

P E T I T I O N

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT – JUVENILE DIVISION

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELFARE OF

Child: Quayzhan Demario Thomas, (4/6/2003)
Quayzahan Thomas, (4/6/2003)
3615 Queen Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55412

SILS ID: 865446
Family ID: 367361
C.A. Case No: 20J14485

CA of Record: Jabari J Barner
(0398282)

Juvenile Felony Delinquency Age 16 Or Older

Mother: Ladella Nicole Thomas
(Same as Child)

Presumptive Certification

Father: Unknown

PO:

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction by reason of the following allegations: The above-named juvenile is alleged to be delinquent pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 260B.007, Subd. 6(1) because said child has violated a state/local law as follows:

Count 1: R1313 Aggravated Robbery-1st Degree (Felony) (Aid/Abet)

MINN. STAT. 609.245.1, 609.245.1, 609.05.1, 609.05.2

That on or about November 19, 2020, at 600 Boone Avenue North, Golden Valley, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Quayzhan Thomas, acting alone or intentionally aiding, advising, hiring, counseling or conspiring with another or otherwise procures the other to commit the crime took personal property from the person or in the presence of J.M. knowing that he was not entitled to the property and used and/or threatened the imminent use of force against J.M. to overcome his resistance or powers of resistance to or to compel acquiescence in the taking or carrying away of the property, while using an article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon.

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Your Petitioner is an Assistant County Attorney. In that capacity, Petitioner believes the facts and circumstances recited below establish probable cause:

On November 19, 2020 at approximately 2:45 a.m. Golden Valley police were dispatched to a robbery at a Holiday gas station located at 600 Boone Avenue North in Golden Valley, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Upon arrival, officers spoke with witness K.S. who reported that he works at the gas station and walked out from the back of the store to see his coworker, Victim J.M. being robbed at gunpoint by three black males. Victim J.M. told officers that he was at the register when the three suspects entered and came behind the counter. Victim J.M. stated that all three males pointed guns at him and told him to give them the money from the register. Victim J.M. reported that he opened one register and was afraid the suspects would shoot and kill him.

Officers reviewed the video surveillance from the store which captured the robbery. The video shows the three suspects entering the store at 2:42 a.m.

The first suspect is a black male wearing a black jacket with white stripes on the biceps, light colored jeans with rips and colored patches, and black Nike shoes with colors that fade orange to yellow/green. This suspect was later identified as Quayzhan Thomas, Respondent herein. The second suspect is black male wearing dark jeans, a black puffy coat with a grey hoodie underneath. This suspect was later identified as co-respondent R.C. The third suspect is a black male wearing dark pants, a black jacket with blue lapels, and a red hooded sweatshirt. This suspect was later identified as co-respondent E.W.

The video shows that all three suspects point handguns at J.M. and point toward the middle till and direct him to open it. All three suspects dug through the till. Police learned that the suspects stole \$86 from the till. Video surveillance showed that the suspects parked a tan Toyota Sienna tan van close to the Holiday store and ran back to the van after the robbery.

Shortly after the robbery, officers observed the Toyota Sienna traveling eastbound on Highway 55. The officer noticed the van did not have any license plates and saw the van go through a red light and begin to flee. The officer pursued the van into Minneapolis but lost sight of the vehicle near Dowling and Oliver Avenue in Minneapolis. The van was later located at 3601 Upton Avenue. The van was determined to have been stolen on November 17, 2020 from Brooklyn Center and had license number MN MLH958. The van was processed and one latent print from the driver's side interior door matched E.W. A second latent print from the rear-view mirror of the van matched Respondent. The countertop of the Holiday store in Golden Valley was processed and a latent print on the counter next to the register matched R.C.

Investigators were aware of a rash of gas station robberies in the area with a similar pattern involving young black male suspects wearing the same clothing. Approximately 4 hours before the robbery at the Golden Valley Holiday station, three suspects robbed a Holiday store in Brooklyn Park on November 18, 2020 at approximately 10:30 p.m. in which the suspects shot a clerk. Approximately 2 hours before the Golden Valley robbery a gas station was robbed at gunpoint in White Bear Lake. Similarly, there were armed robberies on November 17, 2020 in Champlin and Brooklyn Park, all with similar patterns and suspects.

Investigators reviewed social media including Facebook and located several accounts showing possible suspects. Investigators observed in the social media posts photographs of the suspects in the robberies wearing some of the same clothing observed in the surveillance videos including a sweatshirt with a flame design, and the Nike shoes with the colors fading from orange to yellow/green. Investigators simultaneously requested warrants to trace social media and cell phone numbers associated with the suspects.

Based on the investigation results, investigators from several law enforcement agencies executed search warrants at three homes on December 17, 2020. When the search warrant was executed at 36XX Queen Avenue North officers found Respondent and R.C. Officers located items of interest, including a pair of black Nike shoes with colors fading orange to yellow/green, jeans with colorful patches, a black Nike jacket with reflective stripes around the biceps, a blue jacket with red and white USA, black Nike shoes with white bottoms, a .38 Taurus revolver, a BB gun that looked like a real gun, and ammunition. During the search of 55XX 32nd Avenue North officers located E.W. Items of interest were collected including a black jacket with blue lapels, red hooded sweatshirt, two BB guns and several bullets. During the search warrant at 35XX Thomas Avenue North officers found a male A.K. (8/14/04) who had been identified as a possible suspect in some of the robberies. Items of interest were collected including loose ammunition, a BB gun, and both the license plates MLH958 for the stolen van.

Investigators interviewed the three arrested suspects. In a post-Miranda interview, E.W. admitted his involvement in 5 different robberies, including the one on November 19, 2020 at the Holiday station in Golden Valley. Officers showed E.W. images from the November 19, 2020 robbery and E.W. identified himself as the male in the black jacket with the red hooded sweatshirt, Respondent as the male in the black Nike jacket with white stripes on the biceps, jeans with patches and the Nike shoes with the colors fading orange to yellow/green. E.W. identified R.C. as the male in the black puffy coat. E.W. stated that the gun he used in the robberies was provided by R.C. E.W. admitted to being in the stolen van when it was pursued by officers and stated that Respondent was driving. E.W. stated that Respondent was the one who shot the clerk in Brooklyn Park. E.W. stated he did not intend for anyone to get hurt in the robberies.


In a post-Miranda interview, Respondent denied being involved in any of the robberies. Respondent admitted that he lives at 36XX Queen Avenue North and that he stays in two bedrooms. Respondent acknowledged a photograph from Facebook is him in the USA jacket. Respondent stated he shares clothes with friends.

The offense enumerated in Count 1 is a presumptive prison offense.

PURSUANT TO M.S. 260B.125, THE STATE IS MOVING, BY SEPARATE MOTION, THAT THIS PROCEEDING BE CERTIFIED TO THE DISTRICT COURT FOR ACTION UNDER THE CRIMINAL LAWS.

I endorse this Petition as to form and verify that the contents are true to the best of my information and belief pursuant to MRJDP 6.03, Subd. 3.

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT EVERYTHING I HAVE STATED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

 12/21/2020

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Police CCN #: 20001778
Golden Valley
Agency #: MN0270800