

**DRUNKS AND THIEVES 2019 Part 1 March 3, 2019**



**By John Hoffmann**

**DRUNK DRIVER 2 ½ TIMES OVER THE LIMIT SAYS HE WAS DANCING TO THE MUSIC WHILE HE DROVE:** Christopher Torres, 26, of Wildwood, was driving west on I-64 at 2:25 on a Friday morning May 12, 2017. Torres was drunk and kept weaving his Mazda from lane to lane catching the attention of Town & Country Police Officer Pflueger.

Driving drunk was not a new experience for Torres. He was arrested in Ellisville for DWI on 08/30/15 and pled guilty to DWI on 11/12/15.

Officer Pflueger saw enough lane weaving on WB I-64 between Mason Road and the Maryville Center exit that he pulled Torres over near I-64 and Highway 141. Officer Pflueger noted in his report that he noticed the following including Torres using profanity.

<b>OFFICER'S OBSERVATION MADE PRIOR TO ARREST OR CUSTODY (check appropriate boxes) and add any</b>	
BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE: <input type="checkbox"/> FAINT <input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG <input type="checkbox"/> ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
EYES PUPILS	<input type="checkbox"/> WATERY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY <input type="checkbox"/> STARING <input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL EYE <input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED <input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> DILATED
BALANCE AND WALKING	<input type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAYING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING <input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> FALLING <input type="checkbox"/>
SPEECH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLURRED <input type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED <input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT <input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING <input type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/>
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	DESCRIBE: BLUE TSHIRT BLUE JEAN SHORTS BLACK SHOES SOILED BY: NA
UNUSUAL ACTIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROFANITY <input type="checkbox"/> HICCUPS <input type="checkbox"/> BELCHING <input type="checkbox"/> VOMITING <input type="checkbox"/> FIGHTING <input type="checkbox"/>
ATTITUDE	DESCRIBE: ANGRY

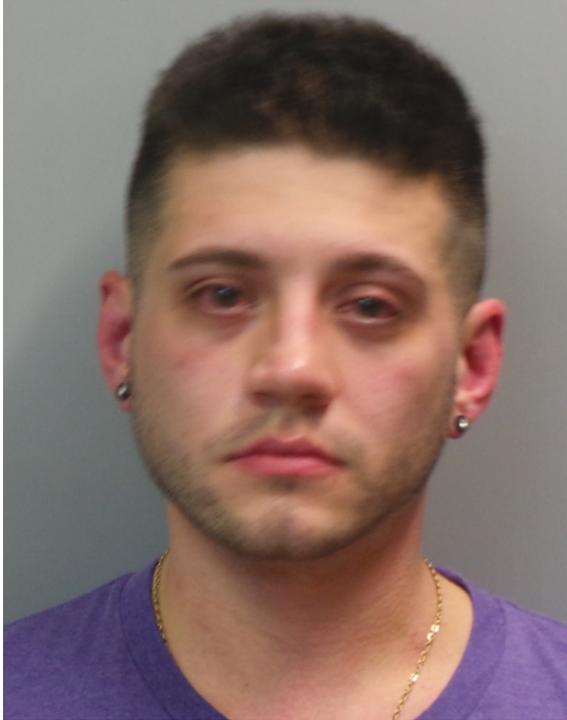
Torres failed a number of field sobriety tests. He agreed to take an unofficial field Breath Test which indicated he was intoxicated.

Torres explained his lane weaving to listening to music in the car and “dancing.”

He admitted having two shots of Fireball whiskey and later at the police station said he had two beers.

Torres was arrested and at the police station he agreed to take an official breath test. The results of that test showed his BAC level to be .193%.

He was released on a summons for DWI and a summons for Failure to Maintain a Single Lane While Driving.



Torres



Torres' eyes

Record (that we could find):

- |          |  |                   |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| 05/14/18 | Driving at Night W/O Headlights<br>Driving While Suspended   | St. Louis PD      |
| 05/12/17 | Improper Lane Use (weaving) reduced to no-points<br>Illegal Parking<br>DWI Pled Guilty 07/05/18 2-year SIS No-Points,<br>No-Fine probation term  | Town & Country PD |
| 08/30/15 | Moving Violation reduced to Illegal Parking fined \$250<br>DWI Pled guilty 11/12/15 placed on SIS No-Fine,<br>No-Jail probation. Probation revoked 02/12/18 and<br>sentenced to 60-days jail, but immediately placed on a<br>2-year SES probation term | Ellisville PD     |

**OUTCOME:** Despite Torres having a prior DWI where the citation for the probable cause for the traffic stop was reduced to a No-Points Parking Violation, Town & Country prosecutor Ed Sluys showed a total lack of regard for the safety of the public. He reduced Torres Weaving-Improper Lane Use citation to a No-Points Parking Violation with a \$225 fine.

Also on July 5, 2018 Torres pled guilty to DWI. He was represented by Ron Brockmeyer the former Ferguson, MO judge who was forced from office after stories of his excessive fines to poor people. He was also forced out of jobs as the Florissant, MO and Vinita Park prosecutor, who owed \$170,000 in back taxes. Town and Country Judge Andrea Niehoff fined Torres \$659 and placed him on a 2-year SES probation. His probation in Ellisville was also revoked meaning his drivers' license is now revoked.

**SPEEDING IN CONSTRUCTION ZONE BY DRUNK DRIVER WITH MIXED DRINK IN CAR RESULTS IN NO-POINTS, NO-FINE PROBATION:**

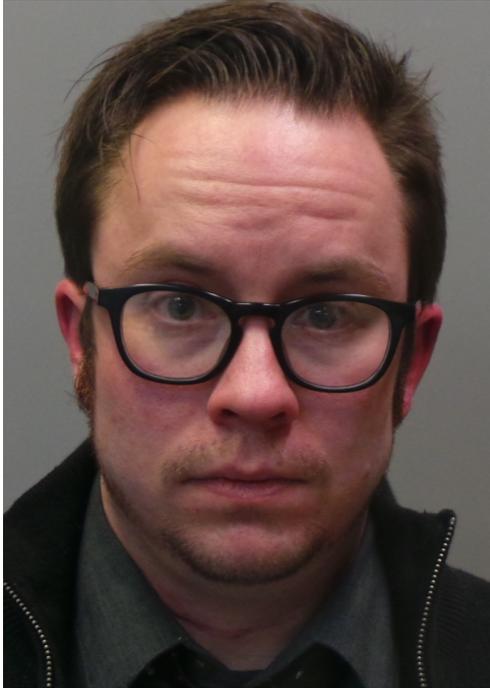
Town and Country Officer Curtis McPherson was running radar in the construction zone with narrow lanes on WB I-64 before Mason Road on February 7, 2016 at about 11:53PM when he clocked a 2007 Ford Crown Victoria doing 74 MPH in the 50 MPH zone. The car was being driven by Isaiah Harris, 31, of St. Charles.

When Officer McPherson first stopped Harris, Harris stopped partially in the driving lane. Officer McPherson then asked him to pull over on the Mason Road off-ramp. That's when Harris drove off the paved portion of the shoulder.

Harris appeared to have been drinking. He said he was returning home from working as a volunteer at a Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital fundraiser. Harris denied having anything to drink despite there being a mixed drink in a plastic cup in a holder. He then admitted having two glasses of wine and some bourbon. He stated he started drinking at 8pm and stopped when he was pulled over, an apparent acknowledgment to the mixed drink in the car.

Harris failed some of the field sobriety tests and agreed to take an unofficial Field Breath Test. That tested showed he was intoxicated.

He was arrested and at the police station he agreed to take an official breath test. That test showed Harris' BAC to be .094% or over the 0.08% limit.



Harris



Harris' eyes

Record of Harris that we could find:

11/27/13	Moving Violation reduced to Loud Muffler \$100	MO Highway Patrol
10/10/08	Careless and Impudent Driving \$100 fine	St. Charles Sheriffs' Office

**OUTCOME:** Harris' lawyer Richard Snidel moved the case to the Assoc. Circuit Court on a jury trial demand, that he had no intention of putting on. On 06/30/18 Harris pled guilty to both speeding and DWI. Judge John Newsham fined Harris \$125 for Speeding in a Construction Zone. On the DWI Judge Newsham gave Harris a 2-year SIS, No-Permanent Record, No-Points and No-Fine Probation term.

**DRUNK DRIVER DENIES DRIVING THE CAR STOPPED BY POLICE:** Kristianna Kelly, 25, of St. Charles should have knowledge about drunk drivers. She used to work as a bartender at the International Tap House in Columbia, MO and had a past DWI arrest.

On Saturday night into Sunday morning May 21, 2017 at 3:09 AM she forgot about that experience as she weaved her 2012 Honda Civic across three lanes of I-64 while being followed by Officer Fowle of the Town and Country Police Department. She also had a passenger in the car.

Officer Fowle stopped Kelly on I-64 at Hwy 141. At the time of the stop Kelly's pants were unbuttoned and open. She gave off a number of signs that indicated that she was intoxicated. Those are listed on Officer Fowle's report:

OFFICER'S OBSERVATION MADE PRIOR TO ARREST OR CUSTODY (Check appropriate box(es) and add any pertinent remarks.)	
BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE: <input type="checkbox"/> FAINT <input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG <input type="checkbox"/> NONE ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
EYES PUPILS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATERY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLASSY <input type="checkbox"/> STARING <input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL EYE <input type="checkbox"/> CONSTRICTED <input type="checkbox"/> SLOW REACTION TO LIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> DILATED
BALANCE AND WALKING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAYING <input type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING <input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> FALLING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
SPEECH	<input type="checkbox"/> SLURRED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED <input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT <input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	DESCRIBE: SHIRT/ TANK/JEANS/TENNIS SHOES SOILED BY: FOOD ON SHIRT
UNUSUAL ACTIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> PROFANITY <input type="checkbox"/> HICCUPS <input type="checkbox"/> BELCHING <input type="checkbox"/> VOMITING <input type="checkbox"/> FIGHTING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: *BELOW
ATTITUDE	DESCRIBE: POLITE *PANTS UNZIPPED AND FLAPPED OPEN

After failing a number of field sobriety tests Kelly was arrested for DWI.



Kelly



Kelly's eyes

Kelly had refused to take an unofficial field breath test prior to her arrest and again at the police station she refused to take the official breath test. However, she agreed to be interviewed. During the interview she stated that she had started drinking at 9PM and

quit at 1:30 AM when the bars closed. But she denied driving her car that was stopped by Officer Fowle and denied being drunk despite drinking for the last 4 ½ hours.

This is from the police report:

WERE YOU OPERATING THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH OR STOP? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		IF YES, WHAT WERE YOU DRINKING? BEER.
TIME STARTED 9 PM.		TIME STOPPED 1:30 AM WHEN THE BARS CLOSED.
HOW MUCH? 5 TOTAL.	WHERE? HOME/GRAMOPHONE/ REHAB BAR	ARE YOU UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

We believe Kelly had two prior DWI arrests including one in Town and Country. However they were deleted from the Town and Country arrest report and were no longer in court data bases indicating probation periods expired.

**OUTCOME:** Kelly hired well known DWI attorney Travis Noble. On June 26, 2018 Kelly pled guilty to a DWI that had been reduced from a Felony to an ordinance violation in front of Judge Rob Heggie (who as the Chesterfield city attorney illegally hid the Doorack Lease from the public). Kelly was fined \$500.

**AEROSOL HUFFER TAKING A PISS CAUGHT ON CAMERA:** The Security Manager at the Walmart Store in Chesterfield Valley had a suspicious person on security camera on the store’s parking lot on Wednesday August 12, 2015. The person appeared to be “Huffing.” That is a term for a person discharging an aerosol can inside a bag and then huffing the fumes to get high.

Officer Meyer of the Chesterfield PD Retail Squad was called directly by the Security Manager. Before Officer Meyer could arrive the dispatch center received a call from a person reporting the “huffer” had just urinated next to his car in the parking lot.

On arrival Officer Meyer contacted the suspect, Matthew Miller, 41, of Florissant sitting in his 2002 Dodge Stratus with temporary license plate.

Upon contacting Miller, Officer Meyer could smell the odor of aerosol spray in the car. Miller could not produce any photo ID saying the Florissant PD had his driver’s license. Miller had been arrested for DWI several times, including for Felony DWI two days before being on the Walmart parking lot huffing.

Officer Meyer explained why he was contacting him and Miller admitting doing both “Huffing” and urinating on the parking lot.

A check in the immediate area where Miller had been sitting revealed in plain view the Walmart bag the security manager reported seeing Miller huffing from. A check revealed an aerosol air duster can that was very cold to the touch, indicating recent use.

Miller was arrested for Indecent Exposure (pissing on the lot in view of the camera and the person who called the dispatch center) and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.



Matthew A. Miller



Miller's eyes at 12 noon

**OUTCOME:** The case was continued and continued for 2 ½ years. The recording of the parking lot and Officer Meyer did not disappear. Chesterfield Prosecutor of course reduced the Indecent Exposure to “Littering” but the Drug Paraphernalia was not dropped. On April 17, 2018 Miller pled guilty to both charges and was fined \$100 plus costs on each case.

Three months before appearing in the Chesterfield Muni Court, on January 17, 2018 Miller had been arrested after his indictment on the Felony DWI in 2015.



Miller's 2018 mug shot.

**HEROIN ADDICT DAMAGES \$495 WORTH OF CLOTHES HE WAS TRYING TO STEAL, ASSAULTS OFFICER AND GETS CREDIT FOR TIME SERVED AFTER HIS 3-ARRESTS FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR IN COURT:** In other words after his guilty pleas Chesterfield Judge Rick Brunk rewarded the suspect for Assaulting a Police Officer by not sentencing him to jail.

On July 15, 2016 at about 8pm Jayvon Cole, 22, of North St. Louis city and another man were in the Saks Off Fifth Avenue at the St. Louis Premium Outlet Mall. Cole was walking in the area where expensive jeans were displayed. Cole was carrying an empty duffle bag. He was also carrying a pair of needle nosed pliers to cut off security sensors on items he wanted to steal. Needless to say store staff was watching him and he was being recorded on store video.

Saks Off Fifth Avenue called the Chesterfield Retail Unit directly and Officer Krumm responded. Before he arrived Cole had left the store and Saks staff inspected the jeans display area and discovered nothing had been stolen but three pairs of jeans and a jacket had been damaged beyond repair when Cole attempted to cut off the security sensors. The products were valued at \$494.93.

Krumm found Cole still in the mall and tried to stop him. Cole kept saying that he did not steal anything, well actually he is quoted as saying "I didn't steal nothing."

Cole kept trying to walk away from Officer Krumm. When Officer Krumm grabbed Coles arm and told him he was under arrest for Destruction of Property, Cole yanked away. Officer Krumm grabbed his arm and Coles began to elbow Officer Krumm in his midsection. Then Cole tried to throw an elbow to Officer Krumm's head. Krumm

blocked that and took Cole to the ground, but the struggle continued with Cole fighting the police officer until assisting officers arrived.

Cole was now arrested for Destruction of Property, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. A pat down search of Cole revealed the needle nose pliers that he had used to try and remove the anti-theft sensors from the jeans and jacket. He was also charged with possession of a Theft Device.

At the police station Cole admitted that he was a heroin addict and that was why he was in Chesterfield stealing.



**Cole's Record:**

08/29/13	Trespassing (warrant for arrest)	St. Louis PD
04/22/15	Stealing pending	Northwoods PD
09/08/15	Stealing	Maryland Heights PD
07/15/16	Destruction of Property, Assault on LEO, Resisting	Chesterfield PD
08/27/16	Possession of Theft Devices	Chesterfield PD
11/10/16	Stealing, Assault on LEO, Resisting, Give False Info warrant	Des Peres DPS
01/23/17	Felony Possession of Controlled Sub, Felony Resisting Arrest, Misdemeanor Assault. PG 8/3/17 3-year SIS Probation	St. Louis PD

**THE RETURN OF JAYVON:** You might think that after being arrested and facing three charges in Chesterfield, you might go somewhere else to steal. Well not if you are

Jayvon Cole. On Saturday 08/27/16 Cole was back. This time to the Outlet Mall to the east, then named the Taubman Outlet Mall.

Police were called after Mall security saw Cole with two large bags walking through stores. Security followed Cole onto the parking lot where he was contacted by Officer McBride. He was seen at the H&M store where another male was being arrested for stealing. He had an empty H&M bag plus an empty Abercrombie & Fitch bag. He was issued a summons for possession of Theft Devices and released.

Four months after his Chesterfield arrest, Cole resisted arrest and assaulted an officer when he was arrested for Shoplifting in Des Peres. Two months after that it was a similar performance in St. Louis.

**OUTCOME** Cole repeatedly did not show up for Court in Chesterfield. Three times arrest warrants were issued and Cole was arrested twice on the warrants in St. Louis and once in Jennings. On 06/13/18 Cole was in court at 7pm after being arrested and brought back to Chesterfield at 2 AM from the Jennings Police Station. Cole pled guilty to all charges. He was not sentenced to 30 or 60 days in Jail, but the Hippy Judge 74-year-old Rick Brunk sentenced him to 7-days in jail, then gave him credit for time served in jails prior to his plea. So much for showing support and backing police officers who are assaulted. Brunk has a history of not looking out for the welfare of officers.

**HARPO'S ENCOURAGES ITS PROBLEMS. ANOTHER DRUNK ARRESTED FOR FIGHTING: THE CHESTERFIELD POLICE ARE NOT PRO-ACTIVE:** The Chesterfield Police are ignoring more criminal violations. Sure they ignore rich people who refuse to put the front license plates on their Mercedes and BMWs. But they also ignore a business with a liquor license that encourages people to come there and get intoxicated. Harpo's advertises on their facebook page for people to show up and get intoxicated. Here are two example, one from this June 2016 and one from Christmas.

It is illegal for businesses with liquor licenses to serve intoxicated person. But Harpo's advertised that is just what they do.

This is from Harpo's Website:



### Wednesday nights and all my friends are wasted at Harpo's

Harpo's Chesterfield  
June 16, 2016 · 114 Views

This is from Harpo's facebook on Christmas Day:



**Harpo's Chesterfield**

December 25, 2017 · 🌐

🌲 Merry Christmas from our Harpo's Family to yours! We open at 7pm!



In our regular random review of police arrests we ran into other one just like many in the past that we have found that indicates that Harpo's is breaking the law by serving clearly intoxicated persons. The Chesterfield Police do not seem to be making nightly "bar checks" of walk throughs by uniform officers"

This one is from Friday November 25, 2016. It was the day after Thanksgiving. Around 6 PM, Michael Delorme, 25, of Chesterfield had been served enough that he was drunk. He was leaving Harpo's planning to drive off the lot. He was so drunk that even the people who got him drunk were concerned and did not want him to drive.

Customers went to the manager of Harpo's and told him that Delorme was going to drive off the parking lot. The manager and owner went and stopped Delorme and told him they were going to call him an Uber.

Delorme went back into Harpo's and began in an irrational and threatening manner to yell at customers in the bar and the restaurant section.

The manager then grabbed Delorme by his hooded sweat shirt and began to pull him out to the patio. On the way out Delorme grabbed a picture frame on the wall and pulled it down causing damage to the wall and frame.

Once on the patio Delorme fell onto his knees. When he got up he went to windows and started pounding on them screaming at customers inside.

He then got up and attacked the manager and the co-owner of Harpo's and they took Delorme down, at which time Delorme scratched them on their arms and drew blood.

When officers arrived they arrested him for Assault and Destruction of Property.



Delorme



Delorme's eyes

**RECORD WE COULD FIND:**

02/05/10 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Trespass & Stealing U/\$500  
07/23/10 Pled Guilty Place on 2-year probation  
03/01/11 Probation Violation

St. Louis CO PD

02/17/12 Fugitive Warrant  
11/25/16 Assault & Destruction of Property

Columbia MO PD  
Chesterfield

**OUTCOME:** On 03/27/18 Delorme pled guilty in Chesterfield Municipal Court. He was fined \$250 plus costs for Assault and \$250 plus costs for the Destruction of Property. (Originally appeared in Ex Alderman Newsletter #349 on September 30, 2018.)

**ANOTHER THANKSGIVING DRUNKEN ASSAULT AT HARPOS:** This one happened on Friday 11/25/16 just after midnight at 12:05 AM or 18 hours before the drunken Delmorme was arrested.

In this case the drunken customer served too much booze was Keith B. Robben, then 46, a former Chesterfield resident who now lives in St. Peters.

A week earlier Robben was in Harpo's and made a complaint about a waitress who had been on her cell phone. On Thanksgiving night Robben was back at Harpo's drunk and bad mouthing the waitress to other customers. She overheard him and confronted him and then went to the manager asking that Robben be removed.



According to the manager and doorman while they were escorting Robben out of Harpo's he reach out and hit the waitress in the side of her head with a closed fist. She responded by hitting Robben in the side of the head with her fist.

When Chesterfield Police officers arrived the manager and doorman were following Robben across the parking lot toward Olive Blvd.

Robben was arrested for assault and transported to the station. He refused to make a statement.

Robben failed to appear in court on assault charges and an arrest warrant was issued. He was arrested as a Fugitive of Chesterfield by the Arnold Police on 1/22/18 and picked up by a Chesterfield officer, brought to the police station where he made bond.

**OUTCOME:** On May 14, 2018 the charge was amended by city prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer from Assault to Littering. Robben pled guilty and was fined \$225. Apparently Engelmeyer believes it is okay to get drunk and then hit a woman with a closed fist. (originally appeared in Newsletter #352 dated October 21, 2018)

**3:50 IN THE AFTERNOON CRASH ON CLARKSON ROAD AT I-64 LEADS TO DWI ARREST:** It was the day before New Year's Eve, but Lance Depew apparently started celebrating early. Depew, 43, of High Ridge, had two prior DWIs when he was involved in a crash at Clarkson Road and I-64. Chesterfield Police officer Risley responded to the call.

When he arrived he found Depew, the driver of a 2005 Chevrolet Trail Blazer leaning against his vehicle. When Depew tried to walk he was staggering and almost fell. He had the other usual signs of a drunk. His speech was slurred and confused, his breath reeked of the smell of intoxicants, his eyes were bloodshot and glassy and his balance was unsure as he staggered while he walked.

While at the crash site, Depew stated he had been at a bar, but could not remember the name of the bar. He failed field sobriety tests, but refused to take a field breath test or later at the police station an official breath test.

At the police station Depew made two statements concerning drinking. One was that he was drinking beer with friends at Dave's Twin Peaks located on Chesterfield Mall Drive off of Chesterfield Parkway.

But during another interview he stated he had only been drinking sodas with friends at Dave's Twin Peaks between 2 and 2:30pm. You go to McDonald's or Culvers to drink sodas with your friends, not Dave's Twin Peaks.



Lance Depew



Lance Depew's eyes at 3:50 in the afternoon

A Chesterfield Police Officer went to Dave's Twin Peaks and reviewed DePew's bill. The bill showed Depew had a 22oz Lagunitas IPA beer, a 22oz Bud Select beer and a 22-ounce Michelob Ultra beer.



Depew's Record that we could find:

07/30/04	Limited Driving Privilege granted ref DWI license revocation	St. Louis CO
08/26/05	Breath Test Refusal Suspension appeal	St. Louis CO
12/30/16	Felony DWI with priors. Reduced to Misdemeanor DWI	Chesterfield PD
	PG 07/27/18 Sent 1 year jail, but immediately placed on 1-year SES probation	
01/30/17	Appealed Drivers' Lic. Revocation for fail to take Breath Test	St. Louis CO
	04/26/18 revocation was upheld by Courts	

**OUTCOME:** The County Prosecutor's Office amended the charge from a felony to a misdemeanor and on July 27, 2018 Depew pled guilty. Judge Thea Sherry sentenced Depew to one year in the County Jail, but then suspended the entire jail time and placed Depew on a SES probation term for 1-year. This means Depew will have another 1-year revocation against his license to go with the revocation for failing to take a breath test.

**MAN CARRYING A PURSE WITH A FEMALE PARTNER CAUGHT WITH JUST STOLEN SHOES STICKING OUT OF THE PURSE** Beside the stolen shoes from Famous Footwear, a complete search of the purse showed that Markese Watkins, 26, of St. Louis had also just stolen three pairs of Sunglasses from the Sunglass Hut in the Premium Outlet Mall.

On Saturday May 28, 2016 Chesterfield Police Officers assigned to the Retail Squad responded to a call of a theft that just occurred from the Famous Footwear Store in the Premium Outlet Mall. Before arriving the call was updated and officers were told the male and female suspects were at the Sunglass Hut, a frequent victim of shoplifters.

Officers Meyer and Mueller arrived and were told by the Famous Footwear manager that the suspects left the Sunglass Hut and were in the Food Court.

Markese Watkins and Monyette Hammond, 26 of St. Louis, were stopped leaving the Food Court. Officer Meyer could see brand new shoes in the large purse being carried by Watkins.

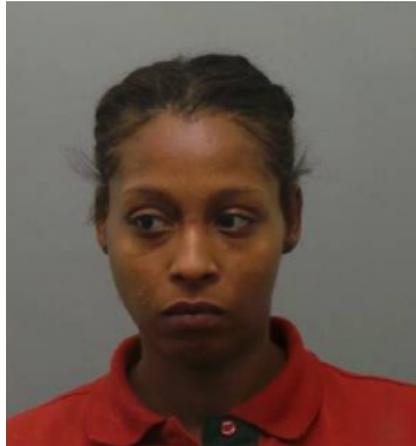
Officers recovered two pairs of stolen Nike tennis shoes valued at \$144.98. A further search of the purse revealed three pairs of sunglasses valued at \$565.

There were outstanding arrest warrants from municipal courts for both Watkins and Hammond.

A check of store video at the Sunglass Hut showed Watkins stealing one pair the sunglasses and Hammonds stealing the others.



Watkins 2016



Hammond



Watkins 2018

At the police station Watkins gave a statement that he was doing all the thefts and Hammond was unaware of the thefts.

Hammond said the same thing until she was confronted with the video evidence of her stealing two pairs of sunglasses. She then confessed to the offense.

**HAMMOND:** Hammond has three outstanding traffic warrants from Creve Coeur including Driving While Revoked.

**WATKINS:** He has a number of minor traffic charges from North County Municipal Police forces. He also has these cases that have all resulted in arrest warrants being issued:

03/29/15	Driving With Suspended License Warrant	Webster Groves PD
	Possession of Marijuana Warrant	
06/06/17	Destruction of Property Warrant	St. Louis PD
06/22/17	Speeding 56 MPH in 35 zone Warrant	St. Louis PD
	No Drivers License Warrant	

**OUTCOME:** Watkins was charged with Felony Theft for the two shoplifting incidents. On 07/16/18 the charges were reduced to by the County prosecutor to two

misdemeanors. Watkins pled guilty and was sentenced to 10 days in jail and was given credit for the time in jail pending his plea. The case against Hammond was dropped.

Watkins was charged on October 9, 2018 was being one of four men committing 12 or more armed robberies in the St. Louis area with automatic weapons.

This is from Robert Patrick's article in the Post-Dispatch about the Federal charges:

FBI Special Agent Bastian Freund, in an affidavit filed in support of those charges, says the men robbed retail stores, cellphone stores, pizza restaurants, and a liquor store between Aug. 25 and Sept. 30. The robbers' clothes, guns and methods in the robberies are similar. One usually carries a purple and black semiautomatic handgun and another an AK-47 style rifle. They often ask employees to open the safe, and then steal wallets and cellphones from the employees, Freund wrote.

(This originally appeared in Ex Alderman Newsletter #351 on October 14, 2018)

Hammond pled guilty on 06/28/18 to amended charges from felony theft to misdemeanor theft and was sentenced to 10 days jail.