

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
District of Rhode IslandFILED  
AUG 13 2015  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

United States of America

v.

WILLIAM L. RICCI DOB [REDACTED]

Defendant

Case No.

15 MJ 264 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) WILLIAM L. RICCI DOB [REDACTED],

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:

possession of a firearm, to wit a Westco .22 caliber long, model J-22 handgun with a serial number of 299274, said weapon having moved through interstate commerce after having previously been convicted of a felony 19 U.S.C. 922(g).

Date: 08/13/2015

City and state: Providence, RI



Issuing officer's signature

LINCOLN D. ALMOND  
Special Agent Colin Woods

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

for the  
District of Rhode Island

United States of America

v.

WILLIAM L. RICCI DOB [REDACTED]

*Defendant*

Case No.

1:15 MJ 264A

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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

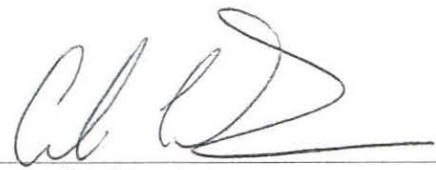
On or about the date of 08/12/2015 in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ District of  
RHODE ISLAND, the defendant violated 18 U. S. C. § 922(g), an offense described as follows:

possession of a firearm, to wit a Westco .22 caliber long, model J-22 handgun with a serial number of 299274, said  
weapon having moved through interstate commerce after having previously been convicted of a felony

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

Attached affidavit of Special Agent Colin Woods, Federal Bureau of Investigation

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.



*Complainant's signature*

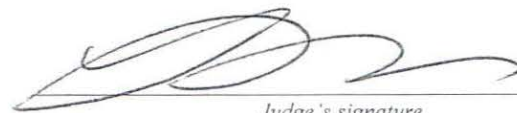
Colin Woods, Special Agent

*Printed name and title*

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date:

8/13/15



*Judge's signature*

City and state:

Providence, RI

Lincoln D. ALMOND

*Printed name and title*

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF AN ARREST WARRANT

Your affiant, Colin Woods, being duly sworn and deposed, states as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent (SA) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and am currently assigned to the Providence, Rhode Island (RI), Resident Agency (RA) of the FBI, specifically, the RI Safe Streets Task Force (SSTF). I have been a SA with the FBI since July 2006 and have been assigned to the Providence RA since March 2010. Prior to transferring to the Providence RA, I was assigned to the Norfolk, Virginia division of the FBI. Before entering duty as a SA, I served as a Captain in the U.S. Army. I am an investigative or law enforcement officer of the United States within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2510(7) and am empowered by law to conduct investigations and to make arrests for offenses enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 2516.

2. During my tenure as a special agent, I have been responsible for more than 50 narcotics, gang, firearms and violent crime related investigations. I have been the affiant on numerous arrest and search warrant affidavits, cellular telephone and vehicle Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) tracking affidavits and T-III affidavits; participated in the execution of numerous arrest warrants, search warrants and GPS warrants; and, conducted extensive physical and wire surveillance.

3. Additionally, based on my training and experience I am familiar with the ways in which illegal drugs are imported and distributed, the wholesale and retail prices of various quantities of controlled substances, as well as methods used to finance drug transactions and launder drug proceeds.

4. I make this affidavit based on personal knowledge, information provided to me by other law enforcement agents and information provided by a reliable confidential source. This affidavit does not include all the information obtained during the course of this investigation, only that which is necessary to set forth probable cause in support of the requested criminal complaint and arrest warrant.

5. I make this affidavit in support of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant charging William L. RICCI DOB [REDACTED] of 725 Branch Avenue Providence, Rhode Island with one count of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person (convicted felon), in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).

6. On August 7, 2015 United States Magistrate Judge Patricia A. Sullivan signed nine search warrants authorizing the FBI to search nine separate locations within 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island.

7. 725 Branch Avenue is a large red brick "mill style," multi-use building. The building was a former manufacturing facility that has been rehabilitated into residential and commercial space. There are multiple entrances on the west side of the building. The building houses various businesses, apartments and storage units. According to the Providence Tax Assessor's Office Website, the current owner of 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI, is listed as Branch Realty, Inc. No officers, individuals or other parties are listed with the Tax Assessor's Office. The Rhode Island Secretary of State's Corporate Services', online database lists William RICCI as the president of Branch Realty, Inc. Those same records indicate that the company was formerly known as R.S.S. Realty Trust, Inc. The company lists its purpose as managing and holding real



estate. A check of open source records (CLEAR), revealed that William L. RICCI, Date of Birth: [REDACTED] is listed as the President of Branch Realty, Inc., 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI. There is also probable cause to believe that RICCI also resides within an apartment (#401) within 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI. It should also be noted that Branch Realty, Inc. maintains an office on the first floor, ground level, of 725 Branch Avenue, , Providence, RI which is the north side (rear) of the building.

8. According to an FBI database that collects information from credit reports and credit sources; one address utilized by RICCI is 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI. This report associated RICCI with apartment #401 from 03/11/2013 through 03/06/2015. This report also associated RICCI with apartment # 105 from 08/08/2008 through 05/10/2014. Other apartments listed as being associated with RICCI are apartment #112 and #323. A check with the Rhode Island Registry of Motor Vehicles shows that William L. RICCI has an active Rhode Island driver's license listing an address of 869 Branch Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Registry of Motor Vehicles also reports that William L. RICCI has a black 2015 GMC Yukon with Rhode Island registration WMC 1. This vehicle is registered to William L. RICCI, Date of Birth: [REDACTED] with an address of 33 Mount Avenue, Lincoln, RI, 02865. RICCI also owns a 2004 Ford with Rhode Island Commercial Registration 79223, registered to an address of 33 Mount Avenue, Lincoln, Rhode Island.

9. Within the past few weeks, your affiant has received detailed information from a previously reliable informant (CI #1) about a large scale drug operation consisting of multiple marijuana grows being overseen by RICCI. CI#1 has previous

criminal convictions including at least one felony. Your affiant is aware of the informant's criminal past and I am deliberately omitting a detailed recitation of that history because to do so would assist in identifying and compromising the safety of my informant. Your affiant is aware that CI#1's information has led to arrests and convictions of others for criminal offenses. I am also deliberately omitting details concerning these earlier cases as I believe to do so may jeopardize the informant's safety. According to the CI#1, various apartments located within 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI are being used to grow and process the marijuana. Those apartments have been identified by the informant as apartments #120, #133, #134, #224, #329, #335, #342, #401, #500 at 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI.

10. On 07/13/2015, your affiant received information from CI#1 that RICCI, is a long standing New England La Cosa Nostra (NELCN) associate, and was previously charged with fraud by the FBI. Your affiant inquired of the Interstate Identification Index regarding RICCI's criminal history and determined that on October 24, 2003 RICCI was arrested by the FBI for fraud related charges. According to CI#1, over the years RICCI has been very close with convicted felon Robert Deluca. Your affiant has consulted with special agents of the FBI who specialize in investigating the activities of the New England La Cosa Nostra and I have been able to confirm Deluca is a made member of the NELCN. CI#1 advised that RICCI is the owner and operator of Branch Realty which is operated out of the first floor of a building RICCI owns at 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI. CI#1 stated that the building located at 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI, houses other businesses, apartments and various storage units.

Your affiant caused a check to be made of State of Rhode Island judiciary records and was able to determine that RICCI was once a codefendant of Robert Deluca in a criminal case. Deluca was convicted in that case (P1/1986-3407I).

11. CI#1 has told the FBI that he knows this information by talking to an individual who has personal knowledge and who has personally witnessed various aspects of RICCI's marijuana operation. According to CI#1 the individual he is talking to has been a close associate of RICCI's. CI#1 stated that RICCI was currently residing in Apartment #401 of this building and currently maintains a safe within this apartment. CI#1 reports that this safe contains marijuana and a handgun. CI#1 has advised the FBI that [REDACTED], who is a white male in his late 30's or early 40's, was recently fired by RICCI from his position as a security guard for the building. CI#1 reports that [REDACTED] used to purchase firearms for RICCI. According to the CI#1 RICCI is a convicted felon and unable to purchase firearms for himself. Your affiant caused a *Westlaw Next* public records database search to be done on [REDACTED] *Westlaw* reports one individual with that name residing at 725 Branch Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island. *Westlaw* reports the information being current as of June 30, 2015. No apartment was listed and no further information was available for that subject through *Westlaw*. Your affiant caused an inquiry to be made of the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) concerning possible pistol permits held by a [REDACTED] in his "30's or early 40's." The BCI reported that [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED] applied for a pistol permit on 6/16/2010. The BCI issued the permit which expired on June 30, 2014 (permit number 2404017). Almond



listed his address with BCI as [REDACTED] Rhode Island. At one point [REDACTED] reported to the BCI that he was employed by Brink's as a security officer. Rhode Island Registry of Motor Vehicles reports that [REDACTED] has an active Rhode Island license showing an address of [REDACTED] Rhode Island.

12. On this same date the informant provided a detailed description of RICCI's apartment. According to the informant, "once you enter the front door of apartment #401, the living room is located on the right hand side of the door and contains 'pale' yellow furniture. To the left hand side of the front door is a closet whose back wall abuts the kitchen wall." According to the informant, RICCI maintains a "safe" in this closet which contains a handgun and marijuana. The kitchen, which is a full "culinary" kitchen, includes a "high top" table and two chairs.

13. CI#1 has advised the FBI that RICCI is utilizing apartment #329 for the hanging, cutting and drying of marijuana and has an Asian lady overseeing this operation for him. The informant reports that apartments #134 and #224 each contain well over 100 marijuana plants and have been completely renovated with the latest marijuana growing equipment. These two apartments are also being tended by people of Asian descent for RICCI. [REDACTED] telephone number [REDACTED], who is an Asian male, is in charge of overseeing the other apartments being operated by other Asians for RICCI. Your affiant has caused an inquiry to be made through open source database, CLEAR for subscriber data for [REDACTED] and have determined that the telephone is listed to [REDACTED] Apartment [REDACTED] Providence, Rhode Island. Your affiant sent an inquiry to the Rhode Island Registry of Motor



Vehicles for any drivers' licenses for [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Street. I received a driver's license for [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED] and confirmed she is an Asian female.

14. CI#1 states that RICCI has been known to put the leases to these apartments he utilizes for growing marijuana in the names of other people without their knowledge and/or consent in order to protect himself from prosecution. CI#1 reports that RICCI utilizes cellular telephone number: [REDACTED] and charges \$3200.00 for one pound of marijuana grown in his apartments. Your affiant has caused an inquiry to be made on possible subscriber data for [REDACTED] and have determined it to be listed to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Providence, Rhode Island. Rhode Island Secretary of State, Corporate Service's database lists Mainland Properties, LLC as being located at 725 Branch Avenue, Unit 105, Providence, Rhode Island. The Secretary of State lists William RICCI as the registered agent for that corporation. National Grid, the utility provider for 725 Branch Avenue, lists this telephone number as a contact number for its customer, Branch Realty, at that location.

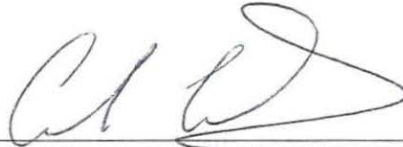
15. Your affiant has conducted a criminal history check of William L. RICCI, DOB [REDACTED] RICCI has a criminal record including felony convictions in Providence Rhode Island Superior Court: (Case number P1-1986-3407V) March 21, 1989, charges include: income derived from racketeering, multiple conspiracy counts- including conspiracy to commit murder, multiple counts of obtaining money under false pretenses, and possession of stolen motor vehicles; Providence Rhode Island Superior Court (Case number P2-1983-2279A) May 8, 1984, possession of a handgun without a license; October 24, 2003, United States District Court, Fraud.

16. On July 29, 2015 the FBI conducted surveillance of 725 Branch Avenue in Providence. On that date a surveillance agent observed a black 2015 GMC Yukon with Rhode Island registration WMC1. This vehicle is registered to William L. RICCI, Date of Birth: [REDACTED] with an address of [REDACTED], Lincoln, RI, 02865. Also observed parked in the vicinity of this vehicle was a black Toyota RAV4 with Rhode Island registration 438188. This vehicle is leased by [REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Lincoln, RI, 02865. Your affiant has determined that [REDACTED] is RICCI's ex-wife.

17. On August 12, 2015 agents of the FBI executed a court authorized search warrant for the apartment of William L. RICCI DOB [REDACTED] apartment 401. During the search investigators noted that RICCI had a Nutone central vacuum system that utilized Nutone central vacuum system canisters. This canister was located in a closet located to the left of the front door. The closet contained numerous articles of clothing that appeared to be in RICCI's size. The canister was removed and examined. Numerous items including a silver colored .22 caliber, semiautomatic handgun, the gun was with a .22 caliber magazine containing seven .22 caliber rounds. The gun is a Model J-22, .22 caliber long rifle, serial number 299274. The gun was accompanied by three United States passports, one belonging to William L. RICCI and two belonging to his two young children. In addition to the passports was approximately \$12,000 in cash and a gold Rolex watch in an envelope with a name and three digit number written on it. There were also two Apple iPhones located in that container. Your affiant spoke with Special Agent Joseph Robitaille of the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives (ATF) who confirmed for me that the .22 caliber was manufactured outside of the State of Rhode Island.

18. Based on the foregoing, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to arrest William L. RICCI for one count of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g).



COLIN WOODS  
SPECIAL AGENT  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Sworn to before me this 13<sup>th</sup> day  
of August, 2015, in Providence, Rhode Island.



LINCOLN D. ALMOND  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CASE NO.

[illegible]