

08/24/2023
19:20

2023-00040516

State of Colorado, County of Mesa
Affidavit In Support of Warrantless Arrest

I, OLSEN, TREVER,, of the Grand Junction Police Dept a Colorado peace officer, being duly sworn and under oath states that probable cause exists for warrantless arrest of the person named below, and that the following facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and support the arrest of the defendant. All locations are in Mesa County, State of Colorado unless otherwise noted.

Name of person arrested: **GONZALES, LAWRENCE DUANE** DOB: **05/13/1995**
Race: **WHITE** Sex: **MALE** Weight: **180** Height: **5' 9**
Hair: **BRO - BROWN** Eyes: **BRO - BROWN**

Date of arrest: **08/24/2023** Time: **11:21**
Place of arrest: **2424 HWY 6 AND 50 GRAND JUNCTION, CO, 81505**

Victim: **GRAY, KARLA** DOB:
Race: **WHITE** Sex: **FEMALE** Weight: **140** Height: **5' 4**
Hair: **BRO - BROWN** Eyes: **BRO - BROWN** Phone: **(719)580-9096**

Victim:
Race:
Hair: Eyes: Sex: Phone: Weight: DOB:
Height:

Date/Time	Statute Code	CC	Counts
08/24/2023 11:21	18-3-203(1)(i) F4	13A	1
	ASSAULT 2ND DEG W/INTENT TO CAUSE BI BY STRANGULATION		
08/24/2023 11:21	18-3-303(2) F5	100	1
	FALSE IMPRISONMENT		
08/24/2023 11:21	18-4-409 (2) F3	240	1
	1ST DEGREE MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT		
08/24/2023 11:21	18-9-116.5(2)(a) F4	91A	1
	VEHICULAR ELUDING		
08/24/2023 11:21	18-8-104 (1)(a) M2	90Z	1
	OBSTRUCTING A PEACE OFFICER, FIREFIGHTER OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL		
08/24/2023 11:21	18-3-204 M1	13B	1
	ASSAULT IN THE THIRD DEGREE		
08/24/2023 11:21	18-6-801	90Z	1
	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE		
08/24/2023 11:21	18-3-208 M2	90Z	1
	RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT		
08/24/2023 11:21	42-4-1401(1)	91A	1
	RECKLESS DRIVING		

Case#2023-00040516

Officer Tr. Olsen

08/24/2023-BWC

This report is not a verbatim account of the investigation. This report does not reflect every part or nuance of my conversations and is intended as a general overview of the entire contact. As such, this summation may not be chronological in order. For a more detailed account, one should review the BWC and supplemental reports.

CALL FOR SERVICE On 8/24/2023, around 1049 hours, called Dispatch to report a suspicious incident at Target, 2424 HWY 6 & 50 (Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado). Per , while in the bathroom at Target, a distraught younger looking female handed her a note written on toilet paper asking for help.

The note on the toilet paper was written in green ink and read, "Karla Gray being held against my will by boyfriend who's on the run call Alamosa County Police tell them we are in this town headed south to Mexico please Im in danger! (some writing is not legible...) A little Tijuana on North & 28 1/4 Rd. He's dangerous no gun on him this is not a joke plz I need help!"

Several Officers were dispatched to the area.

Officer Olsen spoke with in the Target parking lot and learned that after she was handed the note, she exited the business and saw the female in distress get into a white four-door truck along with a male. The truck had a flat metal bed with wood on the sides. thought she saw a bicycle in the bed. Per , the note said the truck was a Power Stroke.

Descriptions about the truck were aired over the radio along with details that the woman was "held against her will". Officers located a vehicle matching the description in the Arby's parking lot (2468 HWY 6). Before additional personnel could drive to the area, the truck left in an unknown direction. Shortly afterwards, around 1116 hours, a State Trooper in a marked patrol vehicle radioed that he was behind the suspect vehicle. The Trooper was joined by at least two Grand Junction PD Officers in marked patrol vehicles. All the law enforcement vehicles activated their overhead emergency lights and sirens in an attempt to stop the truck.

VEHICULAR ELUDING The suspect failed to yield and continued along the frontage road near 2520 HWY 6 & 50. The truck was observed driving up on the sidewalk near Sam's Club, 1040 Independence Ave, before heading north on 25 Road. The driver of the truck was described as a bald Hispanic male with tattoos. Since the driver was refusing to stop for law enforcement, and the information known to Officers on scene was that a female was held against her will in the vehicle, Troopers and GJPD pursued the vehicle. The driver swerved between lanes in an aggressive manner, clearly trying to avoid police contact.

Officer Gedstad attempted a pursuit intervention technique on the suspect truck near 2520 HWY 6 & 50, but the large utility flat bed was too heavy, and the maneuver was unsuccessful. The driver swerved into the traffic lane where Officer Gedstad was driving, attempting to ram into the marked patrol vehicle (which still had lights illuminated and siren blaring). Officer Gedstad had to take evasive maneuvers to avoid a collision. Law enforcement continued to pursue the truck westbound on HWY 6 & 50 and near Taco Bell, Officer Gedstad performed a PIT again. The suspect truck spun around and the rear wheels jumped up on the large median before the vehicle stalled.

After the truck stopped moving, the driver jumped from the vehicle and bolted on foot, running from uniformed law enforcement that were yelling at him to stop. The suspect ran toward the RV sales business on the south side of the highway before stopping at a chain link fence and putting his hands in the air. The driver was taken into custody and identified as Lawrence Gonzales (5/13/1995). Gonzales was confirmed as the same driver Troopers and Police saw in the truck when it was fleeing from a traffic stop.

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State of Colorado
County of Mesa

Officer

Sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20 ____

Notary

Probable Cause Determination

Approved Rejected

Judge

Two other male occupants in the vehicle were identified as _____

STOLEN TRUCK Detective Gregory aired the license plate (AUX T27) to Dispatch. Dispatch confirmed the truck (white, Ford F250) was reported stolen out of Alamosa, Colorado on 8/22/2024 (AP23-1809). Detective Gregory photographed the vehicle and it was towed to the GJPD impound lot for later processing. While securing the vehicle, Detective Gregory confirmed there was a bicycle in the back, the bed had wood parts on the sides, and it was a Power Stroke, just like the reporting party told Dispatch.

INTERVIEW WITH VICTIM The young female that slipped the toilet paper note to _____ fled the front seat of the pickup truck toward Taco Bell. The woman was stopped by Officers near the inner Mall Loop where she was verbally identified as Karla Gray _____. Detective Gregory asked Gray if she was the female that wrote the note and she said yes. Detective Gregory also asked about the people that were in the truck when it stopped on the medium. Gray said the man that was holding her against her will was Lawrence, and the other two males (referring to _____) were just getting a ride.

Gray was transported to GJPD where she was read her rights per Miranda. Gray said she understood and was willing to talk. Gray told Detectives Gregory and Raber that she was held against her will by her on-again-off-again boyfriend, Lawrence Gonzales (5/13/1995), the driver of the stolen truck. Gray said the ordeal started about four days ago in Alamosa at a trailer park she knew as Town & Country. Gray thought that happened around 7 AM, but she wasn't sure the day. Per Gray, she didn't want to go with him which angered him so he physically assaulted her, including punches with a closed fist, kicks to the body and head, and putting his hand around her throat, choking her so she struggled to breathe. Gray said it wasn't the first time Gonzales had choked her. Gray said she felt close to peeing her pants while Gonzales was squeezing her throat. When asked how long the physical assault lasted at the trailer, she said it felt like forever, but she didn't know. At some point a man entered the living room of the trailer and tried to intervene, which led to Gonzales and the unknown male getting into a physical fight. The male eventually fled the trailer. Gray thought after the unknown male left, Gonzales was in a hurry to leave because he thought the man was going to call the police. Per Gray, they put their things in the white truck and left Alamosa by way of Mount Mica on some backroads before ending up in Grand Junction.

Gray said she didn't feel like she could leave the vehicle or Gonzales. Gray said she was in fear that he would kill her and he was in control. Gray reported that Gonzales would randomly hit her, spit on her, and swear at her. Gray recalled being struck by a tool, like an L shaped piece of metal, in the knee which caused more pain and bruising. Gray said Gonzales would randomly hit her for no reason and verbally threaten her during the ordeal.

Gray added that at an unknown trailer in Grand Junction, she tried to get away from Gonzales. Per Gray, she burst into the home and begged the older woman inside to help her and not let Gonzales in because he was going to kill her. Gray said that Gonzales knocked on the door and sweet talked the woman into letting him inside, telling her a story about Gray being a tweaker. Per Gray, Gonzales physically assaulted her again in that trailer but there were no witnesses. Gray said he used fists and hit her repeatedly causing her pain and bruising.

Gray ended up back in the truck with Gonzales and at some point, was near the Mesa Mall where she asked to go to the bathroom. Gray said she had a marker with her when she entered the bathroom and used the toilet paper to write a note. Gray recalled having to wait for another person to enter the bathroom so she could relay the note. Gray said the entire time that she was in the bathroom, Gonzales was waiting outside. Gray eventually handed the note to a stranger and left with Gonzales.

ASSESSMENT OF VICTIM At GJPD, photographs were taken of Gray. Gray had bruising along her arms and legs and bumps on her head, consistent with being physically assaulted. Gray told police she was struck hard in the knee with a metal object. Bruising was consistent. Gray said she was kicked in the head. Lumps on the head were also present. Gray appeared to also have bruises and swelling around her eyes, which aligned with being struck.

INTERVIEW WITH SUSPECT After Gonzales was medically cleared from self-reported drug use, he was transported to the GJPD where he was read his rights per Miranda. Gonzales said he understood and was willing to talk. Gonzales claimed he knew the owner of the truck, identifying her as his cousin "Lisa". The person that reported the truck missing was Leisa Turningrope. Gonzales claimed Turningrope gave him the keys, money, and drugs and told him to leave town because the "cartel" was after him.

Gonzales did not admit to any physical abuse of Gray. He also denied that anyone was held against their will in the truck. Gonzales claimed he fled from police because he spent his life in and out of prison and had a general fear. Gonzales confirmed he was in an intimate relationship with Gray and had been for the last two years.

INTERVIEW WITH PASSENGER Detective Boyer spoke to the passenger, [REDACTED] at GJPD. [REDACTED] confirmed Gonzales and Gray were in an intimate relationship but described it as "shitty". He claimed Gonzales routinely hit Gray. [REDACTED] said he saw Gonzales "backhand" Gray about two days ago when they were driving around Grand Junction. [REDACTED] didn't think Gray was free to leave, adding that Gray couldn't even go to the bathroom without Gonzales' permission.

INTERVIEW WITH SECOND PASSENGER Detective McCullough spoke to [REDACTED], who told him when the pursuit occurred, he asked Gonzales to pull over and let him out but Gonzales wouldn't stop the truck. Per [REDACTED], he was walking along N Niagara Circle when the truck pulled up and he saw [REDACTED] inside, who he knows, so he got in and went for a ride with the group. [REDACTED] thought Gonzales was looking for a mechanic because the truck wasn't running good.

INTERVIEW WITH Detective Sergeant J. Chavira spoke to [REDACTED], via phone, primarily in Spanish. [REDACTED] reported she was worried about Gray and was relieved she was found safe. [REDACTED] spoke to law enforcement in San Luis Valley because she heard [REDACTED] was with "Lencho" (a moniker known to refer to Lawrence Gonzales) and she thought they were both missing since last weekend. [REDACTED] said she lived in Antonito, Colorado and she ran into [REDACTED] at the market in "La Jara", and [REDACTED] told her that Lencho had allegedly stolen a truck [REDACTED] added that she received text messages from an unknown number and the female texting claimed to be [REDACTED] telling her that she was in danger and being held against her will. Per [REDACTED] Gray was afraid to go home because "he" would follow her and kill her and her kids.

[REDACTED] told Detective Sergeant Chavira that she heard from [REDACTED] that he also received texts from a female claiming to be Gray and that [REDACTED] was asked to pay \$1000 in ransom.

BACKGROUND Lawrence D. Gonzales has a lengthy criminal history that includes violence, escapes, and failing to follow the rules of the court.

In 2017, Gonzales was convicted of felony stalking (17CR146, Conejos County). Other felonies included trespass of auto with intent (5F, 17CR155, Conejos County) and introduction of contraband (4F, 18CR112, Conejos County)

Gonzales has a history of escapes, including in 2018 (18CR36) and 2022 (22CR173, Alamosa County). He also has a conviction for a protection order violation (22M167, Alamosa).

Gonzales has had prior POWPO charges dismissed. Despite not having a conviction, the presence of the charges shows a propensity to continue to carry weapons despite being a convicted felon.

SUMMARY In summary, based on the victim's statement she was physically assaulted in Alamosa, Colorado and forced into a stolen pickup truck by her estranged boyfriend Lawrence Gonzales. The assault included punches, kicks, and strangulation causing her to have trouble breathing. The pair drove a surreptitious route and ended up in Grand Junction. At various points during this ordeal there were witnesses.

confirmed he saw Gonzales hit Karla Gray and he described their relationship as "shitty". also confirmed that he didn't believe Gray was free to leave the pickup truck and was held against her will. Gray attempted to leave once, and entered an unknown person's trailer somewhere in Grand Junction. Gonzales also entered the trailer, with the owner's permission, and physically assaulted Gray again, using his hands to punch her. Gray believed this assault was a punishment for trying to get help and leave Gonzales. On 8/24/2023, while in the bathroom at Target, Gray slipped a handwritten note on toilet paper to a stranger asking for help. When police responded, Gonzales refused to stop for the lights and sirens on marked patrol vehicles. Gonzales drove in a reckless manner, weaving through lunchtime traffic on HWY 6 & 50 near the mall. At one point, Gonzales steered directly towards a police officer's vehicle and the officer had to take evasive actions to avoid being struck. After the stolen truck was halted, Gonzales tried to run on foot. Gonzales is a convicted felon with at least two prior escape incidents. Gonzales also has a prior stalking incident and a RO violation. Karla Gray firmly believed that if she didn't get away from Gonzales, he was going to kill her.