



NEWS RELEASE  
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
DAN PATTERSON

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09/10/2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STUDENT CHARGED IN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GUN INCIDENT

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Larvern Antonio Hale, 18, of Springfield, Missouri has been charged today with the two counts of unlawful use of a weapon, one count of delivery of a controlled substance and one count of resisting arrest. These charges stem from the September 5, 2014 incident at Central High School in which a gun in a student's backpack discharged when the backpack fell to the ground in the commons area. It is alleged in the complaint and probable cause statement that Hale brought the gun and marijuana into the school and then transferred the items to another student to avoid detection. It appears that as other students were attempting to remove the gun and marijuana from school premises a back pack containing the gun fell to the ground causing the accidental discharge of the handgun. The Springfield Police Department is still working to complete the investigation of this matter. Hale is in the Greene County Jail and bond has been set at \$100,000.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable cause statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jonathan Barker. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Matthew Farmer is the lead investigator assigned to the case.**



# SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



## FELONY PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 09/09/2014 Case #: 14-34680

I, M. Farmer 1055, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that LARVERN ANTONIO HALE, Black/Male, DOB 06/10/1996, committed one or more criminal offenses.
2. The following crime(s) happened on September 5, 2014 in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.
3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

I responded to Central High School, 423 E. Central in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, on 09-05-14 in reference to a gun that had discharged in the commons area of the school. I made contact with Springfield Public School (SPS) Officers in reference to the incident. During SPS Officers initial investigation three (3) students were identified as being involved in the case. The students identified were Skye Tanski, Denee Jackson and Chelsea Mahan.

SPS Officers had also received information on 09-04-14 from a concerned parent, identified as Maleia Ferguson, about Larvern Hale possibly having a gun at a school. Ferguson was friends with Hale on Facebook. Ferguson advised she had seen a photo on Hale's Facebook page on 09-04-14 that showed him taking a photo of himself. According to Ferguson, it appeared the photo was taken in a school bathroom so she reported the photo to school officials. In the photo Hale is seen holding a small caliber (believed to be a .22 or .25 caliber) silver semi-automatic handgun. When SPS Officers received the information on 09-04-2014 they attempted to contact Hale at Central High School but found he was not at school.

On 09-05-14 at approximately 0830 hours SPS Officers contacted Hale in the cafeteria of Central High School and escorted him to the security office. Hale was advised why he was being contacted by SPS Officers and searched for weapons. Hale was found not to be in possession of any weapons at that time and released.

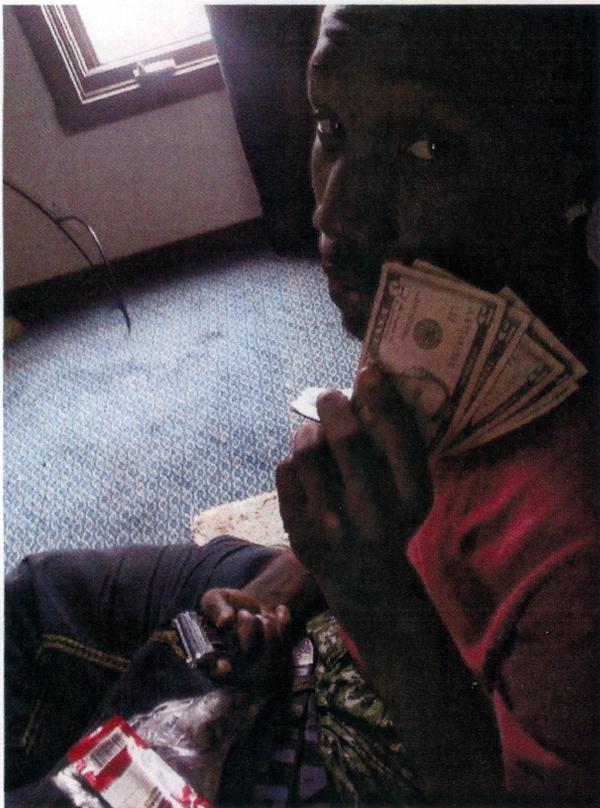
At approximately 1112 hours on 09-05-14 Central High School student Mahan received a backpack from Tanski in the commons area of the school. Mahan dropped the backpack and the handgun contained inside discharged.

The handgun found in the backpack was a Jennings Firearms .22 caliber semi-automatic, silver in color with wood-grain grips. The magazine of the handgun appeared to contain six (6) .22 bullets. The spent .22 caliber shell casing was found to still be lodged in the ejection port of the firearm. The handgun had been concealed in a long red sock while in the backpack.

Tanski and Jackson were interviewed separately at Police Headquarters in reference to the case. Tanski and Jackson both stated the handgun belonged to Hale. Jackson stated Hale had given her the handgun concealed in a sock and some marijuana to hold for him on the morning of 09-05-14 while they were in the cafeteria. Jackson stated that Hale put the gun (contained in a red sock) and the marijuana in her backpack. Tanski stated he learned Jackson had the handgun in her possession so he and a juvenile female went to Jackson's class room and retrieved Jackson's backpack containing the handgun from her during class. Tanski then transferred the handgun to his backpack. Tanski in turn gave his backpack, containing the handgun, to Mahan so she could take it to her vehicle between classes. Mahan attempted to place Tanski's backpack on her shoulder but the strap was broken and the backpack fell to the floor causing the handgun to discharge. Mahan denied knowing that there was a handgun in the backpack.

On 09-08-14 I contacted Maleia Ferguson for follow-up investigation. Ferguson told me when she found the photo of Hale with the handgun on his Facebook page she also found several other photos of him with handguns, possible automatic weapons and controlled substances. Ferguson had made screenshots of Hale's Facebook page with the photos of him brandishing the weapons and controlled substances and sent them to me via email.

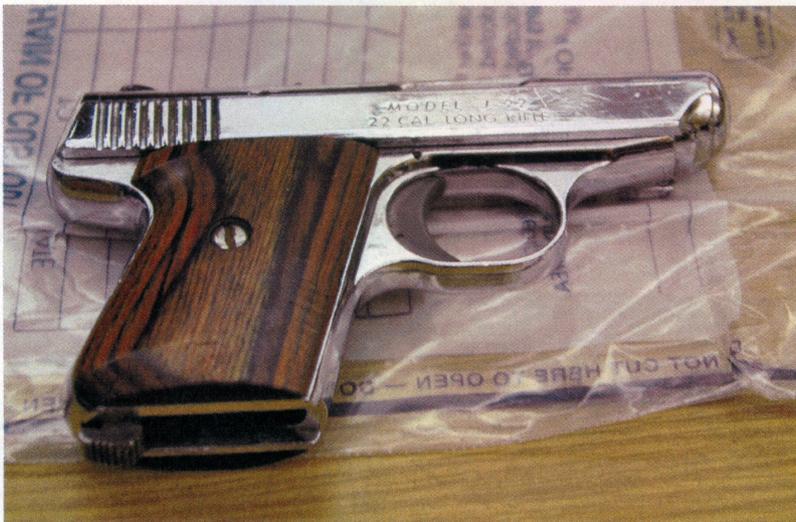
In one of the photos Ferguson sent me I observed Hale to be holding money in his left hand while holding a silver small caliber semi-automatic handgun in his right hand. The handgun Hale was holding was similar in appearance to the one recovered from Tanski's backpack. This photo appears below:



In another photo from Hale's Facebook page I observed a small caliber semi-automatic handgun silver in color with a wood-grain grip sitting next to six (6) baggies of what appeared to be marijuana. Again, the handgun in the photo appeared to possibly be the same handgun found to be in Tanski's backpack and reported to be Hale's. This photo appears below:



Below is a photograph of the handgun described above that was found in Tanski's backpack at Central High School on 9-05-14:



Since the incident occurred, I checked several addresses listed in police resources for Hale. 912 N. Main #3 was the last address Springfield Public Schools had for Hale for the 2014 school year.

On 09-08-14 I contacted the resident of 912 N. Main #3 who was identified as Tara Anderson. Anderson advised me Hale had some belongings at the apartment and stays there at times. Anderson allowed me to search the residence at that time, but I did not locate Hale.

On 09-09-14 I responded to 3109 N. Kellet in an attempt to contact Hale. I made contact with one of the residents of 3109 N. Kellet, identified as April Spencer. Spencer explained she was foster parent to Hale's three (3) brothers. Spencer told me she had seen Hale two (2) days prior and he appeared surprised and excited. Spencer stated Hale did not say much to her but had told his brothers he was possibly going to Texas.

At approximately 1515 hours on 09-09-14 I was responding to 912 N. Main #3 to check for Hale again. It should be noted I was in my department unmarked criminal investigation vehicle and I was dressed in slacks, dress shirt and tie.

I was at the intersection of Nichols and Main when I observed a male matching the description of Hale walking westbound on Nichols. I circled the block and drove northbound on Main. I observed the male walking southbound on the east side of Main. I radioed dispatch my location, stopped in front of 924 N. Main and exited my vehicle. I asked the male if I could speak with him. I observed the male look toward my waist where I had badge and duty weapon secured on my belt in plain-view. The male immediately ran east down the alley north of 924 N. Main. I notified dispatch of the direction of travel, the description of the male and charges I had on Hale. I observed the male scale the fence of 501 W. Central (Bailey Alternative School). I ordered the male to stop, which he did not comply with. The male then scaled the same fence and ran back westbound towards 912 N. Main. I lost sight of the male near the back yard of 924 N. Main.

A perimeter was set up by patrol officers that were arriving in the area. I was advised by A/Sgt. Crum (DSN 907) he was at the intersection of Central and Main when I called out the suspect was running from me. A/Sgt. Crum stated no one crossed Main running westbound while he was at the intersection.

924 N. Main was found to be secured and no signs of forced entry to the vacant building.

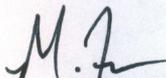
Landlord of 912 N. Main, identified as John Anderson, was contacted and responded to the address. Anderson provided officers with a key to the vacant apartment #4 so it could be searched. The male was not found inside apartment #4. Apartments #1 and #2 were also searched and the male was not found inside. Officers knocked on the door of apartment #3 but did not receive an answer.

After several hours, Hale exited apartment #3 and was taken into custody and brought to Police Headquarters where I interviewed him. Post-Miranda, I asked Hale why he ran from me. Hale stated "man I'm not ready for this right now, I ain't got a chance to see my little brothers". Hale admitted that when he was confronted by SPS Officers at Central the morning of 09-05-14, they told him they were contacting him because of a Facebook photo of him with a handgun. During the

interview Hale denied taking marijuana or a handgun into Central High School. Hale denied giving a handgun or marijuana to Jackson while at school. Hale did, however, admit to possessing the silver handgun pictured in the above Facebook photos and admitted to posting the photographs on his Facebook page. Hale stated "they" tried to sell him the handgun but he did not want it. I confronted Hale about his DNA being on the handgun, and he admitted it would be on the handgun. Hale could not explain, however, how the handgun got into Tanski's backpack. Hale went on to say that "Chelsey" tried to sell him the handgun outside of school. Hale continued to deny bringing the handgun to Central High School.

Hale gave me written consent to search 912 N. Main #3 due to him staying there with Anderson. I also obtain verbal consent from Anderson when I responded back out to 912 N. Main #3. In the apartment I located a set of digital scales and a small amount of marijuana. Hale's clothes were located in a cupboard in the hallway of the apartment. Hale's Central High School identification card was also in the cupboard. Lying on the floor in front of the cupboard was a long red sock that matched the one the silver handgun was found in inside of Tanski's backpack. The above items were collected as evidence.

The facts contained above are true.

	1055	Corporal
Signature	DSN	Title

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Associate Division \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MISSOURI,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
	)	
vs.	)	Case No.
	)	
LARVERN ANTONIO HALE,	)	OCN#
	)	
Defendant.	)	PA File No. 077332233
State of Missouri	)	
	)	ss.
County of Greene	)	

**FELONY COMPLAINT**

COUNT I

(Missouri Charge Code: 3118699.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.030.1(10), RSMo, committed the class D felony of unlawful use of a weapon on school premises, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about September 5, 2014, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly carried a loaded firearm, a Jennings Firearms .22 caliber semi-automatic handgun, a weapon readily capable of lethal use, into a school.

COUNT II

(Missouri Charge Code: 3117199.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.030.1(1), RSMo, committed the class D felony of unlawful use of a weapon, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about September 5, 2014, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly carried concealed upon or about his person a firearm, a Jennings Firearms .22 caliber semi-automatic handgun, which weapon was readily capable of lethal use.

COUNT III

(Missouri Charge Code: 3247099.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 195.211, RSMo, committed the class C felony of delivery of a controlled substance, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about September 5, 2014, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly delivered marijuana, a controlled substance, to Denee L. Jackson, knowing that it was a controlled substance.

COUNT IV  
(Missouri Charge Code: 2702001.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 575.150, RSMo, committed the class D felony of resisting an arrest, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on September 9, 2014, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, Matt Farmer, a law enforcement officer, was making an arrest of defendant for the felony of unlawful use of a weapon on school premises, and the defendant knew or reasonably should have known that the officer was making an arrest, and, for the purpose of preventing the officer from effecting the arrest, resisted the arrest of defendant by fleeing.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.



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Greene, State of Missouri

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Dan Patterson, Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, says that the facts stated in the above information are true, according to his best information, knowledge and belief.



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Dan Patterson  
Prosecuting Attorney