

ARREST WARRANT

Indian River County, FLORIDA

Clerk Case No: 2024 CF 735

STATE OF FLORIDA

-vs-

Christian Gene Butterfield  
Defendant

Agency: Vero Beach Police Dept.

Agency#: 2024-001303

Lead Officer: Chris Roberts

ASA: William C. Long

ASA Approve Initials&Date: WCL WCL 06.18.2024

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In the name of the State of Florida -

To all and Singular Sheriffs of the State of Florida and to Any State Attorney Investigator - Greetings:

Whereas upon the sworn affidavit, complaint or other sworn testimony of Chris Roberts of the Vero Beach Police Dept. the undersigned Judge, has found that there exists probable cause to believe that one Christian Gene Butterfield, in Indian River County, Florida did commit the below listed offense(s), contrary to the provisions of Florida Statutes.

You are HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest:

Def Name: **CHRISTIAN GENE BUTTERFIELD**  
Address: 1055 20Th St, Vero Beach, FL 32960-6425  
DOB: 02/22/1993  
Race/Sex: W/M  
Ht/Wt: 5'9/200  
Eye/Hair: BRN/BRO  
SSN: [REDACTED]  
DL#: [REDACTED]  
FDLE: FL  
FBI  
Alias: Christian Gene Butterfield

These Are Therefore to Command you to forthwith arrest and bring the above named defendant before me to be dealt with according to law.

1 Tampering With Evidence (F 3) Bond \$ 10,000

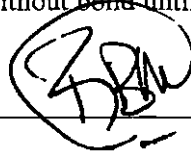
COUNT 1: On or about June 1, 2024, Christian Gene Butterfield did unlawfully, knowing that a criminal trial or proceeding or an investigation by the State Attorney, a law enforcement agency, or grand jury, was pending or about to be instituted, alter, destroy, conceal, or remove a record, document, or thing with the purpose to impair its verity or availability in such proceeding or investigation, in violation of Florida Statute 918.13(1);

Given under my hand and seal this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, A.D.

Condition of Bond Release/Release on Recognizance: For Count(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
No Contact with Victim: Until further order of the Court or the charge is dismissed by the State, the

Defendant shall not directly or indirectly contact the victim \_\_\_\_\_ in person, by mail, e-mail, fax, telephone, through another person, or in any other manner. This restriction shall include the following condition(s), if marked:

- Defendant may not knowingly come closer than 50 feet to the victim at any public place, except for court proceedings, or within 500 feet of the victim's residence or place of employment, or 100 feet of any vehicle regularly driven by the victim;
- Defendant may go to victim's residence one time with a law enforcement officer to get Defendant's clothing and personal effects;
- Defendant may speak to victim on the telephone *only* to discuss sharing parental responsibility for their minor child(ren).
- If marked, Defendant shall be held without bond until the First Appearance Hearing.



(SEAL)

JUDGE

Robert B. Meadows  
Circuit Court Judge



**Complaint Affidavit**  
Vero Beach Police Department  
1055 20th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 978-4600

6.18.24  
Juvenile

2024 CF 735

Agency Case # 2024001303 Detective Lt. Chris Roberts

**Offense Information**

Date Jun 1, 2024 Time 0204hrs

Location 1055 20th St Vero Beach, FL 32960

In Violation of FSS 913.13(1)(a)-Tampering With or Fabricating Physical Evidence

**Defendant Information**

Name Christian Gene Butterfield Social Security #

Alias N/A Scars/Tattoos Multiple Tattoos

DL # and State

Race White Sex Male DOB 02/22/1993 Age 31 Weight 200 lbs

Hair Brown Eyes Brown Height 5'9"

Address 1055 20th St Vero Beach, FL 32960 Phone # 772 978 4600

Employment \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Victim Information**

Name State of Florida Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Probable Cause**

See Narrative Continuation..

I swear this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Affiant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6/18/2024

Notary/LEO Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6/18/2024



**Complaint Affidavit Cont'd**  
Vero Beach Police Department  
1055 20th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 978-4600

Agency Case # **2024001303**

Detective **Lt. Chris Roberts**

**Probable Cause Cont'd**

Your affiant, Detective Lieutenant Chris Roberts, has been a sworn Law Enforcement Officer in the State of Florida for approximately 21 years. Your affiant is currently employed with the Vero Beach Police Department. Your affiant is currently assigned to the Detective Division as the Commander.

On June 3, 2024, Vero Beach Police Department Chief David Currey ordered the commencement of an internal investigation into an incident involving Vero Beach Police Officer Christian Butterfield. The internal investigation was to focus on any possible policy violations regarding a traffic stop that occurred on June 1, 2024 (VBPD CFS#060124-06). Your affiant assisted the lead investigator assigned to the internal investigation with obtaining Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage of the incident as well as conducting witness interviews.


The initial complaint, provided by Ofc. Butterfield's Sergeant of the Vero Beach Police Department, advised that he was having issues with Ofc. Butterfield. The memo explains that Ofc. Butterfield was failing to turn in written warnings regarding traffic violations at the end of his assigned shift. The Sergeant advised that he decided to conduct BWC reviews of Ofc. Butterfield's traffic stops to compare to corresponding written warnings that were not accounted for. During a review of Ofc. Butterfield's BWC footage of a traffic stop that occurred on June 1, 2024 at approximately 0118hrs in the 2200 block of 16th Ave, the Sergeant observed the following:

During the search of the vehicle, Ofc. Butterfield is observed locating a "baggie" of marijuana in the front compartment. Ofc. Butterfield is then observed weighing the marijuana with another officer and determined the total weight of the marijuana to be 27 grams. Ofc. Butterfield is then observed questioning the handcuffed driver of the vehicle who advised the marijuana was his. After some discussion, the driver is taken out of handcuffs and released. Ofc. Butterfield is observed placing the marijuana in the trunk of his patrol vehicle. The Sergeant states that he did have a brief conversation on the phone with Ofc. Butterfield regarding the passenger, who was originally placed in handcuffs for resisting. He further advises that Ofc. Butterfield did not mention the marijuana during the brief phone discussion.

Your affiant then viewed Ofc. Butterfield's BWC footage and observed the following:


On June 1, 2024 at approximately 0118hrs, Officer Christian Butterfield of The Vero Beach Police Department conducts a traffic stop in the 2200 Block of 16th Ave on a white, Chevrolet Malibu. Upon initial contact, Ofc. Butterfield approaches the driver's side of the vehicle and explains the reason for the traffic stop. Ofc. Butterfield explains to the driver that when the vehicle drove past his location on US 1, he could smell the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. It should be noted that Ofc. Butterfield and another officer were standing on the sidewalk in the 2000 Block of US 1 regarding a call for service moments prior to the traffic stop. Ofc. Butterfield obtains a digital driver's license from the driver while another officer can be seen speaking to the front seat passenger. Ofc. Butterfield then asks the driver if either of them have a medical marijuana license to which the driver replies, "No, that shit is too expensive for me right now." Ofc. Butterfield then removes both occupants from the vehicle. The

I swear this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
Affiant's Signature

6/18/2024

Date

  
Notary/LEO Signature

6/18/2024

Date



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Detective Lt. Chris Roberts

#### Probable Cause Cont'd

The driver is asked to stand in front of Ofc. Butterfield's patrol vehicle. After refusing to identify himself, Ofc. Butterfield places the front seat passenger in handcuffs and is placed in front of Ofc. Butterfield's patrol vehicle.

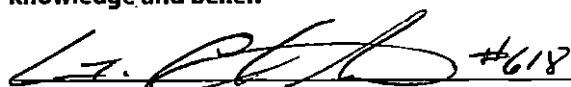
Ofc. Butterfield then proceeds to search the vehicle. He removes a small, black case from underneath the driver's seat. Ofc. Butterfield places it on the front seat and opens it briefly. Within the case is what appears to be a couple of marijuana "joints" and a pack of rolling papers. Ofc. Butterfield continues to search the vehicle and locates a clear bag of what appears to be marijuana from the front compartment and places it on the front seat as well. Ofc. Butterfield then approaches the other officer and states, "He's got this lockbox in there, I have no idea what it's filled with but I have well over twenty grams of weed. At least, I'm pretty sure, and then I have a weed vape too. So there's a felony. So I'm gonna see whose is whose and what's what and if not they are both going. As of right now, both."

Ofc. Butterfield then returns to the vehicle's passenger side and proceeds to continue to search the vehicle. An additional officer who arrived on scene approaches Ofc. Butterfield and is heard asking the reason for the stop. Ofc. Butterfield replies, "Because they smelled so strongly when they drove past us on US 1, I had a stop right there. I just had to follow them all the way around." Ofc. Butterfield continues searching the contents of the vehicle. An officer can be heard stating, "He has a joint on the driver's side." Ofc. Butterfield responds, "I'm gonna add that right to the list right there." The officer then asks if he wants him to detain the driver and Ofc. Butterfield states, "Yeah, yeah we're gonna detain them both." Ofc. Butterfield then continues searching the vehicle while the other officer places the driver in handcuffs.

Ofc. Butterfield then walks to the rear of his patrol vehicle and opens the trunk. Your affiant observes the bag of marijuana, the vape pen, and the small, black case in Ofc. Butterfield's hand. Ofc. Butterfield retrieves a small digital scale from his trunk and places it on the trunk lid along with the items in his hand. Ofc. Butterfield then utters, "Hit the magic number here". Another officer walks towards him and states, "Let's see what you're cooking with." and then stands next to Ofc. Butterfield at the rear of the vehicle.

Ofc. Butterfield then places the bag of marijuana on top of the digital scale. Ofc. Butterfield then asks the officer standing beside him, "Is it 20 or 27?" The other officer responds "For what?" Ofc. Butterfield responds "For a felony". The other officer then responds "28. I might be wrong. Let me look that up". Ofc. Butterfield then opens the small, black case seized from the vehicle and contains what appears to be three small "joints", rolling papers, and a small amount of what appears to be loose marijuana. The other officer then advises that possession over 20 grams of marijuana is a felony and under 20 grams of marijuana is a misdemeanor. Ofc. Butterfield then picks up the vape pen and states, "That's a felony in itself right there." Your affiant was unable to view the reading on the digital scale while the bag of marijuana was being weighed.

I swear this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 #618  
Affiant's Signature

6/18/2024

Date

 #621  
Notary/LEO Signature

6/18/2024

Date



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**Probable Cause Cont'd**

Ofc. Butterfield then escorts the driver to the rear of his patrol vehicle where the seized drugs and paraphernalia are still on his trunk lid. Ofc. Butterfield tells the driver that he found the bag of marijuana in the center console of his vehicle and asks if it's his. The driver states, "I'll be honest, yeah. I use personally every day. It helps me, cause I don't have the medicine for the ADHD and Bipolar. Ofc. Butterfield responds, "You understand that's a felony amount to have over 20 grams?" The driver then asks Ofc. Butterfield if he can just dump it because he does not have time to go jail. Ofc. Butterfield states he appreciates his honesty and they proceed to discuss the driver's aspirations and why he smokes marijuana. They discuss a previous charge where the driver was arrested for a small amount of marijuana. The driver is unsure of the law, so Ofc. Butterfield explains that possession under 20 grams is a misdemeanor and possession over 20 grams is a felony. Ofc. Butterfield motions to the items on the trunk lid and states, "That's 24, at least. I didn't add in the joints or anything like that." The driver then states, "Can we just really dump it?" Ofc. Butterfield then states, "I'm leaning towards that. I'm really leaning towards that. I think I'm gonna help you out with that alright. You seem like a good kid and maybe just are hanging out with some questionable people." Ofc. Butterfield then escorts the driver back to the front of his patrol vehicle. Shortly after, Ofc. Butterfield instructs an officer on scene to remove the handcuffs from the driver.


Ofc. Butterfield then turns his attention to the passenger who remains uncooperative. Ofc. Butterfield ultimately places the handcuffed passenger into the rear seat of his patrol vehicle. Ofc. Butterfield then returns to the trunk of his patrol vehicle. Ofc. Butterfield then collects all of the items from the trunk lid and places the digital scale, bag of marijuana, vape pen, and the small, black case in the left, rear of the trunk. Ofc. Butterfield then places a black backpack over all of the listed items and secures the trunk.

Ofc. Butterfield then learns that the handcuffed passenger in the rear of his patrol vehicle is a juvenile. Ofc. Butterfield then makes the decision to release him from custody. A brief phone call is made to the on-duty Patrol Sergeant. There is no audio of the phone conversation. Ofc. Butterfield then removes the juvenile passenger from the patrol vehicle's back seat and removes the handcuffs. Ofc. Butterfield states, "You can go off" and the juvenile can be seen walking away from the traffic stop.

Ofc. Butterfield then approaches the driver and has a discussion with him for approximately two minutes. It is unknown what is said due to the fact that there is no audio for the remainder of the event. Ofc. Butterfield then walks towards his patrol vehicle and has a brief conversation with an officer on scene. He then gets into his patrol vehicle and travels northbound on 16th Ave.

At approximately 0204 hrs, Ofc. Butterfield arrives at the southwest corner of the Vero Beach Police Department parking lot. There is a large dumpster that is located in that area. Ofc. Butterfield parks his patrol vehicle in close proximity to the dumpster. Ofc. Butterfield exits his patrol vehicle and opens the trunk. Ofc. Butterfield then moves the black backpack aside and retrieves the bag of marijuana and the small, black case. Ofc. Butterfield then approaches the dumpster and places both items into the dumpster. He then walks back to his trunk and retrieves the

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Affiant's Signature

6/18/2024

Date

  
Notary/LEO Signature

6/18/2024

Date



### Complaint Affidavit Cont'd

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Agency Case # **2024001303**

Detective **Lt. Chris Roberts**

#### Probable Cause Cont'd

vape pen. Ofc. Butterfield then disposes of the vape pen into the dumpster as well. Your affiant identified all three items as the same items Ofc. Butterfield retrieved from the White Chevy Malibu during VBPD CFS#060124-06. Ofc. Butterfield then returns to his patrol vehicle and drives away.

Ofc. Butterfield worked the rest of the weekend with Bravo 1 shift as scheduled. Ofc. Butterfield's last shift ended at 0600hrs on June 3rd, 2024. Your affiant searched for an offense report related to the traffic stop but did not locate one. Your affiant also verified with the evidence submission logs and confirmed that Ofc. Butterfield did not submit any marijuana, a vape pen, or a small, black case. Additionally, Ofc. Butterfield was given notice of the internal investigation in person on June 4th, 2024 at approximately 1800hrs. Ofc. Butterfield's patrol vehicle was then searched for the items associated with VBPD CFS#060124-06. Nothing was located. Ofc. Butterfield was then placed on administrative leave. Your affiant was present during this process.

An attempt to locate the items within the dumpster was completed however, nothing was located. It appeared as if the contents had already been collected. This was confirmed by VBPD surveillance video which shows a City of Vero Beach Garbage Truck arriving at approximately 0910hrs on June 1st, 2024 for garbage collection.

It should be noted that there were two officers on scene with Ofc. Butterfield during the traffic stop related to VBPD CFS#060124-06. These officers assisted with the traffic stop. Both officers were interviewed and both officers advised that based on their training and experience, the substance in the bag that Ofc. Butterfield located within the vehicle was marijuana. Both officers also advised that the total weight of the bag of marijuana was over 20 grams. The officer that was standing next to Ofc. Butterfield when the marijuana was weighed advised that the total weight was either 24 or 25 grams but could not remember the exact weight.

Vero Beach Police Department General Order 7 gives officers procedural guidelines to alternatives to arrest. This policy does not give officers discretion regarding felonies. According to the General Order, the only circumstances in which alternatives to arrest may be exercised include the following:

- Misdemeanors where the offender was truly unaware the action was a crime, and no other persons or property were involved (in these cases a warning may be appropriate)
- Misdemeanors where arrest would serve no beneficial purpose to any parties involved and none of the persons involved desire an arrest be made (in these cases an informal resolution may be made, if not in conflict with Florida Statute)
- Misdemeanors involving juveniles (Refer to General Orders 62 and 63)
- Baker Act/Marchman Act
- When issuing a Notice to Appear or Civil Citation would be in the best interest of the case and the criteria for issuing a Notice to appear or Civil Citation are applicable
- Criminal uniform traffic citations

I swear this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiant's Signature

6/18/2024

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary/LEO Signature

6/18/2024

Date



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#### Probable Cause Cont'd

Officer Butterfield electronically signed that he read and understood this general order on 10/18/2023 according to Power DMS.

Vero Beach Police Department General Order 54 gives officers procedural guidelines regarding criminal investigations. General Order 54.12 states that officers will make every attempt to detect and arrest violators, recover property, and assist victims in any manner that is lawful and in the best interest of the investigation. General Order 54.17 states officers who have probable cause to arrest an offender as a result of a preliminary investigation shall affect such arrest if the suspect is available and such an arrest would be in the best interest of the investigation. Officer Butterfield electronically signed that he read and understood this general order on 11/04/2023 according to Power DMS.

Vero Beach Police Department General Order 102 gives officers procedural guidelines regarding evidence and property storage. General Order 102.30 states that all narcotics, dangerous drugs, and/or paraphernalia seized by members of the department shall be submitted into evidence prior to the end of the shift on which they were seized. General Order 102.48 states that all narcotics/dangerous drugs shall be disposed of according to Florida State Statute; further, when court/State Attorney authorization has been obtained. Officer Butterfield electronically signed that he read and understood this general order on 10/30/2023 according to Power DMS.

On June 12, 2024 at 1059hrs, Ofc. Butterfield sent an email to Chief Currey. The email states the following:


Dear Chief and who else it may concern,

I am hereby submitting my resignation from the Vero Beach Police Department effective immediately (06/12/2024). Please let me know how I can give back my issued weapons, gear, and uniforms. I thank you for the opportunity and the training I have received.

Regards,  
Christian Butterfield

On June 12, 2024, your affiant contacted IUPA Representative Nick Voglio who was representing Ofc. Butterfield. Your affiant advised Mr. Voglio that we received Ofc. Butterfield's letter of resignation. Your affiant informed Mr. Voglio that I was conducting a criminal investigation regarding the incident involving Ofc. Butterfield. Your affiant then requested Mr. Voglio to arrange an interview with Ofc. Butterfield. Mr. Voglio later advised that he conferred with Ofc. Butterfield and he would not be making a statement.

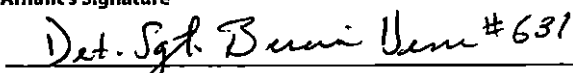
I swear this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 #618

6/18/2024

Affiant's Signature

Date

 #631

6/18/2024

Notary/LEO Signature

Date





**Complaint Affidavit Cont'd**  
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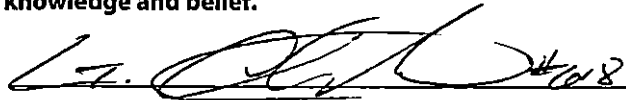
Agency Case # 2024001303

Detective Lt. Chris Roberts

**Probable Cause Cont'd**

Based on the above investigation, your affiant has probable cause that Officer Christian Butterfield did violate F.S.S. 913.13(1)(a) (Tampering with or fabricating physical evidence) when he improperly disposed of purported marijuana and drug paraphernalia that were seized from a traffic stop. Being a sworn law enforcement officer, Ofc. Butterfield should have known based on his training and acknowledgement of Vero Beach Police Department policy and procedure that the evidence he seized was to be used as such for a proceeding criminal investigation. The improper disposal and destruction of the evidence impaired the availability for the proceeding legal process.

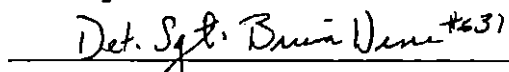
I swear this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



6/18/2024

Affiant's Signature

Date



6/18/2024

Notary/LEO Signature

Date