UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

PUGAZHAN TAMIZHSAMI SATHYAMURTHY

Case No.: 26-CR-580

UNDER SEAL

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 November 4, 2026, at Chicago, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section	*Offense Description*
Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d)	knowingly possess a destructive device, as that term is defined in Title 26, United States Code, Section 5845(f), namely, a blue glass bottle containing an ignitable liquid and an ignitable cloth component in the form commonly referred to as a "Molotov cocktail," which destructive device was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record

This criminal complaint is based upon these facts:

X Continued on the attached sheet.

Caleb B. Svezia (DPM w/ permission)
CALEB B. SVEZIA
Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

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: November 9, 2026

Judge's signature

City and state: Chicago, Illinois

Daniel P. McLaughlin, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

AFFIDAVIT

I, CALEB B. SVEZIA, being duly sworn, state as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and have been so employed since 2026. I have participated in numerous investigations involving violations of federal offenses, including crimes of violence. I have received training in the area of weapons investigations. My current responsibilities include the investigation of terrorism and violent crimes.

2. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint alleging that PUGAZHAN TAMIZHSAMI SATHYAMURTHY, has violated Title 26, United States Code, Section 5861(d). Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of a criminal complaint charging SATHYAMURTHY with possession of an unregistered destructive device, 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.

3. This affidavit is based on my personal knowledge, information provided to me by other law enforcement agents and my training and experience.

SUMMARY OF FACTS SUPPORTING PROBABLE CAUSE

4. In summary, on November 4, 2026, SATHYAMURTHY possessed three blue glass bottles containing an ignitable liquid and wrapped with an ignitable cloth component. SATHYAMURTHY entered the University of Illinois at Chicago ("UIC") student center building on the 700 block of South Halsted Street in Chicago, Illinois, where he threw a blue glass bottle containing an ignitable liquid and wrapped with an ignitable cloth component. Law enforcement recovered two similar devices from a backpack in the same area where surveillance video captured SATHYAMURTHY throwing the first device.

FACTS SUPPORTING PROBABLE CAUSE

November 4, 2026, Incident at the UIC Student Center

5. Based on my review of surveillance footage from UIC and information from other law enforcement officers, on or about November 4, 2026, at approximately 12:01 pm on the second floor of the student center building, an individual later identified as SATHYAMURTHY[1] walked into the view of a surveillance camera in a hallway in the student center wearing what appeared to be a black backpack, remove the backpack, and sit down.

6. Based on my review of surveillance footage from UIC and information from other law enforcement officers, at approximately 12:08 pm, SATHYAMURTHY stood up and appeared to manipulate an object with his hands while standing in a corner of the room with his back to the surveillance cameras. At approximately 12:10

[1] As described in further detail below, UIC police officers identified SATHYAMURTHY using his UIC student ID.

pm, SATHYAMURTHY turned and threw an object in the direction of an individual in the student center. Surveillance footage captured an orange streak emanating from the object SATHYAMURTHY threw that I believe, based on my training and experience, is consistent with the object being on fire. The object appeared to hit the ground and break or shatter. The apparent flame I previously observed appeared to extinguish and there was no visible explosion when the object struck the ground.

7. Based on my review of surveillance footage from UIC and information from other law enforcement officers, SATHYAMURTHY subsequently drew what appeared to be a large knife from his person, brandished it, and ran towards another individual in the student center, Victim A. Victim A fell to the ground on Victim A's back and appeared to kick in SATHYAMURTHY's direction with both feet as SATHYAMURTHY made motions consistent with attempting to stab Victim A with the knife. Victim A appeared to kick SATHYAMURTHY and subsequently escaped from SATHYAMURTHY.

8. Based on my review of surveillance footage and information from UIC police, SATHYAMURTHY encountered two armed guards. SATHYAMURTHY dropped the knife, descended to his knees, and eventually laid face down on the ground.

9. According to UIC police, a UIC police officer subsequently took SATHYAMURTHY into custody and identified him using his UIC student ID.

The Devices

10. According to information from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF") and ATF Special Agent Anthony Zito, law enforcement recovered one broken glass bottle with a charred rag from the student center.

11. According to my review of surveillance footage from UIC and information from the ATF and Special Agent Zito, as well as information from the UIC police, law enforcement recovered two blue glass bottles from a black backpack in the same area where a surveillance camera captured SATHYAMURTHY immediately prior to him throwing the object and drawing the knife.

12. Based on information from the ATF and Special Agent Zito and my review of crime scene photographs, I know that broken glass pieces recovered by law enforcement at the student center contain coloration and lettering that appears to match the two bottles recovered from the backpack.

13. According to information from the ATF and Special Agent Zito, law enforcement examined the liquid in each bottle at the scene using a spectrometer, which indicated that the liquid inside the bottles was isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol).

14. According to information from the ATF and Special Agent Zito, the two bottles from the backpack each emitted an odor similar to isopropyl alcohol upon opening. The two bottles each had cloth material taped over the top of the bottle.

15. According to information from the ATF and Special Agent Zito, the ATF conducted two burn tests — one with a sample of the liquid from each bottle found in the backpack — and found that the sample liquid burned.

16. According to information from the ATF and Special Agent Zito, a Destructive Device Examiner from the ATF reviewed pictures and information about the bottles recovered from the backpack and issued a preliminary determination, pending receipt and examination of the physical evidence, that the devices would be properly identified as incendiary bombs as that term is defined in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(f).

17. According to information from the ATF and Special Agent Zito, there are no destructive devices registered to PUGAZHAN TAMIZHSAMI SATHYAMURTHY with the date of birth XX/XX/2006 in the National Firearm Registration and Transfer Record.

CONCLUSION

18. Based on the above information, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that, on or about November 4, 2026, at Chicago, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, PUGAZHAN TAMIZHSAMI SATHYAMURTHY did knowingly possess a destructive device, as that term is defined in Title 26, United States Code, Section 5845(f), namely, a blue glass bottle containing an ignitable liquid and an ignitable cloth component in the form commonly referred to as a "Molotov cocktail," which destructive device was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Caleb B. Svezia (DPM w/ permission)

CALEB B. SVEZIA
Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SWORN TO AND AFFIRMED by telephone November 9, 2026.



Honorable Daniel P. McLaughlin
United States Magistrate Judge