

FILED
10-24-2024
Anna Maria Hodges
Clerk of Circuit Court
2024CF005051
Honorable Jack L. Davila-
01
Branch 1

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Plaintiff,

DA Case No.: 2024ML023906
Court Case No.:

vs.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

MEHLER, PETER J
3219 NORTH 52ND STREET
MILWAUKEE, WI 53216
DOB: 05/30/1951

MEHLER, ZECHARIAH L
3290 NORTH 50TH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WI 53216
DOB: 10/29/1982

Defendant(s).

For Official Use

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

Count 1: CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY (REDUCED IN VALUE BY MORE THAN \$2,500) - PTAC, AS A PARTY TO A CRIME (As to defendants Peter J Mehler and Zechariah L Mehler)

The above-named defendants on or about Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 2901 North Holton Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, as a party to a crime, did intentionally cause damage to the physical property of IMA, without that person's consent, whereby said property was reduced in value by more than \$2,500, contrary to sec. 943.01(2)(d), 939.50(3)(i), 939.05 Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

Probable Cause:

Your complainant is an officer with the Milwaukee Police Department and his/her information is based upon the reports of Officer Mark Mielcarek. Your complainant has relied upon those records and files in the past and has found them to be truthful and reliable.

On Sunday, September 15, 2024, Milwaukee Police Officers were dispatched to 2901 North Holton St., City and County of Milwaukee, for a damage to property complaint. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, IMA, who stated he is the owner of the building. IMA had put a large mural on the south facing side of the building that was now damaged.

Officers reviewed surveillance video that captured the following on September 14, 2024:

- 9:38:36pm – defendant Zechariah Mehler walks towards the mural and raises his arms up to the camera with “double middle fingers” and states “fuck you.”
- 9:39:19 – defendant Peter Mehler states “it’s hate speech” while he was looking up at the mural
- 9:39:21 – Zechariah states, “it’s insightful hate speech.”
- 9:41:25 – Zechariah enters view, walks towards the mural, points up to the camera with the “middle finger” while holding an ax with a yellow handle. Zechariah swings the ax and strikes the mural.

- 9:46:23 – Peter uses the ax and starts striking the wood frame of the mural
- 9:46:56 – Zechariah strikes the mural with a sledge hammer
- 9:49:02 – Zechariah uses a hammer and pries off a panel from the mural
- 9:55:02 – Peter pries part of the wood frame off of the building using an ax
- 10:00:00 – four panels are removed and wood frame is broken off the building

On Sunday, September 15, 2024, Zechariah returned to the mural and the surveillance depicted following:

- 2:14:46 – Zechariah takes a pry bar and pries the last two remaining metal panels off of the mural and states, “I didn’t get the job done yesterday, so I might as well get it done today.”
- 2:18:02 – the final two panels are off the mural

Both defendants were identified by officers by their DOT photographs.

The mural was completely destroyed. IMA paid an artist \$6,000, with another \$6000 owed, to paint the mural and spent an addition \$300 on equipment and supplies. IMA did not give consent to destroy the mural.

****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 Brittany Kachingwe.
ADA Assigned Email Address: Brittany.Kachingwe@da.wi.gov

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 10/22/24

Electronically Signed By:

Brittany Kachingwe

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1096649

Electronically Signed By:

Det Edmund Fitting

Complainant