

required to be documented and turned into City of Alexandria administration. Accidental or unauthorized purchases required the purchaser to reimburse the City of Alexandria immediately. BCA investigators could not locate any such reimbursements made by Defendant while he was Chief of Police.

BCA investigators learned any grounds keeping, lawn maintenance, fertilizing, watering, snow removal, repair, and other maintenance needs of the Police Department were arranged through the City of Alexandria either by an employee or a contracted party. These arrangements negated the need for Police Department members, including Defendant, to purchase items associated with those categories. In addition, BCA investigators also learned that any IT or computer related purchases for the Police Department should have gone through the mayor's office, the city administrator, and the city council after consultation with IT.

BCA investigators spoke with an employee who has worked at the Police Department since 2001. The employee's duties included purchasing supplies, batteries, and other office-related needs for the Police Department. These purchases were made using the employee's city issued credit card. In accordance with City of Alexandria processes, the employee entered any receipts into the computer system and once approved by Defendant, they were forwarded to the City of Alexandria Finance Department. According to the employee, Defendant did not utilize the above method and instead entered receipts from his city issued credit card purchases and forwarded them on his own. By entering the purchases himself and forwarding them to the City Finance Department, Defendant was indicating to administrative staff the purchases were legitimate and within the parameters of city issued credit card use authority. The employee also stated the City had charge accounts at various local businesses where purchases could be made with tax exemption rather than using the City's credit card.

BCA investigators obtained Defendant's city issued credit card transactions from 12/16/2014 to 07/07/2020. A review of those records and internal records from the Alexandria Police Department located numerous purchases for items not owned nor possessed by the Alexandria Police Department. BCA investigators confirmed with Chief Kent the purchased items compiled by BCA were not in possession of the Police Department nor needed for any legitimate purchase. The purchases included computers, snow shovels, stamps, external hard drives, tow ropes, light bulbs, computer software, a Star Tribune subscription, cell phones, cell phone services, a Nest smoke/carbon monoxide sensor, lawn care tools, ethernet cables, headphones, Schlage door handles, Nest surveillance cameras, televisions, extension cords, ladders, step stools, 25 driveway markers, HDMI cables, electrical dimmer switches, a marine battery, folding tables, a label maker, Wi-Fi equipment, sprinkler equipment, Stihl lawn care equipment, printer ink/supplies, a container of chemical spray, an automotive battery, hoses, hose nozzles, a laminator, computer anti-virus subscriptions, rodent control products, a computer graphics card, a container of acetone, a pair of chemical gloves, charging cords, an Apple iPad, mops, a hardwood floor chair mat, SSD cards, power outlets, a spotting scope, and a significant number of fuel purchases that exceeded the maximum number of gallons Defendant's squad car held. In total, BCA located \$65,724.04 in purchases completed by Defendant of items missing from the Police Department.

Many of the items purchased were the type usually delegated to the City's IT Department, the administrative staff at the Police Department, and the City's Maintenance Staff. Through interviews, BCA investigators determined Defendant was not directed by these departments or individuals to make these purchases nor could any of the items in those categories purchased by Defendant actually be located.

While it is unknown what Defendant did with every missing item, some items were recovered in Defendant's possession and others he liquidated for monetary gain. For example, Defendant purchased a Swarovski Spotting Scope and several accessories on 12/1/2015 for \$4,920.85 using his city issued credit card. On March 17, 2021, BCA investigators spoke with a former city employee who received a random and odd telephone call from Defendant

following his retirement. Prior to the call, the employee had not spoken to Defendant for an extended period of time. During the call, Defendant mentioned a spotting scope that he purchased and had shipped to city hall. Defendant stated the scope went missing from a tote left outside the Police Department. Defendant asked the employee if anyone had asked them about the missing scope. The scope was not located at the Police Department nor did Defendant ever report the item missing while he was Chief.

Alexandria Police Sgt. Kuhnau advised BCA investigators he spoke with Defendant regarding the scope after he retired in September 2020. Sgt. Kuhnau was told by Defendant the scope was inside a clear plastic tote, however, Sgt. Kuhnau was unable to locate the tote and was not aware of any scope owned by the Police Department.

Further investigation through Defendant's financial records from PayPal, ebay.com, and Wells Fargo revealed the item was sold through ebay.com on 03/09/2020 for \$3,710.00 after being advertised as new. The proceeds from that sale were transferred to a PayPal account belonging to Defendant and connected to his email account rwylfels@outlook.com. Using PayPal records, BCA investigators determined the proceeds from the sale were withdrawn from the PayPal account to Defendant's Wells Fargo bank account.

Records from Defendant's PayPal account contained numerous other items he sold with descriptions that matched items Defendant purchased with his city issued credit card that were missing from the Police Department. At least ten other items were identified totaling approximately \$12,388.47.

On another occasion, Defendant purchased an item for personal use and kept it. On 04/05/2020, Defendant used his city issued credit card at the local Fleet Farm in Alexandria to purchase a \$149.99 car battery. BCA investigators learned that battery was put into Defendant's Toyota Corolla which he then sold. The battery was recovered from the individual Defendant sold the car to and confirmed to be the same battery purchased on 04/05/2020.

On April 8, 2021, BCA investigators executed a search warrant at Defendant's residence in Alexandria, Douglas County, Minnesota. BCA investigators recovered an iHome alarm clock and calculator consistent with items purchased by Defendant on his city issued credit card. BCA investigators also observed light switches, door handles, cameras, Wi-Fi equipment, tools, and various other items consistent with those Defendant purchased on his city issued credit card.

As of this complaint, numerous items Defendant unlawfully purchased have not been recovered nor have been located at the Alexandria Police Department. As outlined above, Defendant occupied a unique position that allowed him to authorize his own fraudulent activity on his city issued credit card. That authority combined with the high number of purchases for smaller value items significantly impedes BCA ability to recover the items. On April 8, 2022, BCA conducted an operation at Defendant's home to recover additional items unlawfully purchased. Defendant was taken into custody during that operation.

This investigation remains ongoing.

Complainant has reason to believe and does believe that all of the above information is true and correct.

The above facts constitute your complainant's basis for believing Defendant, from on or about December 1, 2014, to July 7, 2020, in Douglas County, Minnesota, committed the offense(s) described herein:

THEREFORE, Complainant requests that said Defendant, subject to bail or conditioned of release be:

(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or

(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

"Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2."

COMPLAINANT'S NAME:

Nicholas J Riba

COMPLAINANT'S SIGNATURE

Nicholas J. Riba

Being duly authorized to prosecute the offense(s) charged, I hereby approve this Complaint

DATE:

April 8, 2022

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S SIGNATURE

/s/ Kurtis W. M. Young

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:
NAME/TITLE**

Kurtis W. M. Young
Assistant County Attorney
Attorney Registration #: 0393048

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY:
ADDRESS/TELEPHONE**

Administration Center, Room 448
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-656-3880

STATE OF MINNESOTA vs. Richard Robert Wyffels.

Court File Number:

Prosecutor File Number: CR-2021-3078

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

1. Address: Richard Robert Wyffels
6825 Circle Lane NE
Alexandria, MN 56308
2. DOB: 04/17/1964
3. Race/Ethnicity/Gender: Unknown/Male
4. SID: Unknown
5. Alias Information: N/A
6. Fingerprinted: No
7. Handgun Permit:
8. Location of Violation:
9. Drivers License #:
10. Accident Type: No Injury/No Damage Property Damage
 Personal Injury Fatality
11. License Plate #: N/A
12. Alcohol Concentration: N/A

Ct	Statute Type	Offense Date	Statute Number & Description	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Control Numbers
1	Charge Penalty	12/1/14 to 7/20/20	609.52 Subd. 2(a)(4) Theft-By Swindle 609.52 Subd. 3(1)Theft-Firearm or Property Value Over \$35,000	F	TA101	N		2020869