

FILED

01-08-2026

Anna Maria Hodges

Clerk of Circuit Court

2026CF000086

Honorable Jorge Fragoso-
23

Branch 23

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

Plaintiff,

DA Case No.: 2026ML000564

Court Case No.:

vs.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTFRIEDL, BENJAMIN SCOTT
1856 DIVISION STREET APT 6
EAST TROY, WI 53120
DOB: 05/30/2003**Defendant(s).***For Official Use*

THE BELOW NAMED COMPLAINANT BEING DULY SWORN, ON INFORMATION AND BELIEF STATES THAT:

Count 1: BURGLARY OF A BUILDING OR DWELLING

The above-named defendant on or about Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 1040 North Vel R Phillips, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, did intentionally enter a building, Turner Hall, without the consent of the person in lawful possession of the place, and with intent to commit a felony, stealing approximately \$18,343.02 worth of equipment and alcohol, contrary to sec. 943.10(1m)(a), 939.50(3)(f) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class F Felony, the defendant may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than twelve (12) years and six (6) months, or both.

Probable Cause:

Complainant is a Milwaukee Police Department ("MPD") law enforcement employee and bases this complaint upon official MPD Incident Reports. Complainant has relied on such reports in the past and has found them to be truthful, accurate, and regularly relied upon in the course of that department's business. Such incident reports indicate the following:

On or about Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 1040 North Vel R Phillips, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, two unknown subjects entered the above location, herein Turner Hall, without the consent of manager SJB or any other representative of Turner Hall. The above named defendant was later identified as one of the individuals that illegally entered Turner Hall through an emergency exit door. The defendant was observed on surveillance camera taking several items without Turner Hall's consent, totaling an estimated \$18,343.02 worth of audio equipment and alcoholic beverages.

The above named defendant was on surveillance footage arriving in a lighter colored Dodge Dakota with a Wisconsin plate "FLEX" which law enforcement looked up and identified the owner of the vehicle as FEP. Law enforcement made contact with FEP who stated that his grandson, the above named defendant, had been using his truck. Law enforcement showed FEP still images of the defendant from Turner Hall to which FEP confirmed it was the defendant. The defendant is heard saying that he is loading stuff into his grandparents' truck on surveillance from inside Turner Hall.

Officer Romando Palmer responded to Turner hall on 12/19/25 to investigate the incident and speak with the manager, SJB. SJB provided law enforcement with the surveillance footage of the defendant stealing equipment.

Officers Ryan Ballogh and Troy Stofflet conducted a consent search of the Dodge Dakota and located a black jacket with a white and red circular emblem on the left upper arm of the sleeve, which matches the jacket the defendant was wearing during the incident. Law enforcement conducted a Mirandized interview of the defendant after he had been taken into custody. The defendant admitted to being in possession of FEP's truck on the date of the incident. The defendant stated that he blacked out for a 12 hour period and that he did not recall the incident occurring. The defendant did admit to being in possession of items that he did not recall stealing, such as various music equipment that was reported stolen by Turner Hall. The defendant confirmed his identity in the surveillance footage from inside Turner Hall during the incident. Neither SJB nor any Turner Hall representative gave consent to the defendant to enter Turner Hall when it was closed and they did not consent to the defendant taking approximately \$18,000 in equipment.

****End of Complaint****

Electronic Filing Notice:

This case was electronically filed with the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court office. The electronic filing system is designed to allow for fast, reliable exchange of documents in court cases. Parties who register as electronic parties can file, receive and view documents online through the court electronic filing website. A document filed electronically has the same legal effect as a document filed by traditional means. You may also register as an electronic party by following the instructions found at <http://efiling.wicourts.gov/> and may withdraw as an electronic party at any time. There is a \$ 20.00 fee to register as an electronic party. If you are not represented by an attorney and would like to register an electronic party, you will need to contact the Clerk of Circuit Court office at 414-278-4120. Unless you register as an electronic party, you will be served with traditional paper documents by other parties and by the court. You must file and serve traditional paper documents.

Criminal Complaint prepared by Anders-James Wermuth.

ADA Assigned Email Address: anders-james.wermuth@da.wi.gov

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 01/08/26

Electronically Signed By:

Anders-James Wermuth

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1135967

Electronically Signed By:

Detective Anne Portnoy

Complainant