2024, and wanted to be let into the unit to see what was still inside. Melissa told Michele her boyfriend, Guy Bradford, had been

arrested and she was afraid there may be stolen items inside the unit. Michele did not allow Melissa in the unit because she did not have any money and she was still not paid in full for the rent of unit #232. Michele stated the last time anyone entered unit #232 was on December 22, 2023, when Guy Bradford paid \$279 towards Melissa's debt so he was allowed in the unit. This was four days after the theft and the unit was then placed on lockout when Guy left, because there is still an outstanding balance on the account. Michele also told Officer Alesch #1186 that Thomas Larsen rents unit #24 on site as well.

On January 12, 2024, Officer Alesch #1186 contacted Amy Loos, the manager at Storage Mart located at 6101 Cornhusker Highway Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. Amy indicated Thomas Larsen rented unit #340 on January 7, 2024, via the company website. At that time, Amy did not know if Larsen had actually accessed the unit. Amy also stated the facility does have cameras that typically store video from 2-4 weeks. Your AFFIANT then contacted Amy and she said she would review video to see if Larsen had been on the property. She did indicate that if he has been to his unit, then the yellow tag the company places on every unit before renting would be gone. AFFIANT checked the unit and found the yellow tag was not there and a circular lock had been placed on the latch. Amy said that means Larsen has been to the unit since he rented it online on January 7, 2024.

On January 12, 2024, AFFIANT contacted Michele at Big Red Self Storage, and she showed videos from their surveillance system. The videos showed Thomas Larsen arriving at approximately 1557 hours on January 10, 2024, and the bed of his grey Ford F-150 pickup had several totes inside. Thomas began moving totes around and eventually loaded several more into his pickup and left. As he was moving totes around, he was moving items between totes. The items he was moving were similar in size and design to the boxes your AFFIANT has recovered in this investigation. These boxes contain figurines and other memorabilia that was stolen from the victims. Two of the totes were clear plastic and matched totes observed in photos sent by the victim of the garage before the theft occurred. He left with several totes in the bed of his pickup. No video was found showing him returning to the unit to remove the smaller boxes he threw back inside. The video was retrieved and uploaded as evidence.

On January 19, 2024, AFFIANT retrieved video from Storage Mart located at 6101 Cornhusker Highway Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska that showed Larsen arrive in his grey Ford F-150 pickup, loaded with totes, at approximately 1633 hours on January 10, 2024. Larsen and the same unknown male who helped him load the pickup at Big Red Storage, unloaded the totes and placed them into the unit #340 Larsen rented via the internet on January 7, 2024. After they unloaded the pickup, Larsen closed and locked the unit and left. The video was retrieved and uploaded as evidence.



Due to stolen items being located inside room #254 at 5250 Cornhusker Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, combined with Jowlene's statement about Thomas leaving with totes and taking them to his storage unit located at 7001 Custer Street Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, while officers were searching room #254, and the video from the same day the warrant was served showing Thomas arriving with totes at his storage unit and items similar to those being stolen observed on the video, then leaving with the totes and not returning to the hotel with them, there is probable cause to suggest Thomas has stolen items in reference to this case inside his storage unit #340 at 6101 Cornhusker Highway Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. It should be noted, Larsen was under electronic surveillance since approximately 2300 hours on January 11, 2024, and has only returned to Storage Mart one time. That was on January 18, 2024, at approximately 0944 hours. Video was retrieved showing him arrive, but he did not remove any totes from his unit.

On January 19, 2024, a search warrant was served on the storage unit located at 6101 Cornhusker Highway unit #340, which is rented by Larsen. During the service of that warrant, 14 totes containing items believed to have been stolen in this case were located inside. They were seized and tagged as evidence. During the search, items were recovered that were found to have been taken during a separate burglary (case C4-000606). These items were also seized. Several other items were found, but they were not known to have been stolen, so these items were left. The items included two totes containing decorations in a Dia de Los Muertos theme.

On January 23, 2024, S. Sanchez and R. Sanchez, the victims in this case, were shown photos of the items recovered in this case. During that time, they were informed of other items that were located but the owner was unknown. S. Sanchez stated the two totes containing the Dia de Los Muertos decorations also belonged to her and R. Sanchez recognized a controller for a Nintendo Wii from the photos and said it belongs to him. Since the victims recognized these items from the photos as being their property, it is necessary to recover these items. Thus, a new search warrant is necessary to gain access to the unit as the prior warrant has been served and returned to the court.

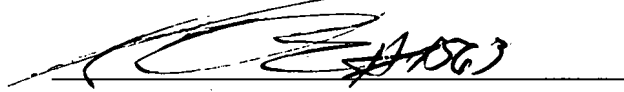
The above does constitute grounds of probable cause for the issuance of a search warrant to search at 6101 Cornhusker Highway unit #340 Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska for the following items:

Plastic totes or similar storage containers of various colors containing Dia de Los Muertos themed decorations and a Nintendo Wii controller known to be inside the unit.

Your AFFIANT is authorized to measure, photograph, video tape and seize the  
aforementioned items.

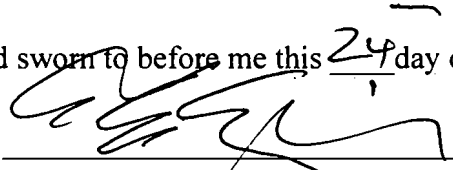
Further AFFIANT saith not;

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.



Jon Rennerfeldt AFFIANT

SUBSCRIBED to in my presence and sworn to before me this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.



Judge of the County Court



Printed Name of Judge

