

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of California

United States of America

v.

Richard Tillman

*Defendant(s)***FILED**

Jul 23 2025

Mark B. Busby  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN JOSECase No. **CR 25-70903-MAG****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 July 20, 2025 in the county of Santa Clara in the  
Northern District of California, the defendant(s) violated:*Code Section*

18 U.S.C. § 844(f)(1)

*Offense Description*

Malicious Destruction of Government Property by Fire.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See Affidavit of Postal Inspector Shannon F. Roark, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.Approved as to form Michael G. Pitman  
AUSA MP/s/Shannon Roark w/permission by VKD*Complainant's signature*Shannon F. Roark, Postal Inspector*Printed name and title*

Sworn to before me by telephone.

Date: July 23, 2025City and state: San Jose, CAVirginia K. DeMarchi  
*Judge's signature*Virginia K. DeMarchi, U.S. Magistrate Judge*Printed name and title*

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT**

I, Shannon F. Roark, Postal Inspector, Badge No. 7642, United States Postal Inspection Service, being duly sworn, hereby depose and state the following:

**INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND**

1. This affidavit is submitted in support of a request for the issuance of a criminal complaint against Richard Tillman (TILLMAN). TILLMAN was involved in the damage and destruction of United States property by means of fire, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 844(f)(1). Because this affidavit is submitted for the purpose of obtaining an arrest warrant, I have not included each and every fact known to me in this case. Rather, I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to support probable cause for the issuance of an arrest warrant for TILLMAN. For the reasons set forth below, I believe there is probable cause that TILLMAN has committed the foregoing violation of federal law.

2. I am a United States Postal Inspector assigned to the San Jose Domicile of the San Francisco Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS). I am sworn and empowered to investigate criminal activity involving or relating to the United States Postal Service (USPS). I am currently assigned to the Mail Theft and External Crimes team, which investigates crimes against the USPS and attacks on, and the misuse of, the United States mail system. Such crimes include theft of mail, identity theft, assaults, robberies, burglaries, and destruction of property.

3. I have been a Postal Inspector since July 2024 when I completed the sixteen-week USPIS Basic Training (BIT) Academy in Potomac, Maryland. As part of BIT, I successfully completed instruction related to property crimes, document fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud, financial crimes, narcotics violations, computer and communications-related crimes, identity theft, and other federal criminal offenses.

4. During my employment with the USPIS, I have participated in investigations involving burglaries, robberies, and the theft of USPS mail. I have interviewed subjects, witnesses, and cooperating individuals regarding burglaries, robberies, mail theft, and identity theft. I have received instruction from United States Postal Inspectors and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agents who have done extensive work in investigating burglaries, robberies, and identity theft.

5. Prior to my employment with USPIS, I was employed as a Senior Investigator with the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General from 2020 to 2024 where I was assigned to investigate fraud, waste, and abuse of public funds. Prior to that, I was employed as a Senior Financial Investigator with the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General where I was assigned to the Civil Investigations Division. My responsibilities in that role included conducting ability-to-pay investigations as well as financial misconduct allegations including fraud and embezzlement.

#### **STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

6. On July 20, 2025, Postal Inspector Jeff Hedrick informed me that the Almaden Valley United States Post Office located at 6525 Crown Boulevard, San Jose, CA 95120, which is a USPS facility, had been set on fire earlier that morning.

7. I arrived at the scene at approximately 7:00 a.m. I observed several San Jose Fire Department (SJFD) firefighters working on the building. The fire appeared to be under control and mostly extinguished. I observed an apparently fire damaged vehicle parked in the remains of what appeared to be the post office lobby. The outside of the building sustained smoke damage, and the words “Viva La Me” were graffitied on the wall.

8. Inspector Hedrick informed me the suspect’s name was Richard Tillman. SJPD officers informed me TILLMAN was present at the scene when they arrived at approximately

3:00 a.m., that SJFD firefighters identified TILLMAN to SJPD officers as the person responsible for the fire, and that SJPD officers placed TILLMAN under arrest.

9. TILLMAN made a statement to SJPD officers admitting to setting the fire. TILLMAN told SJPD officers he purchased “instalogs” and lighter fluid at Lucky’s market, and then drove to the post office. He then placed the instalogs throughout his vehicle and poured lighter fluid over them. He then backed his vehicle into the post office, exited the vehicle, and used a match to light the vehicle on fire. TILLMAN told SJPD officers he did this because he was “trying to make a statement to the United States Government.”

10. TILLMAN told SJPD officers he live streamed the incident on YouTube using his phone.

11. TILLMAN admitted to spray painting the words “Viva La Me” on the building after starting the fire, but did not finish what he wanted to write because the heat from the fire was too intense.

12. At the scene, I met with Acting Resident Agent in Charge John Weirich with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive (ATF), and Arson Investigator Mark Buttitta with the SJFD.

13. Agent Weirich and Investigator Buttitta collected evidence items from the scene, including what appeared to be burnt logs from the driver’s seat, passenger seat, and rear cargo area of the fire damaged vehicle parked in the remains of what appeared to be the post office lobby. They also collected suspected match sticks, among other things. Agent Weirich and Investigator Buttitta opined that the apparent significant damage to the post office building, as depicted in the photo below, was caused by fire:



14. I understand that the post office is in whole or in part owned or possessed by, or leased to, the United States or a department or agency thereof.

#### **CONCLUSION**

15. Based upon the above-summarized facts, there is probable cause to believe that Richard TILLMAN violated 18 U.S.C. § 844(f)(1) on or about July 20, 2025, within the Northern District of California. Accordingly, I respectfully request that a criminal complaint and warrant for the arrest of Richard TILLMAN be issued. I declare under penalty of perjury that the

above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Shannon Roark w/permission by VKD

SHANNON ROARK

U.S. Postal Inspector

United States Postal Inspection Service

Sworn to before me over the telephone and signed by me pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1  
and 4(d) on this 23 day of July, 2025.

Virginia K. DeMarchi  
VIRGINIA K. DEMARCHI  
United States Magistrate Judge



**DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT**
 BY: ☒ COMPLAINT ☐ INFORMATION ☐ INDICTMENT  
☐ SUPERSEDING
**OFFENSE CHARGED**
 18 U.S.C. § 844(f)(1) – Malicious Destruction of Government  
 Property by Fire

- ☐
- Petty
- 
- ☐
- Minor
- 
- ☐
- Misdemeanor
- 
- ☒
- Felony

 PENALTY: Minimum prison term: 5 years  
 Maximum prison term: 20 years  
 Maximum fine: \$250,000  
 Maximum term of supervised release: 3 years  
 Restitution, Forfeiture, and Mandatory special assessment

Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN JOSE DIVISION

**DEFENDANT - U.S.**

Richard Tillman

DISTRICT COURT NUMBER

**FILED**

Jul 23 2025

 Mark B. Busby  
 CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 SAN JOSE
**CR 25-70903-MAG****PROCEEDING**

Name of Complainant Agency, or Person (&amp; Title, if any)

United States Postal Inspection Service

☐ person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court,  
 give name of court

☐ this person/proceeding is transferred from another district  
 per (circle one) FRCrp 20, 21, or 40. Show District

☐ this is a reprosecution of  
 charges previously dismissed  
 which were dismissed on motion  
 of:

☐ U.S. ATTORNEY ☐ DEFENSE
SHOW  
DOCKET NO.
☐ this prosecution relates to a  
 pending case involving this same  
 defendant
MAGISTRATE  
CASE NO.
☐ prior proceedings or appearance(s)  
 before U.S. Magistrate regarding this  
 defendant were recorded under

 Name and Office of Person  
 Furnishing Information on this form CRAIG H. MISSAKIAN

☒ U.S. Attorney ☐ Other U.S. Agency

 Name of Assistant U.S.  
 Attorney (if assigned) MICHAEL G. PITMAN
**DEFENDANT****IS NOT IN CUSTODY**

Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.

- 1)
- ☐
- If not detained give date any prior
- 
- summons was served on above charges
- 
- 2)
- ☐
- Is a Fugitive
- 
- 3)
- ☐
- Is on Bail or Release from (show District)

**IS IN CUSTODY**

- 4)
- ☐
- On this charge
- 
- 5)
- ☐
- On another conviction }
- ☐
- Federal
- ☐
- State
- 
- 6)
- ☒
- Awaiting trial on other charges

 If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution  
 Santa Clara County Jail

 Has detainer ☐ Yes  
 been filed? ☒ No

 If "Yes"  
 give date  
 filed
DATE OF  
ARREST
 Month/Day/Year  
 7/20/25

Or... if Arresting Agency &amp; Warrant were not

DATE TRANSFERRED  
TO U.S. CUSTODY

Month/Day/Year

☐ This report amends AO 257 previously submitted
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS****PROCESS:**
☐ SUMMONS ☐ NO PROCESS\* ☒ WARRANT

Bail Amount: N/A

If Summons, complete following:

☐ Arraignment ☐ Initial Appearance

Defendant Address:

 \* Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or  
 warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment

Date/Time: Before Judge:

Comments: