

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

United States of America

v.

Robert J. Hart, Jr., DOB 1962, Cranston, RI

Defendant

Case No.

1:11 MJ d d d A

ARREST WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay

(name of person to be arrested) Robert J. Hart, Jr., DOB 1962, Cranston, RI

who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

- Indictment, Superseding Indictment, Information, Superseding Information, Complaint, Probation Violation Petition, Supervised Release Violation Petition, Violation Notice, Order of the Court

This offense is briefly described as follows:

Theft of mail matter by an employee of the United States Postal Service, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 1709.

Date: 10/13/11

Issuing officer's signature

City and state: Providence, Rhode Island

LINCOLN D. ALMOND, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Printed name and title

Return

This warrant was received on (date) and the person was arrested on (date) at (city and state)

Date:

Arresting officer's signature

Printed name and title

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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United States of America
v.
Robert J. Hart, Jr.
DOB 1962
Cranston, RI
Defendant

Case No. 1:11 MJ 222 A

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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

10/02/2011 to

On or about the date of 10/12/2011 in the county of in the District of

Rhode Island, the defendant violated 18 U. S. C. § 1709, an offense described as follows:

Theft of mail matter by an employee of the United States Postal Service.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit of Special Agent Geoffrey D. Mathison, United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General, Woburn, MA.

Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

Geoffrey D. Mathison, Special Agent
Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 10/13/11

Judge's signature

City and state: Providence, Rhode Island

LINCOLN D. ALMOND, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Printed name and title

I, Geoffrey D. Mathison, being duly sworn, do hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent with the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General (USPS OIG) in Woburn, Massachusetts and have been a Special Agent for eight months. I am currently assigned to the Northeast Area Field Office and am responsible for investigating crimes against the United States Postal Service (USPS) committed by USPS employees.

2. I make this affidavit in support of the issuance of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant for Robert J. HART, Jr. (HART), born in 1962, with a last known address in Cranston, Rhode Island, charging him with theft of mail matter by an employee of the United States Postal Service, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1709.

3. The facts stated herein are based upon my own personal knowledge and information received from other USPS OIG special agents involved in this investigation. In submitting this affidavit, however, I have not included each and every fact known to me about the investigation, but only those facts which I believe are sufficient to establish the requisite probable cause.

4. On September 26, 2011, USPS OIG Special Agent Anthony Matarese (Matarese) recovered 106 pieces of rifled mail from United States Postal Service Lead Manager Distribution Operations Richard Goodwin (Goodwin), at the Providence RI Processing & Distribution Center (Providence P&DC), 24 Corliss Street, Providence Rhode Island. This mail was processed between September 24 through 25, 2011 at the Providence P&DC. All of the mail was first class greeting cards, originating in states other than Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The mail was slit open cleanly along the top seam. None of the mail which had the hinge of the greeting card facing down contained United States currency. Some of the mail which had the hinge of the greeting card facing up did contain United States currency.

5. On October 11, 2011, Special Agent Matarese recovered ninety-seven pieces of rifled mail from Lead Manager Distribution Operations Goodwin at the Providence P&DC. This mail was processed between October 1 through 10, 2011 at the Providence P&DC. All of the rifled mail was greeting cards, originating in states other than Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The mail was slit open cleanly along the top seam. None of the mail which had the hinge of the greeting card facing down contained United States currency. Some of the mail which had

the hinge of the greeting card facing up did contain United States currency.

6. First class mail which originates in states other than Rhode Island and Massachusetts and has a destination located within the zip codes served by the Providence RI P&DC, is processed under the Mail Management Program (MMP). MMP mail is initially sorted at the originating P&DC, and then placed in letter trays, which are sealed with plastic strapping. These trays are transported to the Providence P&DC for further sorting. Upon arrival at the Providence P&DC, the MMP trays are moved to the Low Cost Tray Sorter (LCTS). Mail handlers then cut the plastic strapping and place the trays on the LCTS, which sorts the trays and moves them via belts. These trays are then taken off the belts by mail handlers and placed in rolling equipment which moves the trays to the proper sorting machine for their zip code(s).

7. Special Agent Matarese reviewed USPS time records and determined that HART, a USPS mail handler, was assigned to the LCTS on days and times when MMP mail which had contained greeting cards subsequently found to be rifled was processed.

8. On October 12, 2011, agents of the USPS OIG conducted surveillance of HART at the LCTS. I observed that, when handling trays of MMP, HART segregated trays which contained suspected greeting cards. Hart then took what appeared to be a cutting implement from his pocket, concealed it in his hand, and moved the suspected greeting cards to a spot out of sight of the surveillance cameras. HART would then return the cutting implement to his pocket and place the MMP tray containing the suspected greeting cards in its proper place.

9. Special Agent Matarese caused two greeting cards, each containing a marked \$20 bill, to be placed in MMP trays which were to be handled by HART. I observed HART move these MMP trays to their proper location. HART then took what appeared to be a cutting implement from his pocket, concealed it in his hand, and leaned into the rolling equipment containing the test greeting cards, where his actions could not be seen, for a period of one to three minutes.

10. The rolling equipment containing the test greeting cards was removed when full and transported to a different area of the Providence P&DC. At this area, Goodwin recovered the test greeting cards and determined that they had been slit open along the top and the United States currency had been removed.

11. At this time HART was detained and interviewed by me and other special agents. USPS OIG Special Agent Charles Starks verbally advised HART of his *Miranda* warnings. Following that advisement, HART acknowledged that he understood those rights and agreed to speak to the agents. HART then admitted to rifling greeting cards, and removing cash from them, during the preceding ten days. HART stated he had stolen approximately \$200 from greeting cards.

12. Hart also consented to a search of his person. During the course of that search, Special Agent Starks located and seized a total of \$75 in United States currency from HART's right front pants pocket. Upon examination of that currency, agents confirmed that the United States currency seized from HART included the two \$20 bills from the test greeting cards. HART admitted that he had stolen the money that day from greeting cards which he had opened at the LCTS. HART explained that he would remove cash only from mail which had the hinge of the greeting card facing down.

13. Other USPS OIG special agents recovered twenty-two rifled greeting cards, including the two test greeting cards, from MMP mail that HART had processed on October 12, 2011. HART identified and initialed the two test greeting cards, but declined to identify the other greeting cards.



Geoffrey D. Mathison
Special Agent
United States Postal Service
Office of Inspector General

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on this 13th day of October, 2011.



LINCOLN D. ALMOND
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE