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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

After six (6) months of extensive investigation involving a collaborative effort between the Brown County Sheriff's Office and the Brown County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, a charge of Institutional Criminal Mischief as a Class 'A' Misdemeanor has been filed in the St. David's Episcopal Church vandalism matter. The Brown County Prosecutor's Office has charged George Nathaniel Stang, 26, a Bloomington resident, with institutional criminal mischief. Stang is also the individual who first claimed to have discovered the vandalism at the church and is employed by St. David's Episcopal Church as the church organist. Stang admitted to vandalizing St. David's Episcopal Church after having purchased black spray paint at Bloomington Hardware. Stang stated that he wanted to mobilize a movement after being disappointed in and fearful of the outcome of the national election. Stang denied that his actions were motivated by any anti-Christian or anti-gay motivations. The Brown County Prosecutor's Office believes that, although this incident targeted one of our county's churches and thrust our community in a negative light on a national stage, this was not a hate crime. Based upon the recent evidence during our extensive investigation, it is our belief that our community's churches along with our LGBT community are collectively safe.

This incident has been a blight on our small and diverse community, and I am proud of the hard work put forth by the Brown County Sheriff's Office, especially Detective Brian Shrader and Sheriff Scott Southerland. It was truly a team effort involving many nights away from each of our families. The Brown County Prosecutor's Office would like to remind the public that the arrest and the charge is merely an accusation, and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The investigation remains open and ongoing. The Brown County Prosecutor's Office and the Brown County Sheriff's Office both extend our collective sympathies to those impacted by this incident, including St. David's Episcopal Church, and can certainly confirm for the public that this case was passionately pursued to ensure the safety of all citizens, regardless of race, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.

An arrest warrant has been issued for George Nathaniel Stang, and Brown County deputies are en route to serve this warrant. The case will be filed in the Brown County Circuit Court. Stang will have a bond and the Brown County Circuit Court will set his matter for an initial hearing at a later date depending upon whether Stang posts a bond or not.

Respectfully,


Theodore F. Adams

Brown County Prosecuting Attorney

*****DISCLOSURE:** You may be receiving this press release because of media coverage your media outlet provided during the original incident; the Brown County Prosecutor's Office wishes to provide as much information as possible on this matter for the benefit of your subscriber. It is our effort to alleviate any safety concerns and to allow an opportunity for the entire truth to be consumed by your subscriber. We trust that the pursuit of said goals reaches the point of an obligation and is worthy of publication in your media.***

COPY

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF BROWN)
STATE OF INDIANA)
v.)
GEORGE NATHANIEL STANG)

IN THE BROWN CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO. 07C01-1705-CM-000 252

FILED
NOV 03 2017
Brian D. Shrader
CLERK BROWN CIRCUIT COURT

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE

I, Brian Shrader, swear or affirm under penalties of perjury the following is true.

I am a Detective with the Brown County Sheriff's Department. On November 13, 2016 I was still working as a Deputy Sheriff assigned to road patrol duties. At 8:12 AM, 911 dispatchers received a call from Reverend Kelsey Hutto that her church, St. David's Episcopal Church, had been vandalized. I responded after dispatch alerted me of the call.

When I arrived, I initially walked the property and took photographs of the graffiti that had been spray-painted in black paint. On the north wall of the building was a spray-painted phrase "HEIL TRUMP." On the west side of the building there was a spray-painted swastika as well as the phrase "FAG CHURCH."

After reviewing the graffiti, Reverend Hutto arrived and spoke with me. She stated that her organist, George Nathaniel "Nathan" Stang, had called her and alerted her that the church had been spray-painted. She stated she was seeing it for the first time with me. Reverend Hutto stated to me that her church had been affected by the recent election results and informed me that the church was inclusive, including practicing gay marriages.

I initially thought it was possible that a disgruntled employee or church member may have vandalized the church. I asked Reverend Hutto if they had previously had any disgruntled members that had recently left; she informed me that was not the case.

The swastika and "HEIL TRUMP" were phrases I felt could be associated with some form of white supremacist movement. I could not think of any cases in Brown County where that kind of mentality or movement was prevalent and public. I believed the phrase "FAG CHURCH" was specific to that church. I did not feel that someone simply driving by would have the knowledge needed to be aware St. David's Episcopal Church both was open to and practiced gay marriages. Since I did not believe this incident was a crime of opportunity I believed it would be counterintuitive to automatically exclude the possibility that the crime had been committed by someone from within the church.

On November 15, 2017, law enforcement received approval via a prosecutor's subpoena to request a "tower dump" from AT&T for the cell phone tower located on Old Haggard Road.

This tower covered the area of St. David's Episcopal Church. The purpose of these records was to see who was in the area at what times, and to determine who was not in the area. We were attempting to develop feasible leads to determine any potential persons of interest or suspects.

The requested records were received from AT&T on November 28, 2016. A review of over 70,000 rows of data was conducted to see if any cell phone numbers associated with anyone identified in the investigation were present. A phone number for George Nathaniel Stang had previously been identified as being (772) 559-4389. I was aware that Stang lived in the City of Bloomington. When searching the records from AT&T, Stang's number was found to be active on the Brown County AT&T tower, using data, from 10:28 p.m. to 11:04 p.m. on November 12, 2016. Stang's number did not connect again to the AT&T tower until the next morning, Sunday, at 8:05 a.m. on November 13, 2016. This was at a time that I knew Stang was at the church when he initially discovered the vandalism.

On November 30, 2016, I applied for a search warrant for Stang's detailed cell phone records. This warrant was granted and the data was received approximately a week later. The records show that, at 10:12 p.m. on November 12, 2016, Stang was in the area of State Road 46 West leaving Bloomington and heading towards Nashville, Indiana. At 10:28 p.m., the records show Stang in the approximate area of the West Gate of the Brown County State Park. From 10:38 p.m. to 10:44 p.m., Stang's records show him being in the area of the St. David's Episcopal Church. The cell phone associated to Stang did not communicate with a tower again until being at the Monroe/Brown County Line on State Road 46 West heading back towards Bloomington at 11:04 p.m.

On February 23, 2017, I went to Stang's apartment along with Detective Paul Henderson. I interviewed Stang about the case. Stang stated that, during the week leading up to the graffiti, he had only been at the church on Monday or Tuesday (November 7-8, 2016). He also stated he was possibly in Brown County at the Pine Room on Thursday (November 10, 2016) of that week, but he had not been to the church. I asked specifically if he had been to the church on Friday (November 11th) or Saturday (November 12th). Stang denied being there at those days even though his cell phone clearly showed him being in that area on Saturday, November 12, 2016. George Nathaniel Stang was a suspect in the St. David's Episcopal Church vandalism.

From January 12, 2017 to April 6, 2017, eight (8) prosecutor subpoenas were requested in an attempt to get various banking information for Stang. On April 25, 2017, those records were finally acquired, focusing on potential vendors of spray paint in an effort to request potential surveillance video and to request copies of transactions and receipts.

On April 28, 2017, I went to Stang's residence to speak with him again. I videotaped and audio recorded the entire interview. I was wearing plain clothes and driving an unmarked vehicle. I asked Stang if he would not mind coming out of the rain and sitting in my vehicle. I informed Stang that he was not under arrest and he was free to leave at any time.

During the course of this interview, Stang admitted to spray-painting St. David's Episcopal Church. Stang stated that he purchased the spray paint at Bloomington Hardware just down the street from his residence. He believed he purchased it with cash. Stang, who is gay, stated he

felt scared and alone because of the election results. He also stated his parents were not very supportive of him because he was gay. He felt like he wanted to "mobilize a movement," but did not want to generate the amount of media attention that the incident had caused. Stang was adamant that he did not do it because he was anti-Christian; rather, that his intentions were strictly out of fear. My interview with Stang lasted approximately 38 minutes.

Prior to leaving, Stang asked about writing a letter or a statement to the prosecutor to better explain his actions. I offered him a written statement form. He asked for additional time to write the letter. I made arraignments to meet with him the following Monday, May 1, 2017. Stang got out of my vehicle on his own accord after our interview concluded and shook my hand.

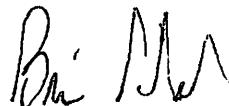
On April 30, 2017, Stang called my voicemail at the Sheriff's Department to ask additional questions. During that voicemail Stang again admitted his guilt and regret for having vandalized the church. He expressed fear of potential punishment for the incident.

On May 1, 2017, I again went to Stang's residence and met him to pick up the written statement. His statement consisted of three (3) pages. Stang also had additional questions about what was to come and expressed concerns about potential media attention.

I reviewed Stang's handwritten statement. His first two (2) sentences state, "I admit to having vandalized St. David's Episcopal Church, Bean Blossom. I regret what I did whole heartedly and offer this statement." Stang again described how this act was not of his character and that he was fearful due to the election results. Stang stated, "I suppose I wanted to give local people a reason to fight for good even if it was a false flag. I of course realize now that this was NOT the way to go about inspiring activism." Stang also stated, "To be clear my actions were not motivated by hate for the church or its congregation." Stang's statement contains several admissions of guilt. He also expressed guilt for investigators having spent six (6) months of time on this investigation when time could have been spent elsewhere.

Based on the evidence and statements collected, I believe probable cause exists to show that George Nathaniel Stang committed the crime of Criminal Mischief, a Class 'A' Misdemeanor.

All these events occurred in Brown County, Indiana, unless otherwise noted.



Detective Brian Shrader
Brown County Sheriff's Department