

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

STATE OF MINNESOTA,

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT-SUMMONS

FOR

vs.

MISDEMEANOR OR PETTY MISDEMEANOR

Esayas Mekonnen Sahle
5337 Oliver Avenue N.
Brooklyn Center MN 55430,

Defendant.

62-CR-12-7416

District Court File No. _____

Case Number: 12132158

COMPLAINT

The Complainant being duly sworn, makes complaint to the above-named Court and states that Complainant believes there is probable cause to believe that the above-named Defendant committed the offense described below. The Complainant states that the following facts establish PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your complainant is an investigator with the Saint Paul Police Department and received a complaint from Target Assets Protection personnel regarding a significant amount of theft of Tide liquid laundry detergent being stolen from its stores. It is known that such items are sold in turn at a discount by the thieves ("boosters") to neighborhood markets and ultimately resold at a profit by the store owners ("fencing operations"). Based upon earlier investigative information, one of the neighborhood markets suspected of being involved in such activity was a business known as "Piazza Market" located at 512 North Snelling Avenue in Saint Paul, Ramsey County. According to city records, the owner of the business is Amanuel Mekonnen SAHLE (dob/12-26-68), co-defendant herein. One of its clerk employees was eventually identified as Esayas Mekonnen SAHLE (dob/07-17-84), co-defendant herein.

Between June 6-14, 2012, this investigator arranged for four separate controlled undercover sales of purported stolen Tide liquid laundry detergent by a confidential reliable informant (CRI) to the co-defendants. On each occasion the CRI told the co-defendant that the laundry detergent was stolen from Target stores. On each occasion the CRI sold 2.95 liter containers of the product for the

meager sum of \$2-\$4 each. The co-defendants also told the CRI to return with more of the same items and to return in order to "take orders" for other sort of merchandise. The items would be later marked the items for sale in Piazza Market for \$9.99 each. At the time of this investigation the product had a retail value at Target of \$11.99 per container. Each container of detergent was uniquely marked before these controlled transactions for purposes of tracking and identification.

On June 6, 2012, the CRI went into the store and sold four containers of the detergent to co-defendant Esayas Sahle for an agreed upon amount of \$10.00 which was paid on the spot. On June 7, 2012, the CRI went into the store and sold four containers of the detergent to co-defendant Amanuel Sahle for an agreed upon amount of \$10.00 which was paid on the spot. On June 11, 2012, the CRI went into the store and sold another four containers of detergent to co-defendant Esayas Sahle for an agreed upon amount of \$12.00 which was paid on the spot. On June 14, the CRI went into the store and sold three containers of the detergent to co-defendant Amanuel Sahle for an agreed upon amount of \$4.00 which was paid on the spot. Therefore, co-defendant Amanuel Sahle purchased seven containers of purported stolen detergent with a total retail value of \$83.93 and co-defendant Esayas Sahle purchased eight with a total retail value of \$95.92.

On June 15, 2012, this investigator obtained and executed a search warrant at the premises of Piazza Market. During the search police officers recovered a total of nine containers of Tide liquid laundry detergent (2.75 liters). Each one had the unique identification mark and three of them had "\$9.99" written in black marker on top of the caps made by someone not associated with the police investigation. The containers of detergent were found on a shelf near the main door, behind the counter, and near an entry to the basement. The items were photographed, recovered, and inventoried by the police. During the search police spoke with a person at the scene named Ephrem Sahle Mekonnen who said he was a part-owner of Piazza Market with Amanuel Sahle and explained that Esayas Sahle was a clerk, not an owner.

The above facts constitute Complainant's basis for believing that the above-named Defendant, between the 7th and 14th days of June, 2012 at 512 N. Snelling Avenue, in the above-named County, committed the following described

OFFENSE(S)

COUNT I. ATTEMPTED RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY - MISDEMEANOR.
§609.53, Subd. 1(3); 609.17. PENALTY: 0-90 days and/or \$1,000 fine.
MOC: Q3199 GOC: A

did act with the intent to commit the offense of receiving stolen property, which act was a substantial step toward and more than preparation for the commission of said crime.

COUNT II. CONSPIRACY TO RECEIVE STOLEN PROPERTY - MISDEMEANOR.
§609.53, Subd. 1(3); 609.175, Subd. 2(1). PENALTY: 0-90 days and/or \$1,000 fine.
MOC: Q3199 GOC: C

wrongfully and unlawfully conspire to possess stolen property.

THEREFORE, Complainant requests that the Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable,

- (1) be arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain the Defendant's appearance in court; or
- (2) be detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that the Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

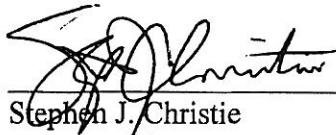
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SEP 11 2012



Complainant Signature
Sgt. Charles Anderson

Being duly authorized to prosecute the offense charged, Stephen J. Christie hereby approves this Complaint.



Stephen J. Christie
Assistant City Attorney
Attorney License No. 187215
500 City Hall
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 266-8740

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Judge of District Court, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps to be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in Court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. The Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense.

SUMMONS

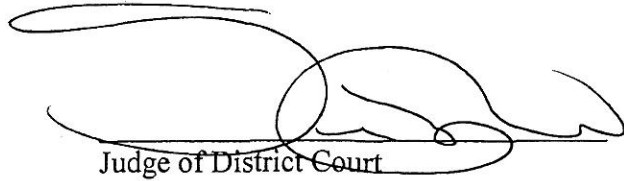
THEREFORE YOU, THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear on the 15th day of November, 2012, at 12:30 p.m., before the above-named Court at 131A Courthouse to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this Summons, a warrant for your arrest may be issued.

This Complaint-Summons, after being sworn to and subscribed before the Clerk of District Court, was issued by the undersigned authorized Judge of District Court this _____ day of _____ 2012.

SALVADOR M. ROSAS
Judge of District Court

SEP 11 2012



Judge of District Court

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judge of District Court by the following witnesses: