



DRUNKS AND THIEVES 2024 PART 8

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

DRUNK DRIVER CLAIMED HE SMELLED OF ALCOHOL BECAUSE HE WAS A BARTENDER, SAID HE HAD NOTHING TO DRINK, BUT REFUSED TO PROVE IT BY TAKING A BREATH TEST. It was Wednesday night into Thursday morning at 12:39 AM November 4, 2021 when Town and Country Police Sgt. Freddie Yaakub was south on I-270 and noticed a car in front of him speeding.

The in-car forward radar unit showed the car was doing 86 MPH. When Sgt. Yaakub turned on the police car's flashing light and spotlight, the driver started to weave from lane to lane until finally pulling over on the shoulder.

When Sgt. Yaakub contacted the driver, Andrew J. Benga 37 of St. Louis, he immediately noticed the Benga appeared to be drunk. When told his breath smelled of intoxicants, Benga denied drinking saying he was a bartender at Sugarfire but refused to take a breath test to prove it. This is from the police report:

"I don't have my insurance...I (mumbled speech)...My Insurance is in my car." I asked him why he was speeding and he replied, "I...I didn (slurred) think I was speeding." I asked him where he worked and he replied, "I work for Sugarfire." While speaking with him, I smelled a very strong odor of what I normally associate with that of someone who has consumed an intoxicating beverage coming from the vehicle. I also noticed that his eyes were bloodshot and glassy and his speech was very slurred. He also mumbled some words. I asked him how much he had to drink and he replied, "None nall (mumbled)." I asked him what he said and he replied, "None at all." I advised him of the strong odor of a consumed alcohol and he replied, "Si...I'm a bartender." I asked him if Sugarfire had bartenders and he stated, "They do." I asked him if he blew in my portable breath tester, would it show no alcohol, and he replied, "Uh, I would like (mumbled) to talk to my lawyer." I advised him that if he blew in the PBT hypothetically if it would show no alcohol and he replied, "I would assume so, yeh." I asked him to exit the vehicle and perform a series of field sobriety tests and he complied (See page 1 of AIR form). After exiting the vehicle, I continued to smell the same strong odor of what I associate with a consumed alcoholic beverage coming from his breath. As he walked to the rear of his vehicle, he was swaying and he was unsure with his walking.



Sgt. Yaakub

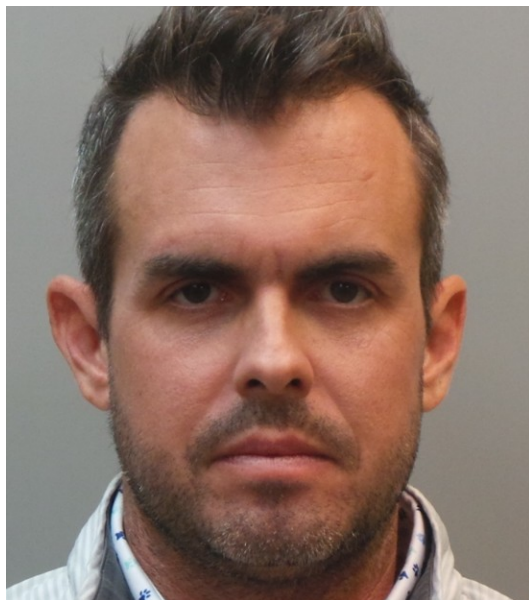


He then failed standard field sobriety tests. This is also from the police report:

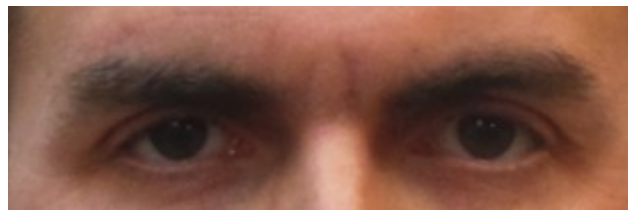
OFFICER'S OBSERVATION MADE PRIOR TO ARREST OR CUSTODY (Check appropriate box(es) and add any)					
BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE:	<input type="checkbox"/> FAINT	<input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRONG	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL:	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING	<input type="checkbox"/> FALLING
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPEECH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLURRED	<input type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED	<input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT	<input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUMBLING
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

At 5-foot-1 and 137 pounds you have to wonder how much booze Benga and consume before being legally drunk.

He was arrested and his Infiniti was towed. At the police station Benga refused to take an "official" breath test or be interviewed.



Andrew Benga



Benga's eyes

OUTCOME: Benga has no prior or recent record that we could find in Missouri, regardless this was another example of TOWN AND COUNTRY JUSTICE. On August 4, 2022 Benga with a defense attorney pled guilty to DWI and was placed on a 2-year SIS (no points, no fine, no permanent record) probation term. The speeding charge was reduced to a Parking Violation with a \$191 fine.

If a motorist gets a ticket for speeding and mails in the fine, they get 2-points on their driving record. Benga was doing 26 MPH over the limit and he was drunk. He walked out of T&C Muni Court with no points. Is that fair or is it another example of defense attorney with paying clients come before public safety?

DRUNK DRIVER WAS WEAVING ON AND OFF I-270 AND HAD PROBLEM RECITING THE ALPHABET. On Friday night into Saturday morning May 7, 2022 at 12:26AM Town and Country Police Officer Sgt. Chris Moore was north on I-270. Sgt. Moore was on a special regionwide Highway Safety/DWI patrol.

While north on I-270 Sgt. Moore observed a red Kia driving well below the speed limit (49mph in a 60 zone) and weaving from the highway lanes across rumble strips onto the shoulder.

When Sgt. Moore stopped the Kia and contacted the driver, Donald Bittick 32 of Bridgeton, MO and told Bittick why he stopped him, Bittick replied he was using his phone which was the reason for the weaving. Sgt. Moore reported Bittick had BOB (booze on breath) and his eyes were bloodshot and watery plus his speech was confused. However, Bittick denied having anything to drink, something that was about to change. He said he was going home from work.

Bittick passed the counting tests, but things went south with the ABCs. This is from the police report

OFFICER'S OBSERVATION MADE PRIOR TO ARREST OR CUSTODY (Check appropriate box)			
BREATH	ODOR OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE:	<input type="checkbox"/> FAINT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MODERATE
	ODOR OF MARIJUANA OR CHEMICAL:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
EYES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATERY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT	<input type="checkbox"/> GLASSY
PUPILS	<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 type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING
		<input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING	
SPEECH	<input type="checkbox"/> SLURRED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONFUSED	<input type="checkbox"/> INCOHERENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> STUTTERING

I asked Bittick what his highest education level was and he said "High School." I asked if it was fair to say he knew his alphabet and Bittick replied "Yes." I asked Bittick to recite the letters (D as in Dog through the letter P as in Paul. Bittick recited "D,E...wait I'm sorry." He then completed D through P properly. I then asked him to recite all 26 letters of the alphabet from A to Z. Bittick recited A-U,Z and stopped. I informed him that he said T,U,Z at the end and he attempted a second time. Bittick's second attempt was A through U and he stopped and said "I don't know the alphabet." He then said "I don't know the alphabet right now I am nervous."

Out of the car, Bittick failed the other field sobriety tests. He agreed to take a field Breath Test. The test showed he was drunk with a .117% BAC.

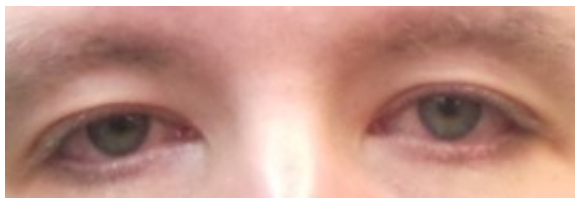
PRELIMINARY BREATH TEST (PBT) POSITIVE FOR ALCOHOL?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED
RESULT <u>.117</u> %

Bittick was arrested for DWI and Improper Lane Use by weaving. His Kia was towed off the highway.

At the police station Bittick agreed to take an "official" Breath Test. That test showed he was still drunk, but his BAC level was dropping. It came in at .096%. In an interview after the BAC test, Bittick now admitted to drinking saying he had 2 Shots of Amsterdam Vodka. Despite two tests that showed he was drunk, Bittick denied that he was intoxicated.



Donald Bittick



Bittick's eyes

05/31/22 2 cts Crim Vio reduced to Health Code Vio \$400 fine Chesterfield PD

05/07/22	DWI, Improper Lane Use-Weaving	Town & Country PD
02/26/13	Moving Violation reduced to Parking Vio \$150 fine	St. Louis Co PD
12/16/11	Speeding 11-15 over limit \$90 fine	Bourbon PD
02/11/11	Fail to Keep Right \$30 fine	St. Charles Co SO

OUTCOME: On 08/04/22 Bittick appeared in Town and Country City Court with an attorney. He pled guilty to DWI and was given a 2-year SIS (no fine, no points and no permanent record) probation term. He also pled guilty to Careless and Impudent Driving Lane Weaving with a \$366 fine.

SHOPLIFTERS FROM ST. LOUIS WITH ALL THE TOOLS STEAL \$1,347 FROM STORES IN THE OUTLET MALL: On Tuesday July 30, 2019 at 12:55pm Chesterfield Police Special Enforcement Unit officers were called by Mall Security told they were notified that two black/female shoplifters had just hit the Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein stores and one of the suspects was driving off in a black Ford Taurus with cardboard temporary license plates.

According to Mall security the driver of the car was wearing a striped tank top, pink legging and a pink ball cap.

Officers Pousson and Aspinall were in the same patrol car and waited for the Ford at Boone's Crossing Rd and I-64. The wait paid off as the Ford appeared and was stopped.

The driver, Shamell Nicole King, 28, was by herself while apparently abandoning her accomplice at the Mall. King matched the description of the suspect with the multi color tank top, pink leggings and a pink ball cap.

Officers had her get out of the car, told why she was being stopped. She admitted that she was at the Mall to steal with the other woman. When asked to show them the clothes she had stolen, she pointed to Tommy Hilfiger clothes on the front seat and a Children's Place shopping bag with aluminum foil wrapped on the inside to try and not set off store security sensors, with clothes stolen from Calvin Klein. Also in the back seat was a pry tool to remove security sensors and another tool used to defeat sensors.



Below are the items recovered stolen from Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein:

Items Stolen from Tommy Hilfiger

1. Tommy Hilfiger red pants, sku #6389500071, \$14.99
2. Tommy Hilfiger blue jeans, sku# 631620673901, \$34.99
3. Tommy Hilfiger blue jeans, sku# 631620713775, \$34.99
4. Tommy Hilfiger blue jeans, sku# 631620785307, \$39.99
5. Tommy Hilfiger grey hoodie, sku# 638950393547, \$44.99
6. Tommy Hilfiger grey sweat pants, sku# 638950324169, \$36.99
7. Tommy Hilfiger pink shirt, sku# 638950337237, \$22.99
8. Tommy Hilfiger pink pants, sku# 638950799424, \$16.99
9. Tommy Hilfiger red polo, sku# 631620743109, \$22.50
10. Tommy Hilfiger blue polo, sku# 638950500280, \$22.50
11. Tommy Hilfiger white t-shirt, sku# 631620904012, \$14.99
12. Tommy Hilfiger red t-shirt, sku# 638950865754, \$16.99
13. Tommy Hilfiger white t-shirt, sku# 631620710033, \$24.99

Items Stolen from Calvin Klein

14. Calvin Klein black hat, sku# 751197618676, \$34.50
15. Calvin Klein white t-shirt, sku# 683801107323, \$29.50
16. Calvin Klein white t-shirt, sku# 683801107354, \$29.50
17. Calvin Klein white t-shirt, sku# 749194716501, \$39.50
18. Calvin Klein white t-shirt, sku# 749194716501, \$39.50
19. Calvin Klein white t-shirt, sku# 749194716532, \$39.50
20. Calvin Klein black jeans, sku# 683801022732, \$79.50
21. Calvin Klein black t-shirt, sku# 683801454601, \$49.50
22. Calvin Klein red t-shirt, sku# 683801107897, \$29.50
23. Calvin Klein black leggings, sku# 193623705442, \$59.00, sensor attached

- 24. Calvin Klein black leggings, sku# 193623705442, \$59.00, sensor attached
- 25. Calvin Klein white tank top, sku# 683801664383, \$39.50
- 26. Calvin Klein white tank top, sku# 683801664383, \$39.50
- 27. Calvin Klein blue t-shirt, sku# 887345709481, \$59.50
- 28. Calvin Klein grey t-shirt, sku# 749194849018, \$59.50
- 29. Calvin Klein white t-shirt, sku# 749194720720, \$59.50
- 30. Calvin Klein white t-shirt, sku# 683801557371, \$39.50
- 31. Calvin Klein black polo, sku# 011528356708, \$69.50
- 32. Calvin Klein white polo, sku# 638950612822, \$65.00
- 33. Calvin Klein grey flip flop, \$39.50
- 34. Calvin Klein black flip flop, \$39.50

Total \$1347.89

Security video at Calvin Klein showed the second suspect wearing all black and clearly pregnant placing items in the Children's Place bag being held by King.

Police attempted to arrest the second suspect several times, finally a call to her mother got her to call the police and say she would not turn herself in as she was pregnant with twins.

A Chesterfield arrest warrant for stealing was issued and she was eventually arrested by the St. Louis City Police. She was picked up by Chesterfield Officers and driven to the police station where she denied stealing anything and in fact said she bought two items at Calvin Kleins.

Her name has been redacted in the 31-page police report indicating charges were dropped or she pled guilty and a probation term was over.



Shamell King

02/29/24 Driving While Revoked, No Veh Ins FTA Warrant MO Hwy Patrol
 05/24/23 Disobeyed Stop Sign \$150 fine, Drive W/ Revoked St. Louis City PD
 \$207 fine
 07/30/19 2-cts Felony Stealing, Poss of Theft Devices Chesterfield PD
 05/25/19 Driving W/Revoked \$150 fine, No Veh Ins \$225 fine St. Louis City PD
 02/14/15 Driving While Revoked, Fail to Signal 2-days jail MO Hwy Patrol

OUTCOME: The Felony Stealing charge was sent back to Chesterfield Municipal Court after King’s attorney requested a jury trial. On 09/01/22, three years and 2-months after the offense, King and her lawyer appeared in Chesterfield Court and pled guilty to a reduced charge from Stealing to a Health Code Violation and was fined \$175. This is another example of Chesterfield City Prosecuting Tim Engelmeyer looking after the welfare of defense attorneys instead of revenue producing retail stores and the general public safety of Chesterfield.

DRIVER SPEEDING AND LANE WEAVING AT 2:45 IN THE AFTERNOON FOUND TO BE VERY DRUNK:

It was 2:45 in the afternoon on Monday January 27, 2020 when Chesterfield Police Officer Branden Steber was westbound on the North 40 Outer Road (a service road for I-64) when he saw a car on west I-64 clearly speeding passing other vehicles

Officer Steber was able to get a radar reading of the dark blue Acura doing 75 in the 60 mph zone. As Officer Steber approached Chesterfield Parkway West, the speeding car exited onto Chesterfield Parkway. Officer Steber followed the Acura and saw that it was now lane weaving. He stopped the car on Chesterfield Parkway and Schoettler Valley Road and contacted the driver, Christopher Krueger, 34. It didn’t take long for Officer Steber to tell that Krueger was very drunk. This is from the police 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WATERY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLOODSHOT <input type="checkbox"/> GLASSY <input type="checkbox"/> STARING <input type="checkbox"/> ARTIFICIAL EYE
PUPILS	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> FALLING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
SPEECH	<input checked="" 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: <i>Sweater, Khaki Pants, Dress Shoes.</i> SOILED BY: <i>N/A</i>
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"/> OTHER:

Officer Steber asked Krueger if he had anything to drink and Krueger denied having any alcohol, despite there being three empty travel size peach flavored Vodka bottles on the floor of the car.



Officer Steber asked Krueger if he was a honest person and Krueger said he was. Officer Steber again asked if he had anything to drink. Krueger replied “Not today, but a lot last night.”

Krueger took field sobriety tests which he failed. He agreed to take an “unofficial” field breath test that showed his BAC level to be .205%.

He was arrested for traffic charges including driving while revoked and DWI. At the police station Krueger appeared to fall asleep at one point. He later refused to take an “official” breath test saying FUCK NO.” Officer Steber then did something you don’t see often. He called the County Prosecutor’s Officer and then made telephone contact with a County Assoc Circuit Judge and obtained a warrant to obtain a blood sample from Krueger at St. Luke’s Hospital to later be tested for BAC.

Krueger’s lawyer came to the police station and spoke with Krueger.

Officer Steber had the emailed signed search warrant to draw blood and took Krueger to the hospital where the blood draw was done.

Krueger was then taken back to the police station where he was issued citations for Speeding, Driving While Revoked, Improper Lane Us and No Proof of Veh Insurance. He was release on the DWI charge pending the Highway Patrol lab results on the blood. (Most officers simply make the DWI case on their observations.)

The blood draw was done 4-hours after Krueger was stopped by Officer Steber. The blood test showed he was still twice the legal limit at .162% BAC.

Krueger had prior DWIs and was charged with a Felony Persistent DWI.



Christopher Krueger



Krueger's eyes

June 2021 DWI, Refused Breath Test	St. Louis Co
01/27/20 DWI, Driving Revoked, Speeding, Imp Lane Use, No Proof of Veh Insurance (Refused breath test)	Chesterfield PD
04/10/19 DWI SES Probation	St. Louis Co PD

OUTCOME: The Felony DWI was reduced to a misdemeanor in State Court. On 07/06/22 (a year and half after his arrest) Krueger pled guilty and was placed on a 2-year SES probation term. On March 18, 2021 was in Chesterfield Court where his moving violations were reduced to 2-Parking Violations \$150 fine each and the Driving Revoked reduced to No Operators' License \$191 fine. Once again, the Chesterfield Municipal Court shows it takes care of defense attorneys first, police officers and the public's safety second.

POLICE WAITING AT DOORS FOR SHOPLIFTER TO LEAVE WALMART

On Saturday May 9, 2020 at around 2:30pm Security Agents at the Chesterfield Valley Walmart Store were watching a woman push shopping cart in the non-food area of the store and put items in a large handbag instead of the cart. She then went to the grocery section and placed food items in the cart.

Security called officers of the Chesterfield Police Special Enforcement Unit. At about 2:45 the suspect was at a grocery self-checkout register and scanned paying for only the grocery items.

Two police officers had arrived and were by the grocery doors waiting for her to exit the store with the stolen items.



Sarah J. Krippelcz, 40 from Marthasville, exited the store and was arrested. A search of the handbag showed the following items:

- 1) Rock Soap, 081000181035, \$1.00
- 2) Towsmart 5/8 Lock, 084927807278, \$19.87
- 3) Towsmart Dogbone Lock, 084927807279, \$19.77
- 4) Corset Shorts, 078665896068, \$9.50
- 5) Turtle Wax Interior Cleaner, 007466010440, \$4.47

This makes for 5 total items with a value of \$54.61.

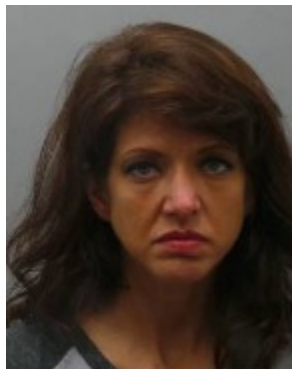
Krippelcz admitted the theft and told officers a friend told her to return the stolen items at the service desk for a cash refund even without a receipt.

Due to the COVID pandemic a supervisor instructed the officers to issue Krippelcz a summons rather than put her in a squad car and have her in the police station for a minor theft.

Krippelcz failed to appear in court to pay a fine of \$355 she had after pleading guilty on May 12, 2021.

On September 20, 2021 Krippelcz was arrested by Des Peres Officers on the warrant, however a Chesterfield supervisor this time had an officer issue her a new court date and have Des Peres officers release her. She paid the \$350 fine on October 1, 2021.

Sarah J. Krippelcz



12/21/21	Moving Vio reduced to Parking Vio \$139 fine	St. Louis Co PD
12/12/21	Moving Vio reduced to Parking Vio \$89 fine	St. Louis Co PD
08/09/21	Felony Drug Possession PG 6/7/24 7-yrs prison	Warren Co SO
05/09/21	Speeding 16-19 over limit \$100 fine	MO Hwy Patrol
09/12/20	Drug Possession	St. Louis Co
05/09/20	Stealing (released on summons) \$350 fine	Chesterfield PD
04/27/20	Moving Vio reduced to Parking Vio \$66 fine	Town & Country PD
	Moving Vio reduced to Parking Vio \$191 fine	
10/02/18	Moving Vio reduced to Parking Vio \$150 fine, Unreg Vehicle \$20 fine	MO Hwy Patrol
05/10/18	Felony Drug Possession SES Probation	Maryland Heights PD
08/06/16	Stealing \$150 fine	Washington PD
05/12/14	Felony DWI Probation revoked 3-yrs prison	Union PD

YOUTHS ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL AND STEALING TRAFFIC CONES AT CHESTERFIELD MALL. (I normally will not post a story involving a teenager being charged if he has no other charges after the arrest. That was not the case here.)

Officer Todd Lantz was working the overnight shift on Thursday into Friday May 29, 2020 and driving around the Chesterfield Mall property at 3:15AM when he noticed a car with its light on parked in front of the vacant Sears store. As he drove toward the car a group of teenagers ran to the car, jumped in as the car was driven away at a high speed.



He stopped the car on the empty parking lot and found four occupants, they all claimed they were juveniles. This was only 75% true as the driver as 18-year-old **Josiah Kozlowski** of St. Charles.

When asked what they were doing, Kozlowski said they were laying outside watching stars. Officer Lantz pointed out that it was overcast with clouds and no stars were visible.



Officer Todd Lantz

The vehicle the four were in was a hatchback. Officer Lantz and two assisting officers observed liquor bottles (Tequila and Vodka) plus a number of beer cans both empty and full. In plain view in the hatch area where five traffic cones valued at \$500 dollars taken from the Mall property were also located.

Kozlowski took a field breath test that showed he had not been drinking. The juveniles were referred to Juvenile Court. Kozlowski was issued citations for Stealing, Minor in Possession of Alcohol Beverages and Littering.

Kozlowski's court record:

03/03/24	Stealing \$218 fine	St. Peters PD
10/22/23	Moving Vio reduced to Parking Vio \$191 fine	Kirkwood PD
10/03/23	Charge reduced to Misc Ord Violation \$291 fine	O'Fallon MO PD

02/19/21 Display Unlawful Lic Plates \$50 fine
05/29/20 Stealing, Minor in Poss of Liq, Littering

St. Louis Co PD
Chesterfield PD

OUTCOME: On 04/29/21 Josiah Kozlowski with a defense attorney had Chesterfield City Prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer reduce the Stealing and Poss of Liquor charges to Health Code Violations with \$200 fines each. The Littering was not reduced and there was a \$20 fine.

DRUNK DRIVER CRASHED CAR IN FRONT OF BP GAS STATION, THEN ADMITS HAVING BEEN DRINKING BUT DENIES DRIVING HIS CAR: On Saturday night June 13, 2020 at 9:03PM Chesterfield Police Officer Ovca was dispatched to a single car crash in front of the BP Gas Station mini-mart on Convenience Way Drive in Chesterfield Valley off of Chesterfield Airport Road and Olive near the Outlet Mall.



On Officer Ovca's arrival he found the owner of the crashed car sitting on the sidewalk of the BP Gas Station/Mini-Mart. He was identified as Paul M Kuhlmann, 42 of South County. The crashed car was a Buick belonging to Kuhlmann plus Kuhlmann had the keys to the car in his right front pocket.



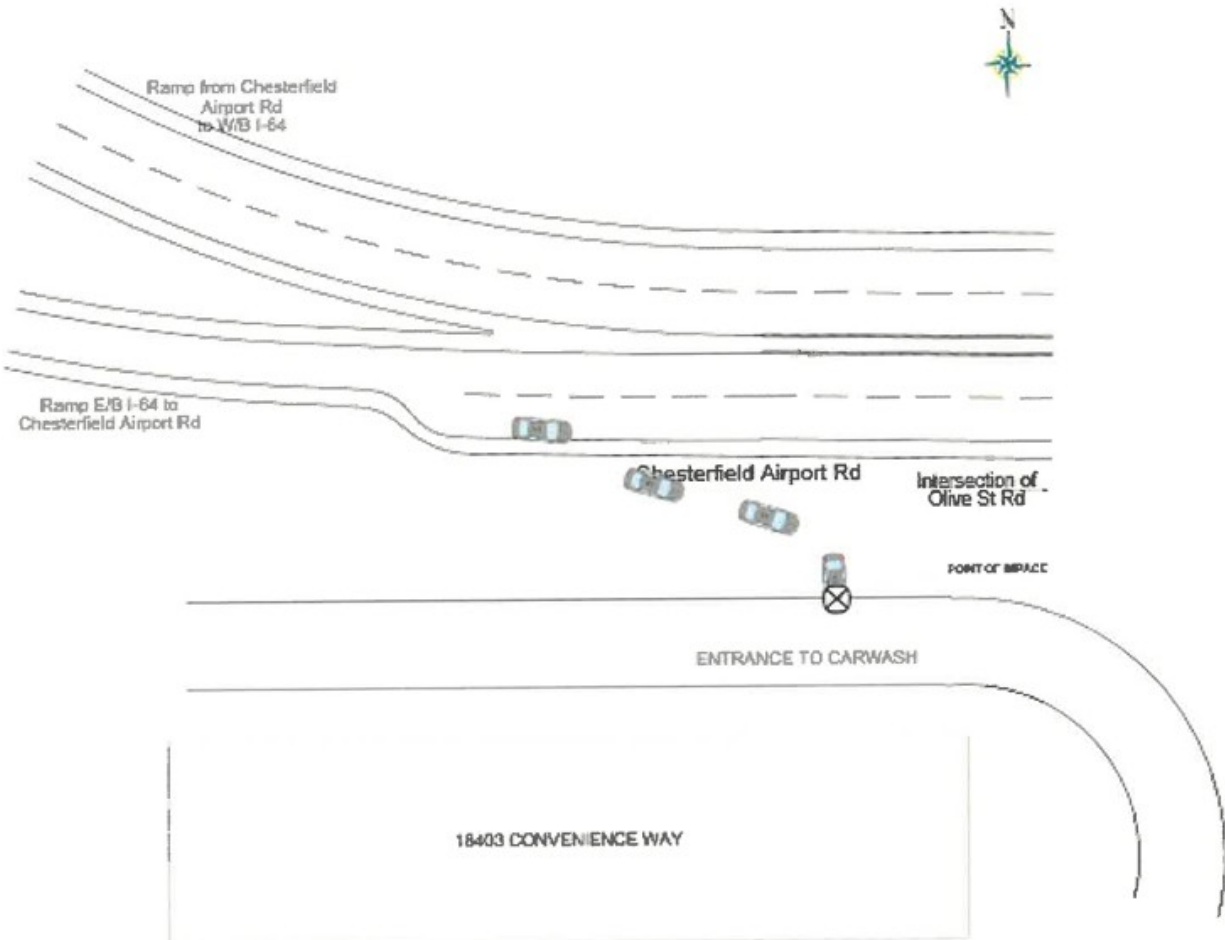
Officer Ovca (now Sgt Ovca)

Officer Ovca could easily tell that Kuhlmann had been drinking. He asked Kuhlmann how much he had to drink and got this answer:

“No I wasn't drinking...well I was but I wasn't driving.”

He was told there was a witness that saw him driving and store video also putting him behind the wheel. His reply was, "I don't care. I wasn't driving." The witness put only Kuhlmann in the car. He did not say who "was driving." This was his condition from the police 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 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 type="checkbox"/> STAGGERING <input type="checkbox"/> STUMBLING <input type="checkbox"/> FALLING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
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"/> OTHER:
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	DESCRIBE: <i>T-shirt, Gym shorts / Flip Flops</i> SOILED BY:
UNUSUAL ACTIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> PROFANITY <input type="checkbox"/> HICCUPS <input type="checkbox"/> BELCHING <input type="checkbox"/> VOMITING <input type="checkbox"/> FIGHTING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
ATTITUDE	DESCRIBE: <i>Angry</i>



My investigation revealed the following: V1 was traveling eastbound on Chesterfield Airport Road, approaching Olive Street Road, when it veered right and traveled off the roadway. V1 went down an embankment, up an embankment, and struck a curb.

Kuhlmann refused to take any field sobriety tests or field and police station breath tests. He also refused to be interviewed.

Kuhlmann could not produce any proof of insurance for the car. Officer Ovca also determined his drivers' license was revoked.

He was arrested for Felony DWI (prior DWIs), Improper Lane Use, No Proof of Insurance and Driving While Revoked.



Paul M. Kuhlmann



Kuhlmann's eyes

06/13/20	Fel DWI, Imp Lane Use, Drive Revoked No Veh Ins	Chesterfield PD
11/27/15	Felony Domestic Assault 4-years prison	Wentzville PD
04/04/15	Domestic Assault 30-days jail	Wentzville PD
10/23/13	Driving While Revoked, Resisting Arrest 6-mos jail	MO Hwy Patrol
07/22/12	Fel DWI SES Probation, Drive/Revoked 6-mos jail	Wentzville PD
03/20/11	Fel Domestic Assault Probation revoked 5-yrs prison	O'Fallon MO PD
01/10/11	Domestic Assault, Resisting Arrest 90-days jail	O'Fallon MO PD
08/01/07	Leaving Scene, Driving While Rev 120-days jail	Columbia PD
05/24/05	3 rd Degree Assault 251-days jail	O'Fallon MO PD
01/30/03	Domestic Assault Probation Revoked 1-year jail	O'Fallon MO PD
10/21/02	Moving Vio reduced to Loud Muffler \$150 fine	MO Hwy Patrol
05/13/02	Leaving the Scene of Acc (Crash)	St. Chales Co
01/16/02	Felony DWI Probation Revoked 3-years prison	O'Fallon MO PD

12/01/99 Fraud 3-years prison
11/07/99 Property Damage 85-days jail
08/15/98 Misd DWI 5-days jail

St. Joseph MO
St. Josphe PD
MO Hwy Patrol

OUTCOME On 06/07/23 Kuhlmann was in Chesterfield Court and had two of his moving violations reduced by City Prosecutor Tim Engelmeyer to \$100 parking violations despite all of his felony traffic and criminal charges. How does a city prosecutor ignore a record like Kuhlman' and reduce charges to parking tickets? On 06/08/21 Kuhlmann pled guilty to the Felony DWI while he was in prison on an assault charge. There now is no longer any record of the Felony DWI connected to the Chesterfield arrest.

NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT In this case on February 9, 2021 at 6pm Tanya Kuda, 33-years-old from Florissant was at the Chesterfield Valley Walmart. It appeared as if she was shopping. She had a shopping cart full of times when she went to the self-checkout.

There she scanned everything in her cart into the self-payment register. Most thieves scan cheaper items but steal most expensive merchandise.

In the case of Kuda after scanning ringing up \$666.74 worth of merchandise she pushed her shopping cart outside only to be stopped by store security, then running to a car operated by her boyfriend.

Chesterfield Police were responding to the call made by store security officers and Officer Pousson stopped the car leaving the parking lot and arrested Kuda. Here are the items being stolen by Kuda.

GRIDDLE; SKU# 005389113813; \$39.92

AQUAFINA; SKU# 001200000159; \$1.78
MARJORIE 59; SKU# 002992744516; \$4.97; QUANTITY-2
DOOR FRINGE; SKU# 087267105224; \$0.10
NS 12PC SET; SKU# 084897421200; \$97.00
MS BAR FOOT; SKU# 007352719172; \$23.24
NINJA BLNDR; SKU# 062235655821; \$119.00
DW2350U1 ST; SKU# 001450116534; \$39.00
TOASTER; SKU# 489707455196; \$39.92
BD HAND VAC; SKU# 088591146504; \$59.00
12V LITH VAC; SKU# 088591154002; \$39.88
PRESS COOK; SKU# 085308400408; \$79.00
HB CHOPPER; SKU# 004009472603; \$19.96
IB-6L AIRFRY; SKU# 085756100863; 99.00
TOTAL- \$666.74

At the Police Station Kuda agreed to be interviewed. She confessed stealing the cartload of items adding she had just planned to steal some but decided to steal all of them after a Walmart employee was "rude" to her.

Kuda said she recently lost her job and was stealing from various stores and then selling the stolen goods. Kuda did not learn a lesson about stealing as she was arrested for Felony Stealing a month after the WalMart caper in Brentwood and on Christmas Day in St. Louis County.



Tanya Lee Kuda

04/16/23 Stealing (failed to pay hotel bill)
12/25/22 Stealing FTA Warrant

Chesterfield PD
St. Louis Co PD

06/19/22	Illegal Lic Plates, No Veh Inspection FTA Warrant	St. Louis City PD
03/19/21	Fel Stealing reduced to Misd Stealing SIS Prob	Brentwood PD
02/09/21	Stealing	Chesterfield PD
03/26/15	Speeding 11-15 over \$100 fine	Pine Lawn PD
11/12/08	Unregistered Vehicle \$25 fine	MO Hwy Patrol

OUTCOME: Kuda failed to appear in Chesterfield Court twice with FTA Warrants issued. On 10/17/23 she managed to show up to Chesterfield City Court and pled guilty to stealing. She was not represented by a lawyer, so there was no reduced charge from Prosecutor Tim Englemeyer. She was fine \$300.

A NIKE STORE EMPLOYEE EATING A HOT DOG HELPS POLICE CATCH MAN WHO JUST STOLE SHOES FROM 3 STORES. On Tuesday May 25, 2021, an employee at the Nike Store at the Premium Mall in Chesterfield Valley, left the store to buy a hotdog for lunch at a hotdog stand. When leaving the store, she noticed a male walk into the store wearing only socks.

A short time later she observed him exit the Nike store wearing new shoes causing her to yell at him, if those were his shoes. He ignored her and walked away.



Once she got her hotdog, she walked toward the Adidas store where low and behold she saw him walking into that store just in his socks with no shoes. She also saw him walk out in a pair of new shoes with the price tag still attached.



By now she was sure he was stealing and called Mall Security who called the Chesterfield Police. The Nike investigating witness followed the suspect to parking lot.

Her car was parked near his and she got into her car pulled behind his Ford Focus and acted like she was lost, hoping to slow him down until the police arrived.

Officer Trevor McBride arrived and stopped the suspect, **Robert John Lacroix**, 33, from St. Louis.



Officer McBride

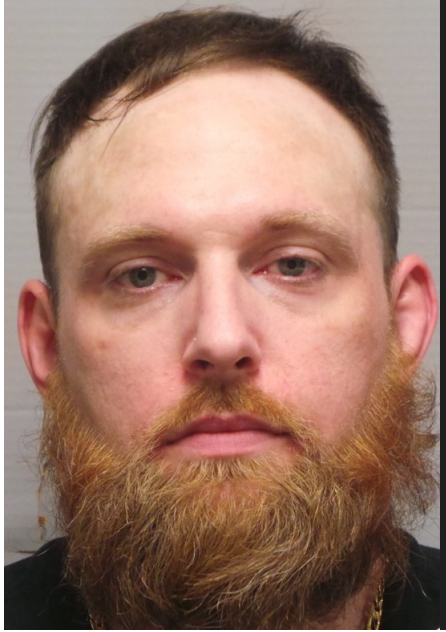
Officer McBride could see in plain view in the car a number of new shoes. He arrested Lacroix and then began to seize the shoes and found two pairs from Nike, a pair from Adidas and another new pair from Reebok.



1. Nike LeBron value \$200.00
2. Nike Trainers value \$54.00
3. Adidas Fluid Flow value \$80.00
4. Reebok Legacy value \$130.00

Total recovery is \$464.00.

Lacroix at first denied stealing anything, saying all the shoes were being brought to obtain a refund. He was then taken into the Nike store where the manager said he had the whole theft on video. At that point Lacroix decided to confess.



Robert John Lacroix

01/29/22	Stealing FTA Warrant	Wright City PD
05/25/21	3cts Stealing	Chesterfield PD
01/28/20	Stealing	Chesterfield PD
04/17/14	3-counts Felony Distribute or Deliver Illegal Drugs SES probation in lieu 7-years prison	St. Charles Co So
11/25/09	Moving Vio reduced to Loud Muffler \$100 fine Unregistered Vehicle \$35 fine	St. Charles City PD
11/17/08	Moving Vio reduced to Parking Vio \$450 fine	St. Charles Co SO
04/18/07	Moving Vio reduced to Loud Muffler \$250 fine	MO Hwy Patrol

With police departments having trouble recruiting new officers Chesterfield or some other department should consider recruiting for the police academy a certain female clerk at the Nike store.

OUTCOME: On October 26, 2021 Lacroix pled guilty to the single Stealing charge and was fine \$300 by the Chesterfield Municipal Judge.