

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Columbia

United States of America
v.
ERIC CHASE TORRENS

Case: 1:21-mj-00171
Assigned to: Judge Faruqui, Zia M.
Assign Date: 1/27/2021
Description: COMPLAINT W/ARREST WARRANT

Date of Birth: XXXXXXXX

Defendant(s)

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
in the District of Columbia, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (2) - Knowingly Entering or Remaining in any Restricted Building or
Grounds Without Lawful Authority;

40 U.S.C. § 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.



Printed name and title

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

Date: 01/27/2021

2021.01.27
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Judge's signature

City and state: Washington, D.C.

Zia M. Faruqui, United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Your affiant, [REDACTED], is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and assigned to the Washington Field Office. I am assigned to a Safe Streets Task Force that investigates criminal enterprises and violent gangs for the Washington Field Office's Northern Virginia Resident Agency. Currently, I am tasked with investigating criminal activity in and around the United States Capitol grounds that occurred on January 6, 2021. 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 were 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 were 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 around 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 in which Mr. Bledsoe documents his participation and the participation of others in forcing entry into the Capitol. One clip in this compilation shows Mr. Bledsoe and his companions immediately outside an exterior door of the Capitol. An alarm can be heard blaring in the background.

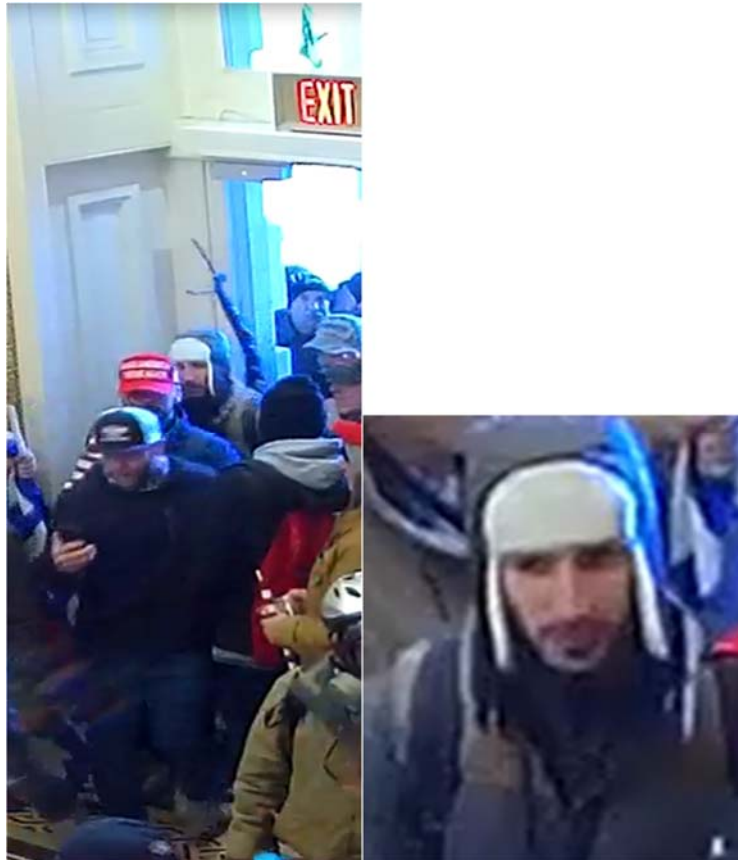
The companion wearing the fleece-lined white and gray hat says, "We're going in!" The camera pans to show a man in clear glasses, a red baseball hat, and a blue jacket who screams in excitement. The video compilation ends with another video clip captured by a person out of view of the camera where the crowd is chanting, "Stop the steal! Stop the steal!" as they march through the halls of the Capitol.



Matthew Bledsoe pictured above wearing a dark colored baseball cap and flag scarf was identified. A complaint and arrest warrant was issued for him by U.S. Magistrate Judge Zia M. Faruqui on January 13, 2021, for violating 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (2) and 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D),(G). Bledsoe was arrested on January 15, 2021 in Shelby County, Tennessee.

Jack Jesse Griffith a.k.a. Juan Bibiano pictured above in the clear glasses, red baseball hat, and blue jacket was also identified. An arrest warrant was issued for him by U.S. Magistrate Judge Robin Meriweather on January 15, 2021, for violating 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (2) and 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D),(G). Griffith was arrested on January 16, 2021 in Gallatin, Tennessee.

As part of these investigations, FBI Agents received video surveillance footage from the U.S. Capitol Police showing the inside of an entrance into the U.S. Capitol depicted in the below-referenced video clip. Agents identified Bledsoe, Griffith, and the then unidentified male wearing a fleece-lined white and gray hat in the U.S. Capitol Police video surveillance. Agents identified them as the same three individuals depicted in the Bledsoe's video compilation.



FBI Agents received an online tip in which the informant reported seeing a local news broadcast reporting Griffith's arrest and depicting a photograph of Griffith with the other participants. The informant recognized the male wearing the fleece-lined white and gray hat who was depicted with Griffith in the news story about Griffith's arrest. Agents spoke with the informant who explained it was acquainted with TORRENS and provided details about TORRENS' employment and home address. The informant identified a still image (*see* below) from Bledsoe's video, showing the male wearing the fleece-lined white and gray hat entering the U.S. Capitol, as Eric Chase Torrens ("TORRENS").



Law enforcement confirmed the identification of the male wearing the fleece-lined white and gray hat as TORRENS by comparing his Tennessee state-issued driver's license photo against the still image above from Bledsoe's video of TORRENS walking into the U.S. Capitol. Law enforcement also confirmed the employment and residence information provided by the informant. In addition to the informant's identification and the driver's license photograph comparison, license plate readers photographed a vehicle and license plate registered to TORRENS in the District of Columbia on January 5-7, 2021 – twice in the early morning of the 7th parked in Southeast D.C., once driving on the I395 off ramp leading to South Capitol Street, S.W. on the 6th, and once driving on the I395 off ramp leading to South Capitol Street, S.W. on the 5th.

Based on the foregoing, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that Eric Chase Torrens 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 Eric Chase Torrens violated 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D),(G), which makes 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.



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 27th day of January 2021.

 2021.01.27
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ZIA M. FARUQUI
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

ERIC CHASE TORRENS,

Defendant.

: CRIMINAL NO.
:
: MAGISTRATE NO. 21-MJ-171
:
: VIOLATIONS:
: 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1)
: (Entering and Remaining in a Restricted
: Building)
: 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2)
: (Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a
: Restricted Building)
: 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D)
: (Violent Entry and Disorderly Conduct in
: a Capitol Building)
: 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G)
: (Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in
: a Capitol Building)

INFORMATION

The United States Attorney charges that:

COUNT ONE

On or about January 6, 2021, in the District of Columbia, **ERIC CHASE TORRENS**, did knowingly enter and remain in the United States Capitol, a restricted building, without lawful authority to do so.

(Entering and Remaining in a Restricted Building, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1752(a)(1))

COUNT TWO

On or about January 6, 2021, in the District of Columbia, **ERIC CHASE TORRENS**, knowingly, and with intent to impede and disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business and official functions, engaged in disorderly and disruptive conduct in and within such proximity to, the United States Capitol, a restricted building, when and so that such conduct did in fact impede and disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business and official functions.

(Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1752(a)(2))

COUNT THREE

On or about January 6, 2021, in the District of Columbia, **ERIC CHASE TORRENS**, willfully and knowingly engaged in disorderly and disruptive conduct in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, and disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress.

(Violent Entry and Disorderly Conduct in a Capitol Building, in violation of Title 40, United States Code, Section 5104(e)(2)(D))

COUNT FOUR


On or about January 6, 2021, in the District of Columbia, **ERIC CHASE TORRENS**, willfully and knowingly paraded, demonstrated, and picketed in a Capitol Building.

(Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in a Capitol Building, in violation of Title 40, United States Code, Section 5104(e)(2)(G))

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL R. SHERWIN
Acting United States Attorney
N.Y. Bar No. 4444188

By:



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