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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF BINGHAM

STATE OF IDAHO,)
)
 Plaintiff.)
)
 vs.)
)
 CRAIG THOMAS ROWLAND.)
)
 Defendant.)
 _____)

Case No. CR06-21-6435
PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF IDAHO)
) ss:
County of Bingham)

I, Nick Edwards, Lead Investigator for the Idaho State Attorney General's Office, Criminal Law Division, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

PROBABLE CAUSE

1. I am a duly sworn, qualified and acting peace officer within the State of Idaho with the Idaho Office of the Attorney General, and have been since 2019. I have 15 years of prior law enforcement experience as a patrol officer and detective with the Pocatello Police Department. I have successfully completed the Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) academy and hold a State of Idaho Masters of Law Enforcement Certificate. I have over 2,800 hours of POST

and law enforcement training and over 400 hours of law enforcement instruction. I also hold an A.A.S. in Law Enforcement from Idaho State University, a B.A. in Criminal Justice from American Intercontinental University and an M.S. in Strategic Leadership from the University of Charleston. I am currently assigned to serve as the Lead Investigator of the Special Investigations Unit in the Idaho Office of the Attorney General.

2. The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, my training and experience, and information that I have obtained from the individuals identified below. This affidavit is intended to show merely there is sufficient probable cause and does not necessarily set forth all of my knowledge about this matter.

3. As part of my duties with the Idaho Office of Attorney General, I was assigned to investigate a referral we received from the Idaho State Police (ISP). ISP sent our office a report written by Scott Gay, the Chief of the Blackfoot Police Department. The report indicates that Chief Gay was contacted by Craig Rowland, the Bingham County Sheriff, on the morning of November 10, 2021. The report includes this paragraph describing part of the conversation between Chief Gay and Sheriff Rowland:

[Sheriff Rowland] went on to tell me he had really screwed up. He said somewhere around 2000 hours last night on 110921. He was at his residence, he said he had a drink but was not drunk, his Yorkie began barking and he went outside to see what was going on. He said he saw two people by his garage as they were screaming and running away. Rowland said he did not know who they were. He said a few minutes later his Ring Door Bell activated. He also said he heard his front door rattle. Rowland then exited his home in his socks, long johns, and tee shirt. He said he had his gun in hand but no flash light. He saw a vehicle coming back from the end of his road, which is a dead end. He approached the vehicle in the road and stopped it. He then opened the driver's door and grabbed the driver, later identified by him as Chelsea his neighbor, by the hair and pulled her from the vehicle. He said he asked her "who the fuck are you what the fuck are you doing" a couple of times. He said she was terrified and finally answered Chelsea, your neighbor, he then told her to "get the fuck out of here".

4. On November 14, 2021, I interviewed Chelsea Cox.

a. Cox is an adult leader in a local church youth group. On November 9, 2021, in the evening, the youth group held an activity to deliver "thankful turkeys." The girls

made the "thankful turkeys" by tracing their hands, cutting out the hand shapes on the paper, and writing comments on the turkeys listing why they were thankful for certain people. The girls identified potential recipients of the "thankful turkeys" by discussing individuals in the neighborhood for whom they were thankful. The girls identified Lisa Rowland, who is Sheriff Rowland's wife, as well as others.

- b. Cox took seven minor girls in her car to deliver the "thankful turkeys" to the individuals the girls identified. The girls would deliver the "thankful turkeys" by taping a turkey on the door, ringing the doorbell, and running away before the recipient knew who had delivered the turkey.
- c. The group delivered all of the "thankful turkeys" except for two before arriving at the Rowland's residence. Two girls went to deliver the "thankful turkey" but came back to the car giggling and said they saw Craig Rowland and were unable to deliver the "thankful turkey" without getting caught.
- d. After delivering the other "thankful turkey" to another residence, the group returned to the Rowland's residence to try and deliver the "thankful turkey" again. They arrived the second time at the Rowland's residence at approximately 8:00 p.m.
- e. Cox dropped off the girls to deliver the turkey, drove to the end of the road, and turned the vehicle around to wait for the girls to return. The girls returned to the car laughing and Cox began to drive to pass by the Rowland's residence.
- f. Cox observed Sheriff Rowland walking toward the roadway attempting to 'wave' her down with one hand. She observed he had a gun in the other hand.
- g. Cox stopped the car in front of the Rowland's residence. Because the window in her car does not work, Cox opened her car door. The light in the car came on when Cox opened the door and illuminated the inside of the car where the seven minor girls were located. Cox said to Sheriff Rowland: "we are just here to drop off something for Lisa."
- h. Sheriff Rowland then moved to the front driver's side door and looked into the car. He lifted his gun, pointed it at Cox, pointed it at the passenger seat where two of the minor girls were seated, and pointed it back at Cox. Sheriff Rowland told Cox to "get the fuck out of the car."

