

FILED
11-18-2024
Anna Maria Hodges
Clerk of Circuit Court
2024CF005434
Honorable Michelle A.
Havas-10
Branch 10

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Plaintiff,

DA Case No.: 2024ML028769
Court Case No.:

vs.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

LAWRENCE, LARON BERNETT
639 WEST MEINECKE AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WI 53212
DOB: 09/19/1983

Defendant(s).

For Official Use

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

Count 1: KNOWINGLY OPERATE MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT A VALID LICENSE - CAUSE DEATH

The above-named defendant on or about Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6951 North 60th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, did operate a motor vehicle on a highway knowing that he did not possess a valid operator's license, and in the course of the violation, caused the death of another person, AB, contrary to sec. 343.05(3)(a) and (5)(b)5, 939.50(3)(h) Wis. Stats.

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

And furthermore, invoking the provisions of Wisconsin Statute 343.30(1d), the court shall revoke the defendant's operating privileges upon conviction. The revocation shall be for a period of six (6) months, unless the court orders a period of revocation of less than 6 months and places its reasons for ordering the lesser period of revocation on the record.

Probable Cause:

I am a City of Milwaukee law enforcement officer and base this complaint on my own investigation and on the reports of fellow officers.

On November 13, 2024, at about 12:25 PM, police were sent to an accident in the 6900 block of N. 60th St., City of Milwaukee. Upon arrival they found a two-year-old child, AB, lying in the roadway after being struck by a truck. AB was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

AB's body was transported to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner. Dr. Joseph Calderaro, an assistant medical examiner, performed an autopsy. He found multiple blunt force injuries to AB's body, including hemorrhages within the cervical and thoracic spine, several broken ribs, a lacerated spleen and liver, and contusions to the lung and heart. AB had no significant natural diseases.

Civilian eyewitnesses told police that they saw a GMC Yukon traveling southbound on 60th Street when AB suddenly appeared in the roadway in front of the Yukon. The Yukon braked and swerved but appeared unable to avoid striking AB. The Yukon stopped after the accident and remained on scene.

Investigating officers determined that AB lived in an apartment in the area. The window to the apartment had been left open, and AB had climbed out and wandered unsupervised into the roadway.

Police on scene spoke to the defendant, who admitted being the driver of the Yukon. He admitted that he did not have a driver's license. He admitted the same things in a later interview with Detective Christopher Schlacter. He said that he was on his way back to work when AB darted out in front of him and he was unable to avoid hitting him, in spite of the efforts he made.

A record maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation shows that the defendant does not have a valid license. He had a learner's permit in 2014 which expired in 2015. He never followed through to get a license. He was cited for Operating After Suspension for incidents in 2020 and 2021.

****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 Michael J. Lonski.
ADA Assigned Email Address: michael.lonski@da.wi.gov

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 11/17/24

Electronically Signed By:

Michael J. Lonski

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1007134

Electronically Signed By:

Officer William Hanney

Complainant