

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

KEWAN A. TILLMAN

CASE NUMBER: 22CR377

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about July 27, 2022, at Posen, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

Title 18, United States Code,
Section 2119(1)

with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm took a motor vehicle that had been transported, shipped, and received in interstate commerce from the person and presence of another by force, violence, and intimidation

This criminal complaint is based upon these facts:

X Continued on the attached sheet.



Mariela Lopez
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1, this Complaint is presented by reliable electronic means. The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the Complaint and Affidavit by telephone.

Date: August 1, 2022



Judge's signature

City and state: Chicago, Illinois

JEFFREY I. CUMMINGS, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mariela Lopez, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), currently assigned to the Chicago Field Office. I have been so employed since approximately August 2020. As part of my duties as an ATF Special Agent, I investigate criminal violations of federal statutes relating to firearms and violent crimes, including, but not limited to, Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922, 924(c), and 2119.

2. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint alleging that KEWAN TILLMAN has violated Title 18, United States Code, Section 2119(1). As set forth more fully below, on or about July 27, 2022, TILLMAN, armed with a pistol, carjacked a Kia Optima that was parked at Thorntons gas station located on 14840 South Western Avenue in Posen, Illinois. After carjacking the Kia Optima, TILLMAN lost control of the vehicle, exited the vehicle and fled on foot back toward the Thorntons gas station. During his flight, he attempted to force entry into a semi-truck but was unsuccessful. TILLMAN continued to flee on foot and threw his firearm into a sewer grate. Back at the Thorntons gas station, TILLMAN unsuccessfully attempted to steal another vehicle, but was arrested by police.

3. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of a criminal complaint charging TILLMAN

with taking a motor vehicle by force, violence, and intimidation, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that the defendant committed the offense alleged in the complaint.

4. This affidavit is based on my personal knowledge, experience, training, information provided to me by other law enforcement officers, my review of reports, surveillance video, and my training and experience.

5. Based on information contained in this Affidavit, there is probable cause to believe that, on or about July 27, 2022 in Posen, in the Northern District of Illinois, TILLMAN with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm, took a motor vehicle, namely a 2014 Kia Optima, with Vehicle Identification Number (“VIN”) #5XXGM4A76EG271995 (the “Kia Optima”), which had been transported, shipped, or received in interstate or foreign commerce, from the person or presence of another by force and violence and by intimidation.

SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE

A. Carjacking of the Kia Optima

6. As set forth in more detail below, TILLMAN and another unknown co-conspirator arrived at the Thorntons gas station located on 14840 South Western Avenue in Posen, Illinois (“Thorntons”) on July 27, 2022, in a stolen Brown Kia Soul. TILLMAN exited the driver’s seat of the Kia Soul, carjacked the Kia Optima at gunpoint, and then fled.

7. As part of its investigation, law enforcement obtained surveillance footage and images from the Thorntons gas station located on 14840 South Western Avenue in Posen, Illinois (“Thorntons”) on July 27, 2022, at around the time of the carjacking. Based on my review of the surveillance footage:

a. At approximately 5:02 p.m. on July 27, 2022, a brown Kia Soul¹ reversed into a parking space at the Thorntons gas station. A silver Kia Optima (the carjacked vehicle) was parked in the same parking row, with one vehicle separating the brown Kia Soul and the silver Kia Optima (the carjacked vehicle).

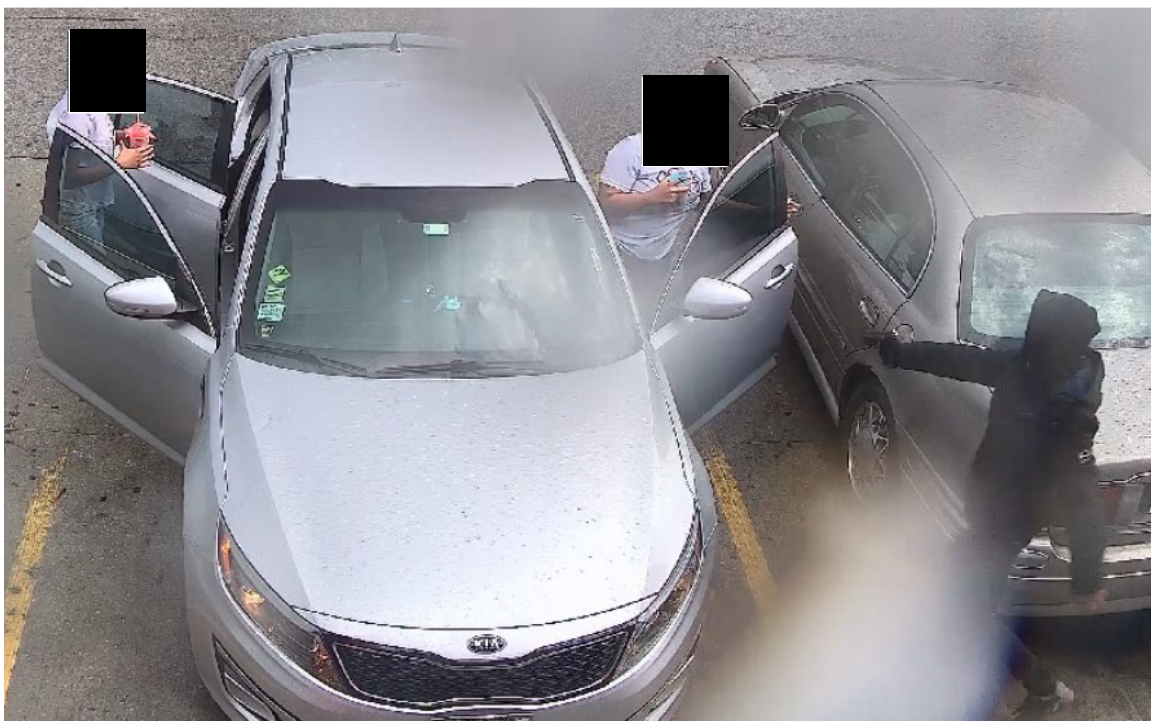
b. At approximately 5:03 p.m., a Black male individual dressed in a dark hooded sweatshirt with bright multi-color sleeves and hood, blue jeans, and red gym shoes (UNSUB 1) exited the rear driver’s side door of the Kia Soul. The driver of the Kia Soul (the Carjacker, later identified as TILLMAN, as described below in Section C) then exited the driver’s seat of the Kia Soul. TILLMAN entered the rear driver’s side seat of the Kia Soul and UNSUB 1 entered the driver’s seat of the Kia Soul.

c. At approximately 5:05 p.m., Victim 1 and his/her two minor children returned to their parked silver Kia Optima. As Victim 1 and his/her children got into the Kia Optima, TILLMAN exited the rear driver’s seat of the Kia Soul and approached Victim 1, pointing what appears to be a black handgun in Victim 1’s direction. While Victim 1 sat in the driver’s seat of the Kia Optima with the door ajar,

¹ From my review of the surveillance footage, the Kia Soul has an Illinois license plate 362 1368. Based on Chicago Police Department records, this Kia Soul was reported stolen on or about July 26, 2022 – July 27, 2022, from Chicago, Illinois.

TILLMAN moved inside the open driver's door of the Kia Optima and placed his hand on the open door. Victim 1 handed his/her car keys to TILLMAN. At this point, both of Victim 1's minor children (an approximately 14-year-old girl and an approximately 5-year-old boy) were inside the Kia Optima. TILLMAN got into the driver's seat as Victim 1 ran to help his/her children out of the Kia Optima. TILLMAN briefly got out of the vehicle before he returned to the driver's seat and sped away in the Kia Optima at approximately 5:06 p.m.²

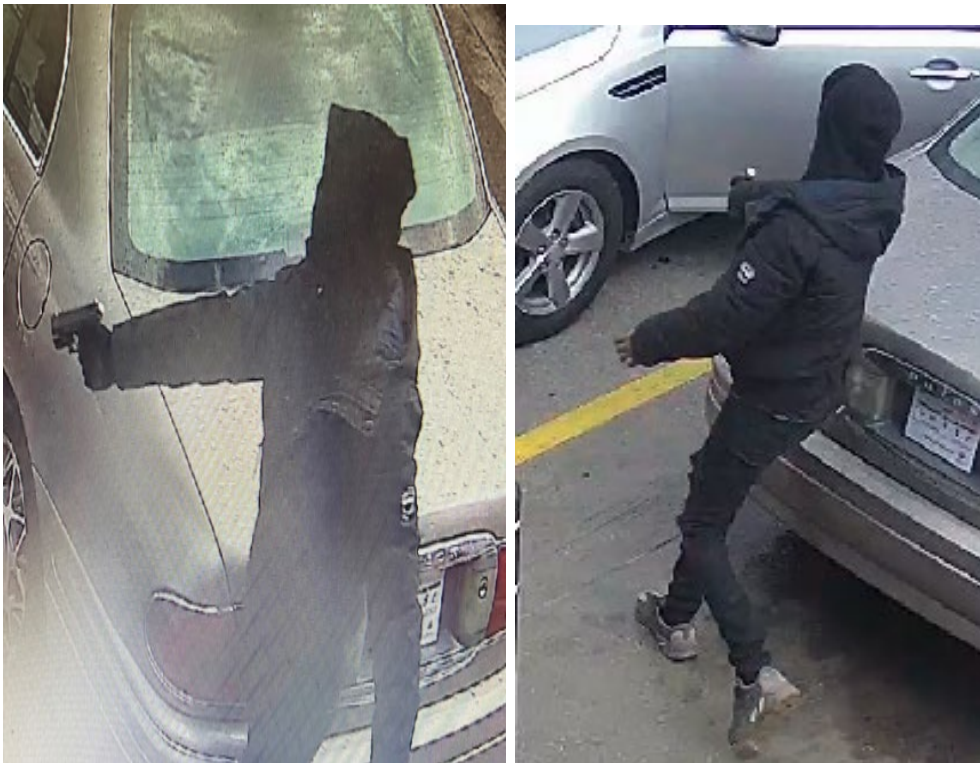
8. A screenshot from the Thorntons gas station surveillance footage is below. This screenshot depicts TILLMAN pointing what appears to be a black handgun at Victim 1.³



² Thorntons surveillance footage I reviewed also captured the brown Kia Soul exit the Thorntons parking spot at approximately 5:06 p.m.

³ Redactions have been applied to protect the identity of Victim 1 and his/her occupants.

9. Based on my review of the surveillance footage, TILLMAN is a Black individual dressed in a black facemask, a black hooded sweatshirt (hood up), a dark glove on his right hand (the hand holding the firearm), dark pants with blue underwear visible, gray sneakers, and a dark jacket with a light-colored emblem on the left upper arm. TILLMAN is holding what appears to be a black handgun with silver visible on the end. Two additional screenshots from the Thorntons gas station surveillance footage depicting TILLMAN are below.



10. Law enforcement interviewed Victim 1 on or about July 29, 2022. According to Victim 1, a Black man ran up to Victim 1 with a gun displayed and told Victim 1 to get out of the vehicle. The Black man then told Victim 1 to get the children out of the vehicle.

B. TILLMAN's Apprehension and Arrest

11. In summary, and as further described below, an off-duty Posen Police Department ("PPD") officer responded to the Thorntons just as TILLMAN was fleeing in the Kia Optima, and pursued the vehicle. TILLMAN lost control of the Kia Optima and exited the vehicle. Although the PPD officer ordered him to stop, TILLMAN instead displayed a firearm, placed the firearm into his waistband, and fled back towards the Thorntons. On his way to the Thorntons, TILLMAN attempted to carjack a semi-truck; failing in that attempt, he tossed his firearm into a sewer and continued on to the Thorntons gas station. There, TILLMAN attempted to carjack another vehicle, but was arrested by police.

12. Based on information I received from PPD officers, as well as my review of PPD reports, on or about July 27, 2022, at approximately 5:06 p.m., an off-duty PPD officer arrived at Thorntons gas station after hearing a call over the radio that two stolen Kia vehicles were entering the Thorntons gas station. According to the PPD report, the radio call described the two stolen vehicles as a Kia Soul bearing Indiana registration #XNK982 and a brown Kia sedan bearing Illinois registration #3621368 (subsequently identified as TILLMAN's initial vehicle).

13. According to PPD report and my discussion with law enforcement, the off-duty PPD officer arrived at the gas station at approximately 5:06 p.m. and observed the Kia Soul with Indiana registration and the carjacked Kia Optima exit

the Thorntons gas station and attempt to go West on 147th Street.⁴ The off-duty PPD officer pursued the vehicles in an unmarked police vehicle equipped with lights and sirens. The carjacked Kia Optima fled westbound, lost control and stopped as it attempted to enter Northbound I-57 from 147th Street. The off-duty PPD officer ordered the driver and lone occupant (TILLMAN) to exit the Kia Optima. According to the off-duty PPD officer, TILLMAN then displayed a handgun, placed the handgun in his waistband, and fled east back towards the Thorntons gas station.

14. According to PPD report and my discussion with law enforcement, the off-duty PPD officer radioed for backup and relayed TILLMAN's direction of flight to other responding officers.

15. According to PPD report, law enforcement interviewed a truck driver who was sitting in his parked his semi-truck at the northwest side of the Thorntons gas station. According to a PPD report, the truck driver reported that the individual who was being chased by police had attempted to force entry into the semi-truck while the truck driver was inside. According to the truck driver, after the individual was unable to make entry, he continued fleeing east. The truck driver reported to law enforcement that he/she observed the individual throw an object into a sewer gate near the truck driver.

16. Law enforcement also reviewed surveillance footage of the area. Based on my review of surveillance footage from the Thorntons gas station, an individual

⁴ Based on a review of surveillance footage and discussions with law enforcement, both the brown Kia Soul (the Carjacker's initial vehicle) and the Kia Soul bearing Indiana registration #XNK982 fled the scene of the carjacking.

dressed in all dark clothing, matching TILLMAN's description, can be seen running across the parking lot of the Thorntons gas station before stopping to bend over and kneel on the ground near a semi-truck container. The individual then continues to run across the parking lot. Two screenshots from the surveillance footage are below.



17. According to a PPD report, an image of PPD body worn camera footage that I have reviewed, and discussions with law enforcement, PPD recovered the firearm from under a sewer grate near the Thorntons gas station—at the same location depicted in the surveillance footage above—at approximately 5:46 p.m. on July 27, 2022 (approximately forty minutes after the carjacking). According to a PPD report, PPD officers went to the sewer grate, removed the top and were able to view a firearm in plain view.

18. According to a PPD report, the firearm recovered was a fully loaded Glock 19, 9mm, bearing serial number AELH009. It has what appears to be a silver

sear-switch⁵ affixed to the end of the firearm. From my review of the records and surveillance footage, the firearm recovered from the sewer grate and logged into evidence is consistent with the firearm brandished by TILLMAN, as depicted on the Thorntons surveillance footage. Specifically, it is a black handgun that has what appears to be a silver sear-switch affixed to the end of the firearm. According to Chicago Police Department records, the firearm recovered was stolen during an armed robbery on or about May 24, 2022.

19. Based on Thorntons surveillance footage, at approximately 5:09 p.m., after discarding the firearm in the sewer grate, TILLMAN ran back through the Thorntons gas station parking lot with uniformed officers in pursuit. TILLMAN approached Victim 2, who was standing outside his/her vehicle, a blue Kia sedan with VIN # KNADN4A38E6339254, pumping gas at a gas pump. TILLMAN ran to the driver's side door and attempted to pull it open as Victim 2 attempted to shut the door and push TILLMAN away. Victim 2 pushed TILLMAN to the ground; pursuing officers then arrested TILLMAN at approximately 5:10 p.m.

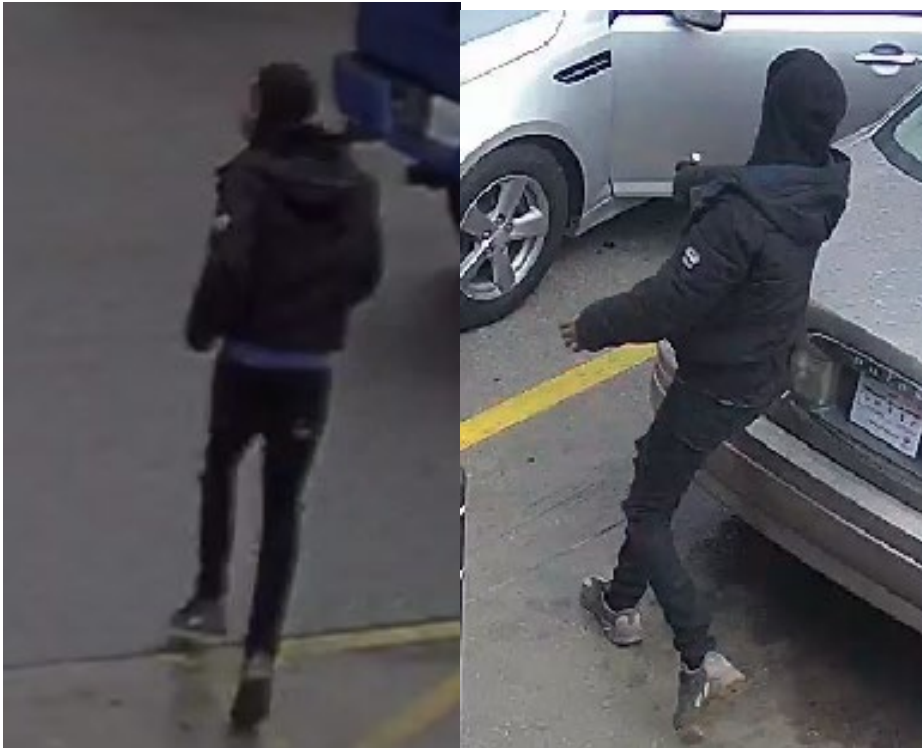
20. After arrest, TILLMAN identified himself as TILLMAN. At the time of his arrest, TILLMAN was unarmed.

C. Identification of TILLMAN as the Carjacker

21. According to a PPD report and surveillance footage, at time of arrest, approximately four minutes after the carjacking of the Kia Optima, TILLMAN is

⁵ In my training and experience and from conversations with other law enforcement officers, I understand a "sear-switch" is a device that when affixed to a firearm has the capacity to render the firearm fully automatic.

dressed in clothing consistent with the Carjacker, including a black Tommy Hilfiger jacket with a white emblem on the left upper arm. Below are two screenshots from the Thorntons surveillance footage. The left shows TILLMAN at 5:09 p.m., approximately 30 seconds before he is arrested by law enforcement.⁶ The screenshot on the right depicts the Carjacker at approximately 5:06 p.m.



22. Additionally, according to PPD reports and law enforcement officers, at approximately 5:55 p.m. on July 27, 2022, Victim 1 reviewed a photograph of TILLMAN taken at the time of his arrest and positively identified TILLMAN as the individual who pointed a gun at Victim 1 and demanded her car.

D. TILLMAN's Post-Arrest Statements and Interview

⁶ TILLMAN's arrest is also captured on Thorntons surveillance footage.

23. After his arrest, TILLMAN was placed in the back seat of a police vehicle that was equipped with rear-seat audio/video recording. According to PPD reports, TILLMAN made at least one telephone call from the rear of the squad car. During the call(s), TILLMAN makes several incriminating statements. For example,

a. At approximately 16 minutes and 7 seconds into the recording, TILLMAN stated “I put the pipe [slang for firearm]...”; “They can’t”; and “I told them I ain’t got no pipe, they think I got one.” At approximately 16 minutes and 24 seconds, TILLMAN stated, in substance, “they lookin’ for the pipe [slang for firearm]” and, approximately nine seconds later, stated “the sewer. In the sewer.”

b. At approximately 33 minutes and 3 seconds, TILLMAN stated “We got two Kia. They said I can have this Kia. I said I’ll steal one, another whip, and that’s how Moody got that Kia. I said Moody put my Kia up.”

24. On July 29, 2022, at approximately 2 a.m., TILLMAN agreed to speak with an investigator after waiving his *Miranda* rights.⁷ In an audio and video-recorded interview, TILLMAN provided the following statement to the investigator, which the investigator wrote down with TILLMAN’s consent: “Just supposed to be the driver of the Kia, I got in the back seat. I got out looking for her. I looked back and they were leaving me and I pulled off in the car. This was the car I took from her.”

⁷ TILLMAN first invoked his *Miranda* rights at approximately 12:48 a.m. on July 29, 2022, in an initial interview with law enforcement officers. He subsequently requested to be reinterviewed by law enforcement. He was re-read his *Miranda* rights and waived them.

E. The Kia Optima Traveled In Interstate Commerce

25. According to public source information and a Kia customer services representative, Kia Optima vehicles are manufactured in West Point, Georgia. Therefore, the Kia Optima carjacked by TILLMAN traveled in interstate commerce.

CONCLUSION

26. Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe that, on or about July 27, 2022, at Posen, in the Northern District of Illinois, Kewan TILLMAN, with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm, took a motor vehicle, namely a 2014 Kia Optima, with VIN # 5XXGM4A76EG271995, which had been transported, shipped, or received in interstate or foreign commerce, from the person or presence of another by force and violence and by intimidation, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2119(1).

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Mariela Lopez

Mariela Lopez
Special Agent
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
Explosives

SWORN TO AND AFFIRMED by telephone August 1, 2022.

Jeff Cummings

Honorable JEFFREY I. CUMMINGS
United States Magistrate Judge