

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Middle District of Florida

United States of America)

v.)

ERIC JAMES TEMPLETON)

Case No. 8:20-MJ-1506-AEP

Defendant(s)

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 the date(s) of May 19 - May 21, 2020 in the county of Hillsborough in the Middle District of Florida, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section 18 USC § 2422(b)

Offense Description Coercion and enticement of a minor

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

HSI Special Agent Sara Angelosanto

Printed name and title

Sworn before me over the telephone and signed pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 and 4(d).

Date: May 21, 2021

Judge's signature

City and state: Tampa, Florida

ANTHONY E. PORCELLI, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Sara Angelosanto, being duly sworn, depose and state the following:

1. I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). I have been employed with HSI for approximately eight years. I am currently assigned to the HSI, Special Agent in Charge (SAC), Tampa, Florida. I have investigated matters involving the online exploitation of children, particularly in relation to violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2422(b), 2251, 2252 and 2252A, which criminalize the use of a facility of interstate/foreign commerce to attempt to knowingly persuade, induce, entice and coerce a person who had not yet attained the age of 18 to engage in sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, and the production, possession, receipt and transmission of child pornography. I have made arrests and conducted searches pertaining to these types of investigations. I have attended specialized courses involving child exploitation and covert online chatting.

2. As a Special Agent, I am authorized to investigate violations of the laws of the United States and to execute arrest and search warrants issued under the authority of the United States. I have received training for online undercover investigations involving child exploitation and have participated in numerous investigations involving child pornography.

3. I submit this affidavit in support of an application for a criminal complaint and arrest warrant for Eric James Templeton (“**TEMPLETON**”). This affidavit does not set forth every fact resulting from the investigation; rather, it sets forth facts sufficient to establish probable cause to believe that **TEMPLETON** attempted to coerce and entice a minor to engage in sexual activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b). As discussed further below, **TEMPLETON** used a computer or a cellular phone, which was connected to the Internet, a facility of interstate or foreign commerce, to attempt to knowingly persuade, induce, entice and coerce an individual who had not attained the age of 18 years, through communications with whom he believed was the child’s mother, to engage in sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense. I am requesting that the Court issue an arrest warrant for **TEMPLETON** based upon the following information that I have learned in my official capacity, by firsthand observations, as well as by receiving information from federal and local law enforcement in reference to this investigation.

PROBABLE CAUSE

4. Beginning on or about May 19, 2020 to present, I acted in an undercover capacity (“UC”) online and posed as a mother who was involved in an “open family” with her five-year-old daughter. “Open family” refers to

the lifestyle in which all members of the family engage in sexual activity with each other. I created an online profile on “Application A,” which is known to law enforcement officials to be commonly used by individuals to trade adult and child pornography, as well as promote taboo-sex topics that allow like-minded individuals to meet and communicate. Application A has a live chat function and the ability to post images in an anonymous manner.

5. On or about May 19, 2020, I posted an image that included the words “must love kids from the UC profile on “Application A.” On that same date, an “Application A” user, later identified as **TEMPLETON**, responded to my post and the following conversation ensued:

TEMPLETON: “So whats your post about”

UC: “What do you think?”

TEMPLETON: “If someone wants to be with you, they must love kids”

UC: “Not really”

TEMPLETON: “Oh okay”

TEMPLETON: “What does it mean”

UC: “If you don’t know you probably aren’t interested”

TEMPLETON: “Please tell me”

UC: “Either you’re in the life style oy you aren’t”

TEMPLETON: “I might be and just not exactly know :)”

UC: “So you are?”

TEMPLETON: “Yes”

UC: “Ok”

UC: “That’s good”

UC: “I was born in it... you?”

TEMPLETON: “Its just been something I have been lioe for a while”

UC: “lio?”

TEMPLETON: “Like”

6. After I told **TEMPLETON** that I had a five-year-old daughter that I had been raising in the “open family” lifestyle, **TEMPLETON** engaged in the following conversation:

TEMPLETON: “Have u had any experience with her”

UC: “Yes”

TEMPLETON: “What have u done ;-p”

UC: “That’s not really how it works...it’s private”

TEMPLETON: “I promise i wont judge”

UC: “It’s not how the life style works”

TEMPLETON: “Hmm I see”

TEMPLETON: “Is it bad if I wish I could join in”

UC: “Not at all”

UC: "I want her to have her own experiences"

TEMPLETON: "Would u ever let me join in"

UC: "Yes"

UC: "I don't get involved though"

TEMPLETON: "What u mean"

UC: "It's not a threesome"

TEMPLETON: "Thats fine but do u watch"

UC: "Of course! I keep her safe"

UC: "Make sure she's enjoying the experience and not distressed"

TEMPLETON: "Haha just wanted to make sure"

7. After a discussion about the child's previous experience,

TEMPLETON requested to meet on Thursday, May 21, 2020, for the purposes of engaging in sexual activity with the fictional five-year-old child.

TEMPLETON provided me with the phone number 727-505-XXXX in order to continue conversation via text message. A review of law enforcement databases revealed that phone number 727-505-XXXX is associated with **TEMPLETON**.

8. During my conversation with **TEMPLETON**, he provided a

photo of his face. I reviewed **TEMPLETON's** Florida driver's license photo

and compared it with the photo that **TEMPLETON** had provided to me. The photos appear to be the same person.

9. On or about May 19, 2020, **TEMPLETON** described the sexual activity that he wished to engage in with the five-year-old child and had the following conversation:

TEMPLETON: “Well would it be bad if I was interested in penetration with her”

TEMPLETON: “And I meant to say do u remember enjoying it”

UC: “No that would be ok but not full”

TEMPLETON: “Not fully inside her?”

UC: “Yea”

TEMPLETON: “Yeah that might hurt”

UC: “I hope that’s ok”

UC: “Yea exactly”

TEMPLETON: “Yeah that’s fine”

TEMPLETON: “What about oral”

UC: “Yea definitely”

TEMPLETON: “Hehe okay”

10. On or about May 19, 2020, **TEMPLETON** described some of the sexual activity he wished to engage with when he met the five-year-old child:

TEMPLETON: “So whats on ur mind”

UC: “Just thinking about Thursday”

TEMPLETON: “Hehe what abiut it”

UC: “Just hoping you guys can both experience each other”

TEMPLETON: “I’m sure we can”

UC: “What are you most excited about

TEMPLETON: “Kissing her and eating her out”

UC: “I will talk to her about tomorrow”

TEMPLETON: “oh yeah?”

UC: “Yea should I tell her something from you?”

TEMPLETON: “That I can’t wait to see her”

11. On or about May 20, 2020, **TEMPLETON** further explained his sexual interest in the five-year-old child:

UC: “Can you talk to me about what you want to start with and where you’d like to take it so I can prepare her?”

UC: “I have 15 minutes at lunch!”

TEMPLETON: “Well i would probably start with toucher er sides to kinda get her comfortable, then kiss her and try to teacher her how to make out. Probably after that I’ll start sliding ny hands down her body and take off clothes then rub her clit. Probably then eat her out and have her suck me and play with my dick. Then penetrate her some”

12. On or about May 20, 2020, **TEMPLETON** arranged to meet the UC on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at a predetermined location near

TEMPLETON's home in Tampa, Florida. TEMPLETON then engaged in the following conversation:

TEMPLETON: "Can't believe this is actually happening:-p"

UC: "Why not!?"

TEMPLETON: "I mean in a good way lol"

UC: "Haha I know I was just making sure you weren't having reservations"

TEMPLETON: "Oh no not at all"

TEMPLETON: "I really want this to happen :)"

13. On May 21, 2020, TEMPLETON requested the exact location where the UC would meet him. The UC confirmed the pre-determined location in Tampa, Florida. The following conversation occurred:

UC: "Can I ask how big you are?"

TEMPLETON: "About 7"

UC: "Wow! Really!"

UC: "Thick?"

TEMPLETON: "Yes?"

TEMPLETON: "And yes"

UC: "She definitely hasn't had a guy that big!"

TEMPLETON: "Haha really?"

UC: "You'll have to super careful but she should be ok for around 2

inches but I dunno if your thick... hope you will still enjoy yourself at 2!

UC: “Maybe you could help her get to 3 or more? Because you seem so gentle”

TEMPLETON: “I can try :) and im sure I will enjoy myself too”

14. On or about the morning of May 21, 2020, law enforcement officers commenced surveillance at the predetermined location in Tampa, Florida. The UC contacted **TEMPLETON** in order to meet up in the parking lot.

15. On or about May 21, 2020 at 9:55 a.m., a white vehicle pulled into the parking lot. An individual matching the description of **TEMPLETON** exited the vehicle. I called **TEMPLETON** on phone number 727-505-XXXX and stated that I was walking in his direction. **TEMPLETON** reentered his vehicle and began driving around the parking lot. **TEMPLETON** then parked in a nearby parking lot. The UC sent the following text messages during this time:

UC: “Where are you?”

UC: “Did you pull in?”

UC: “It’s just me”

16. **TEMPLETON** exited the vehicle and walked toward the area of the UC. Law enforcement agents and officers subsequently arrested **TEMPLETON**. During the arrest, **TEMPLETON** uttered, “Sorry. Sorry.

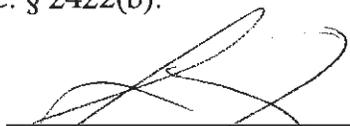
Sorry.”

17. A search of **TEMPLETON**'s person for officer safety and his own safety uncovered two lollipops, a bottle of personal lubricant, and a Samsung S20 cellular phone. **TEMPLETON** was transported to HSI Tampa for further processing and interviews.

18. On or about May 21, 2020, at 11:02 a.m., **TEMPLETON** waived his *Miranda* Rights and agreed to speak with agents. **TEMPLETON** stated his was under the impression that the UC was role playing with him.

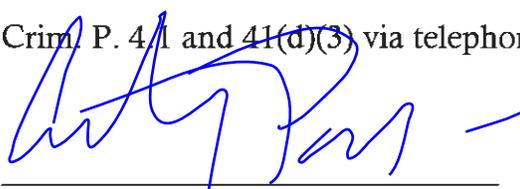
CONCLUSION

19. Based on the foregoing facts, there is probable cause to believe that **TEMPLETON** attempted to coerce and entice a minor to engage in sexual activity, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b).



SARA ANGELOSANTO
Special Agent
Homeland Security Investigations

Sworn to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 41 and 41(d)(3) via telephone this 21 day of May, 2020.



ANTHONY E. PORCELLI
United States Magistrate Judge