2024-SW-0242

WARRANT NUMBER: 7-1-24 SW2

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF FORT BEND §
268TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT §

2024-SW-0242
WARR
Warrant
7112282

SEARCH WARRANT COMPELLING THE DISCLOSURE OF STORED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

TO THE SHERIFF OR ANY PEACE OFFICER OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

WHEREAS, the below signed authority, a Judge of a District Court located in Fort Bend County, Texas, upon proper Application by the State of Texas supported by the sworn Affidavit of the requesting peace officer, Investigator Evett Kelly of the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office, (which said Affidavit is here now made a part hereof for all purposes and incorporated herein as if written verbatim within the confines of this Warrant) through which the Court finds specific, articulable, sufficient, and substantial facts establishing probable cause to believe that the requested records constitute evidence of the offense of Online Impersonation, a violation of section 33.07 of the Texas Penal Code, and evidence that a particular person(s) committed said offense.

This Warrant is signed pursuant to Articles 18.02(a)(13) and 18B.351 – 18B.359 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and is consistent with Title 18 United States Code (U.S.C.), 2703(c)(2) and Orders the affiant or any peace officer of the State of Texas to go straightaway and deliver to Meta Platforms, Inc., 1 Meta Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, a copy of this Warrant compelling the release of Electronic Customer Data as defined in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (T.C.C.P.) Chapter 18B pertaining to the **Facebook** account **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted] for the time period of **account creation to July 1, 2024**.

YOU ARE THEREFORE COMMANDED to forthwith search the place therein named, to wit: Meta Platforms, Inc., with the authority to search for and to seize and/or agents of Meta Platforms, Inc. are hereby compelled to search for, seize, and to turn over the following records and information that are held in electronic storage by Meta Platforms, Inc. pertaining to the **Facebook** account **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted] for the time period of **account creation to July 1, 2024**:

Said Electronic Customer Data is more particularly described as:

1. Basic subscriber information, including but not limited to: the user identification number, full name, e-mail addresses associated with the subscriber(s), current and past physical addresses (including city, state, and zip code), screen names, websites, any and all registered mobile telephone numbers associated with the listed account, account or log-on names, Internet Protocol (IP) addresses associated with the listed account, and other personal identifiers;

2. Information about the subscriber's use of Facebook, including but not limited to: billing information, credit card information including account name, account number and expiration date used in conjunction with this account, types of services utilized by the subscriber and the lengths of such services or any other identifying or pertinent records relating to the subscriber, account application information, account access information, user logon information (including secondary user logon names), account usage reports, and any other information both in electronic customer

data and written record format, that records the activities of these accounts relating to the subscriber's use of the services offered by Facebook (Meta Platforms, Inc.);

3. All records pertaining to communications between Facebook and any person regarding **Surendran Pattel**'s Facebook account (Profile ID [redacted], including contacts with support services and records of actions taken;

4. Screen names the account holder has added to his/her account, the service they are associated with, and whether these names are hidden or visible on the account;

5. Other accounts and all account information that may be associated with **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted] after it has been identified;

6. Any information that would aid in the identification of who created the **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted] Facebook account;

7. Alternate names the account holder has on the account, including by way of example but not limitation, nicknames or aliases;

8. Email addresses added by the account holder, including email addresses that may have subsequently been removed;

9. A list of IP addresses, dates and times associated with logins and logouts to Facebook account **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted]) or any related/connected Meta Platforms, Inc., Instagram, or WhatsApp accounts;

10. Expanded Subscriber Content, including by way of example but not limitation, profile contact information, status update history, shares, notes, wall postings, friend listings to include friends, Facebook user names or IDs, future and past events; date and time stamp of account creation, most recent logins;

11. Stored active sessions, including date, time, device, IP address, machine cookie and browser information;

12. Third-party applications (or "apps") the account holder subscribes to;

13. A history of the conversations the account holder had on Facebook or Facebook Messenger;

14. All records of communications and messages sent or received by the account holder or through other associated accounts, including but not limited to all direct messages, all chat logs, Facebook messenger communications, video or audio calls and any archived messages;

15. Places the account holder has checked into;

16. A list of people who follow the account holder, including by way of example but not limitation, user name and account information;

17. A list of people the account holder follows, including by way of example but not limitation, user name and account information;

18. Pending, sent and received friend requests, including by way of example but not limitation, user name and account information;

19. A list of the account holder's friends and close friends, including name, Facebook ID, and Facebook account name;

20. A list of addresses where the account holder has logged into his/her Facebook (Meta Platforms, Inc.) account;

21. The last location associated with an update on this account;

22. A list of the accounts this account holder has linked to his/her Facebook (Meta Platforms, Inc.) account;

23. All archived stories or posts;

24. All posts, photo(s), video(s), or other items "saved" by the account holder;

25. All saved highlights or highlight stories;

26. All comments or likes that the account holder has made on another user's post, story, photo, video, or status update;

27. Networks or groups (affiliations with schools or workplaces) that the account holder belongs to on Meta Platforms, Inc.;

28. A list of pages this account holder administers;

29. Mobile phone numbers the account holder has added to her account, including by way of example but not limited to verified mobile numbers he/she has added for security purposes;

30. Photographs, in their original format, the account holder has uploaded to his/her account or shared, as well as, temporary and stored photographs the account holder has shared via chat. The photographs should include metadata information, including but not limited to, the date and time the photo was taken, GPS coordinates, make, model and possibly serial number of the device used;

31. Videos, in their original format, the account holder has uploaded to his/her account, or shared, as well as, temporary and stored videos the account holder has shared via chat. The videos should include metadata information, including by way of example but not limitation, the date and time the photo was taken, GPS coordinates, make, model and possibly serial number of the device used;

32. Posts by the account holder to his/her own timeline, including by way of example but not limitation, photos, videos, and status updates;

33. Posts to someone else's timeline or profile by the account holder, including by way of example but not limitation, photos, videos and status updates;

34. All contacts associated with the username whether derived from a mobile device phonebook or address book, associated Facebook account, or manually searched for and added;

35. All device information associated with the Facebook account including, but not limited to, International Mobile Equipment Identifiers (IMEIs), Mobile Equipment Identifiers (MEIDs), International Mobile Subscriber Identities (IMSIs), and Unique Device Identifiers (UDIDs);

36. All images, photos, and videos including all photos uploaded by that user ID and all photos uploaded by any user that have that user tagged in them. Said images, photos, and videos shall include all associated geotags whether derived from user keywords or tags or obtained from the Global Positioning System or other location services of a mobile device;

37. All activity logs for the account and all other documents showing the user's posts, keywords and tags annotated by the user, keywords and tags the user posted to other Facebook accounts and images, and the keywords and tags of other users posted to the target Facebook account and images; and

38. All linked social media accounts including, but not limited to Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and Instagram accounts and the username and/or user identification number for those accounts.

39. All linked Meta accounts associated with **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted] or its verified email account **taral@movetexas.org**, including any other Meta accounts listing **taral@movetexas.org** as a verified email address or alternate email address or listing the phone number [redacted] as a verified phone number or alternate phone number.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said records are to be delivered to the Applicant/Affiant, Investigator Evett Kelly at 1442 Eugene Heiman Circle, Richmond, Texas 77469, within 15 business days after the date of service or by electronic mail to evett.kelly@fortbendcountytx.gov. If e-mail is not available/possible, that the providers provide the required data electronically on a common storage medium, such as CD-ROM (compact disc read only memory) discs, and/or flash drive. Also, that all providers provide, when possible and so requested, all requested data in ASCII, comma separated values (.csv), or fixed length (SDF) format. This is to include that any and all records/data will be provided in all available formats of data, upon request, to include, but not limited to, documents/files currently produced in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, PDF (portable document format), CSV (comma separated value), and/or other electronic formats. Further, that upon the specific request of Affiant and/or the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office, that any provided data, including account specific, be provided by the necessary providers in a business records affidavit format that complies with the laws of the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Meta Platforms, Inc. including any of its employees or agents, is also ordered to retain, indefinitely, hard and soft copies of all records and/or data provided as a result of this Warrant.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the requesting law enforcement agency compensate Meta Platforms, Inc. at the prevailing rate for expenses incurred directly relating to compliance with this Warrant.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Meta Platforms, Inc., including any of its employees or agents, may not disclose to any person the existence of this warrant for an indefinite period, as any notification or

disclosure to any person of the existence of this warrant will have an adverse result as defined by Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (T.C.C.P) Chapter 18.B, Subchapter K, Art 18B.501 and 18 USC 2705b. Irrespective of California Penal Code Chapter 3.6 Section 1546 et al, this prohibition from notice to ANYONE has no expiration date. The probable cause set forth by the attached Affidavit contains evidence and suspicion of the crime of Online Impersonation, which is contrary to the laws and peace and dignity of the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Meta Platforms, Inc. SHALL notify the submitting agency, named investigator, and submitter of this process, in writing, 15 days prior to providing NOTICE to ANYONE so that additional legal process can be obtained.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Meta Platforms, Inc., shall verify the authenticity of the customer data, contents of communications, and other information produced in compliance with this warrant by including with the information the affidavit form, provided by the authorized peace officer serving this warrant, completed and sworn to by a person who is a custodian of the information or a person otherwise qualified to attest to its authenticity that states that the information was stored in the course of regularly conducted business of Meta Platforms, Inc., and specifies whether it is the regular practice of Meta Platforms, Inc., to store that information.

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

HEREIN FAIL NOT, as the peace officer to whom this warrant is delivered you shall execute it without delay and within eleven whole days and due return make by faithfully completing the form attached hereto designated for such purpose.

SIGNED AND ENTERED on this the 1st day of July, 2024 at 3:09 O'clock P.M.

458th HONORABLE JUDGE PRESIDING DISTRICT COURT
FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

Chad Bridges
PRINTED NAME OF JUDGE

FILED
JUL 02 2024
AT 12:25 P M.
Becky McDougal Walk
CLERK DISTRICT COURT, FORT BEND CO., TX

WARRANT NUMBER: 7-1-24 SW2

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF FORT BEND §
268TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT §

APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANT FOR STORED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

I.

COMES NOW, the State of Texas, by and through the requesting peace officer, Investigator Evett Kelly, and requests that a search warrant be signed, pursuant to Arts. 18.02 (a) (13) and 18B.351- 18B.359 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, and, in accordance with, Title 18 United States Code (U.S.C.) 2703(a) requiring the herein named electronic communications provider to furnish all **Meta Platforms, Inc.** account records for **Facebook** account holder: **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted] from **account creation to July 1, 2024,** including:

1. Basic subscriber information, including but not limited to: the user identification number, full name, e-mail addresses associated with the subscriber(s), current and past physical addresses (including city, state, and zip code), screen names, websites, any and all registered mobile telephone numbers associated with the listed account, account or log-on names, Internet Protocol (IP) addresses associated with the listed account, and other personal identifiers;

2. Information about the subscriber's use of Facebook, including but not limited to: billing information, credit card information including account name, account number and expiration date used in conjunction with this account, types of services utilized by the subscriber and the lengths of such services or any other identifying or pertinent records relating to the subscriber, account application information, account access information, user logon information (including secondary user logon names), account usage reports, and any other information both in electronic customer data and written record format, that records the activities of these accounts relating to the subscriber's use of the services offered by Facebook (Meta Platforms, Inc.);

3. All records pertaining to communications between Facebook and any person regarding **Surendran Pattel's** Facebook account (Profile ID [redacted]), including contacts with support services and records of actions taken;

4. Screen names the account holder has added to his/her account, the service they are associated with, and whether these names are hidden or visible on the account;

5. Other accounts and all account information that may be associated with **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted]) after it has been identified;

6. Any information that would aid in the identification of who created the **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted]) Facebook account;

7. Alternate names the account holder has on the account, including by way of example but not limitation, nicknames or aliases;

8. Email addresses added by the account holder, including email addresses that may have subsequently been removed;

9. A list of IP addresses, dates and times associated with logins and logouts to Facebook account **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted] or any related/connected Meta Platforms, Inc., Instagram, or WhatsApp accounts;

10. Expanded Subscriber Content, including by way of example but not limitation, profile contact information, status update history, shares, notes, wall postings, friend listings to include friends, Facebook user names or IDs, future and past events; date and time stamp of account creation, most recent logins;

11. Stored active sessions, including date, time, device, IP address, machine cookie and browser information;

12. Third-party applications (or "apps") the account holder subscribes to;

13. A history of the conversations the account holder had on Facebook or Facebook Messenger;

14. All records of communications and messages sent or received by the account holder or through other associated accounts, including but not limited to all direct messages, all chat logs, Facebook messenger communications, video or audio calls and any archived messages;

15. Places the account holder has checked into;

16. A list of people who follow the account holder, including by way of example but not limitation, user name and account information;

17. A list of people the account holder follows, including by way of example but not limitation, user name and account information;

18. Pending, sent and received friend requests, including by way of example but not limitation, user name and account information;

19. A list of the account holder's friends and close friends, including name, Facebook ID, and Facebook account name;

20. A list of addresses where the account holder has logged into his/her Facebook (Meta Platforms, Inc.) account;

21. The last location associated with an update on this account;

22. A list of the accounts this account holder has linked to his/her Facebook (Meta Platforms, Inc.) account;

23. All archived stories or posts;

24. All posts, photo(s), video(s), or other items "saved" by the account holder;

25. All saved highlights or highlight stories;

26. All comments or likes that the account holder has made on another user's post, story, photo, video, or status update;

27. Networks or groups (affiliations with schools or workplaces) that the account holder belongs to on Meta Platforms, Inc.;

28. A list of pages this account holder administers;

29. Mobile phone numbers the account holder has added to her account, including by way of example but not limited to verified mobile numbers he/she has added for security purposes;

30. Photographs, in their original format, the account holder has uploaded to his/her account or shared, as well as, temporary and stored photographs the account holder has shared via chat. The photographs should include metadata information, including but not limited to, the date and time the photo was taken, GPS coordinates, make, model and possibly serial number of the device used;

31. Videos, in their original format, the account holder has uploaded to his/her account, or shared, as well as, temporary and stored videos the account holder has shared via chat. The videos should include metadata information, including by way of example but not limitation, the date and time the photo was taken, GPS coordinates, make, model and possibly serial number of the device used;

32. Posts by the account holder to his/her own timeline, including by way of example but not limitation, photos, videos, and status updates;

33. Posts to someone else's timeline or profile by the account holder, including by way of example but not limitation, photos, videos and status updates;

34. All contacts associated with the username whether derived from a mobile device phonebook or address book, associated Facebook account, or manually searched for and added;

35. All device information associated with the Facebook account including, but not limited to, International Mobile Equipment Identifiers (IMEIs), Mobile Equipment Identifiers (MEIDs), International Mobile Subscriber Identities (IMSIs), and Unique Device Identifiers (UDIDs);

36. All images, photos, and videos including all photos uploaded by that user ID and all photos uploaded by any user that have that user tagged in them. Said images, photos, and videos shall include all associated geotags whether derived from user keywords or tags or obtained from the Global Positioning System or other location services of a mobile device;

37. All activity logs for the account and all other documents showing the user's posts, keywords and tags annotated by the user, keywords and tags the user posted to other Facebook accounts and images, and the keywords and tags of other users posted to the target Facebook account and images; and

38. All linked social media accounts including, but not limited to Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and Instagram accounts and the username and/or user identification number for those accounts.

39. All linked Meta accounts associated with **Surendran Pattel (Profile ID** [redacted] or its verified email account **taral@movetexas.org**, including any other Meta accounts listing **taral@movetexas.org** as a verified email address or alternate email address or listing the phone number [redacted] as a verified phone number or alternate phone number.

Affiant asserts that the requested records and information from **Meta Platforms, Inc. (Facebook)**, a stored electronic communications and/or stored electronic customer data provider doing business in the State of Texas, under a contract or under the terms of a service agreement with a citizen of the State of Texas, are held in electronic storage by **Meta Platforms, Inc.** Affiant further asserts that the requested records and information will constitute evidence that a specific offense has been committed or constitute evidence that a particular person(s) committed the offense.

Affiant further requests that the service provider be ordered not to disclose the fact of this Application or potential Search Warrant as its disclosure could cause an adverse result for this ongoing investigation such as flight of the suspect, tampering with evidence, or tampering with witnesses.

II.

The stored electronic communications and/or stored electronic customer data provider is **Meta Platforms, Inc. (Facebook).** Affiant knows that Meta Platforms, Inc. holds in electronic storage electronic customer data regarding Facebook because Meta Platforms, Inc. owns Facebook. **Meta Platforms, Inc. (Facebook)** may be contacted for service of process and execution of the search warrant requested herein by serving **Meta Platforms, Inc.** at **Attn: Law Enforcement Response Team, Meta Platforms, Inc., 1 Meta Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025.**

III.

The suspect account in question is **Meta Platforms, Inc.** and/or **Facebook** account **"Surendran Pattel" (User ID** [redacted]**.**

IV.

AFFIDAVIT OF REQUESTING PEACE OFFICER

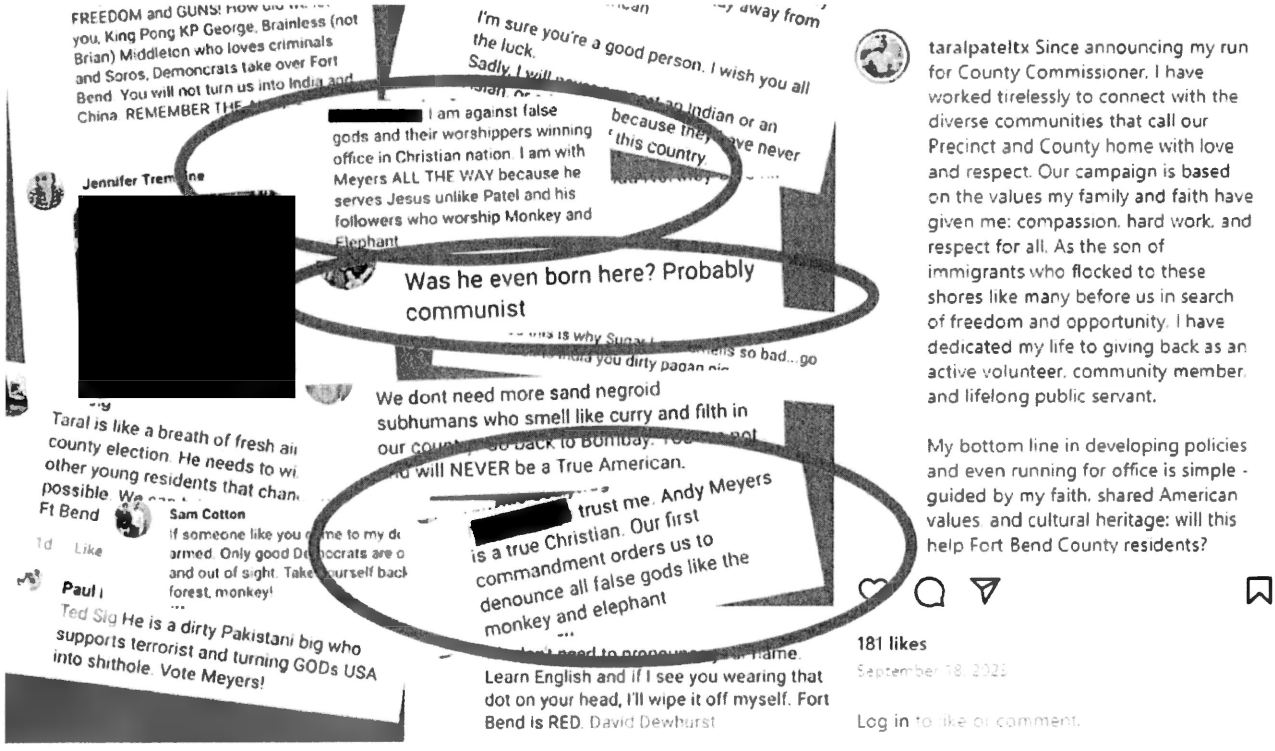
AFFIANT'S BELIEF IS BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

Affiant is Investigator Evett Kelly, a certified peace officer who has been licensed in the State of Texas for 22 years. Affiant is employed as a criminal investigator, assigned to the Public Integrity Division of the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office (FBCDAO). Affiant has been employed with FBCDAO for the past four years. Affiant has training, education, and experience investigating crimes against persons. As part of her training and experience, Affiant has spoken with peace officers and investigators within the FBCDAO and with other law enforcement agencies, who are knowledgeable regarding the methods and means used by individuals who commit offenses using technology, including, but not limited to the Internet and Internet Service Providers such as social media networking websites and electronic mail providers.

Affiant's belief that the foregoing facts are true and correct is based upon her personal investigation of the case and her conversations with Texas Ranger Louis Caltzontzint, a certified peace officer employed by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Affiant knows that Ranger Caltzontzint has been a certified peace officer for over 20 years and has experience investigating offenses where individuals use the Internet and Internet Service Providers to commit or aid in the commission of offenses.

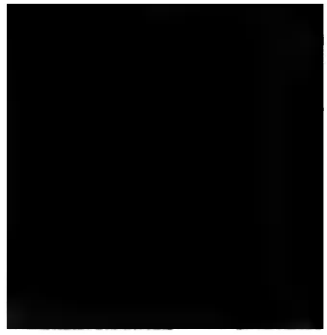
On or about October 18, 2023, Affiant received a request for investigation from Fort Bend County Commissioner of Precinct 3, Andy Meyers. The request concerned the identity of the source of several social media posts directed at Taral Patel, a candidate in the Democratic primary for Fort Bend County Commissioner Precinct 3. The request for investigation included a press release issued by Taral Patel which displayed a collage of "racist" social media posts. Affiant observed that the press release concealed many of the usernames. Affiant met with Meyers who stated that he reviewed the press release, located the original (unredacted) posts, and recognized the username "Antonio Scalywag". Meyers told Affiant that before Taral Patel entered the race for County Commissioner 3, "Antonio Scalywag" posted comments on social media attacking Meyers. Meyers stated that he had hired an investigator who was unable to locate anyone in Fort Bend County named Antonio Scalywag. Meyers requested Affiant to investigate the source of the comments to determine whether one or more identities were misrepresented.

Affiant observed the press release to have been posted on or about September 18, 2023, on social media platforms Facebook (Taral Patel for Commissioner – Fort Bend County 3), Twitter (@TaralVPatel), and Instagram (Taralpateltx) (see below). Affiant compared the redacted images from the press release to the unredacted posts that were provided by Meyers and observed them to appear to be the same. Affiant observed that three of the posts included in the press release were posts by a Facebook user named Antonio Scalywag, one of which stated in part "...I am with Meyers ALL THE WAY...unlike Patel and his followers who worship Monkey and Elephant".



Affiant began her investigation by conducting a search of public records and law enforcement databases for the name "Antonio Scalywag" and no results returned. Affiant knows based on her training and experience that people can create Facebook profiles using fake names or false personas.

Affiant went to Facebook.com and searched for the profile "Antonio Scalywag." Affiant located the Facebook profile for Antonio Scalywag and identified it as the same one from the press release by comparing the name and profile picture to the unredacted posts provided by Meyers. Affiant observed the posts on the profile to be consistent with those shown to her by Meyers. Affiant observed the profile picture associated with user Antonio Scalywag to be of a white male and female, both of whom appeared to be about thirty years of age, with two children (see below). Affiant observed the photo to be the only profile picture associated with the identity and persona of the Facebook user Antonio Scalywag.



Affiant copied the profile picture used by Antonio Scalywag into an open source internet search engine and performed a search for similar photos. From the search returns, Affiant identified another Facebook account for Patrick Ernst that contained the same photo. Affiant observed Patrick Ernst's Facebook account to have many photos depicting the same white male, many of which included the same white female, as the profile picture used by Antonio Scalywag. Additionally, in the results of the search for similar photos, Affiant observed the same photo to be linked to the website TheErnstCo.com, which advertised the services of Amy Ernst, a professional home organizer serving Needville, Texas and other areas of Fort Bend County, Texas.

Affiant conducted a search of the name Patrick Ernst using the public data website truthfinder.com. Affiant observed the results to show only one Patrick Ernst in Fort Bend County, Texas, who lived in Needville. Affiant placed a phone call to the phone number listed for the Patrick Ernst that lived in Needville and spoke to a person who identified himself to Affiant as Patrick Ernst (Ernst). Ernst told Affiant that he did have a Facebook account and that someone had previously contacted him via Facebook messenger about a person identified as Antonio Scalywag using Ernst's picture. Affiant invited Ernst to the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office for an interview.

On or about February 2, 2024, Affiant met with Patrick Ernst, whose identity was later confirmed via a search of the law enforcement database TCIC/NCIC and official Texas Driver's License photo. Affiant observed Ernst to appear to be the person in the photo used on the Facebook account of Antonio Scalywag. Affiant showed Ernst the photo used on the Facebook account for Antonio Scalywag, and Ernst stated that the photo depicted himself and his wife. Ernst told Affiant that the photo was taken at a state park and was posted on his wife, Amy Ernst's, business website: TheErnstCo.com. Ernst told Affiant that in November 2023, someone named Bassam Syed sent him a direct message on Facebook stating that

Antonio Scalywag was using Ernst's photo. Ernst also showed Affiant the message from Bassam Syed and Affiant observed it was consistent with Ernst's statement.

Affiant showed Ernst the Facebook posts by Antonio Scalywag used in the press release provided to Affiant by Andy Meyers and Ernst denied writing them. During the meeting with Ernst, Affiant accessed the online Facebook account for Antonio Scalywag and showed Ernst the profile, the posts, and the list of friends on the profile. Ernst told Affiant that he did not send any of the messages or make any of the posts associated with his photo and the name Antonio Scalywag. Ernst told Affiant that the photo of him on Antonio Scalywag's profile was obtained and used without his consent and that he considered the comments by Antonio Scalywag, using his photo, to be harmful to Ernst's reputation.

On or about February 13, 2024, Affiant issued a grand jury subpoena to Meta Platforms, Inc. for the subscriber information for the "Antonio Scalywag" Facebook account. On or about March 14, 2024, Affiant received the Facebook records from Meta Platforms, Inc. Affiant reviewed the records, which showed the registered email address for the Facebook user "Antonio Scalywag" as mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com.

On or about March 19, 2024, Affiant sent a grand jury subpoena to Google, LLC (Google) requesting the subscriber information for the email address mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com. Affiant received records from Google responsive to the subpoena on or about April 10, 2024. Affiant reviewed the records and observed the following subscriber information: Taral Patel, [redacted] and phone number [redacted] Using the Fort Bend County Appraisal District (FBCAD) website, Affiant searched the property address [redacted] and saw that it was a residence owned by Atula Patel and Vipul H Patel. The residence was reported as their homestead.

Using law enforcement databases, Affiant located a current Texas Driver's License for Taral Patel. Affiant observed that Texas Driver's License No [redacted] was issued to Taral Vipul Patel, and listed his emergency contacts as Atula Patel and Vipul Patel. Affiant observed his mailing address as [redacted] Affiant observed in Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) records from Ranger Caltzontzint that prior to changing his address on 09-08-2023, Taral Patel's physical address was listed as [redacted] Affiant positively identified Taral Vipul Patel to be the same Taral Patel who is the candidate running for County Commissioner Precinct 3 by comparing the Texas Driver's License photo to campaign photos identifying him at https://www.taralpateltx.com.

The Google grand jury subpoena return for the account mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com dated April 10, 2024, also included billing information. Affiant observed it to list the account holder as Taral Patel and include the 16-digit visa card number [redacted] Affiant searched the card number using the open source search engine Binlist.net and identified the card issuer as JP Morgan Chase Bank. On or about April 12, 2024, Affiant sent a Grand Jury subpoena to JP Morgan Chase Bank for records identifying the customer that was issued card number [redacted] On or about May 2, 2024, JP Morgan Chase Bank produced records responsive to the subpoena. Affiant observed the records to identify the owner of the 16-digit visa card linked to moutaingoatzrule@gmail.com as:

Customer Name: TARAL PATEL
Customer Address: [redacted]
Phone Number: [redacted]
SSN: [redacted]
Date of Birth: [redacted]

Affiant observed the JP Morgan Chase Bank records to further identify the customer by User ID: "taralvpatel05" and Email Address: taralvpatel@gmail.com. Affiant knows that this email address is linked to Taral Patel as well as other target suspect emails in this investigation (see below). Affiant observed credit card transactions in and around the Houston area, and in the Washington, D.C. and Arlington, VA areas beginning in August 2021.

The Google grand jury subpoena return also included the following online activity information:

Name: Tvpat Tvpat
Email: mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com
Last Updated Date: 2024-01-16
Last Logins: 2024-01-16, 2024-01-04, 2023-05-17
Account Recovery SMS: [redacted][US]
IP Activity:

Timestamp	IP Address	Activity Type
2024-01-16 03:46:54 Z	2601:2c2:981:7c50:d3b1:beaa:1e13:8847	Login

Affiant searched the IP address 2601:2c2:981:7c50:d3b1:beaa:1e13:8847 using an open source search engine and learned that it belonged to Comcast in the Houston Metro area. Affiant sent a grand jury subpoena to Comcast requesting the subscriber information for the IP address. On May 21, 2024, Affiant received records from Comcast responsive to the grand jury subpoena. Affiant reviewed the records and learned that the subscriber to the Comcast account was Atula Patel, [redacted] Affiant noted that subscriber information matched the Texas Driver's License return of Taral Vipul Patel.

Noting the Account Recovery SMS (phone number) associated with the email mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com was [redacted] Affiant sent a grand jury subpoena to Google on or about April 19, 2024, requesting it to identify all emails that use phone number [redacted] as the Account Recovery SMS. On May 20, 2024, Google responded to the subpoena. Affiant reviewed the records and observed that phone number [redacted] was the recovery phone number for the following email accounts: taral.fbc@gmail.com, taralvpatel@gmail.com, moutaingoatzrule@gmail.com, and info@kpgeorge.com. Affiant knows based on her training and experience that the acronym SMS means short message service, which means a cellular/mobile phone device capable of sending/receiving text messages.

On May 7, 2024, Affiant obtained two search warrants from Judge T. Carter, of the 400th District Court, Fort Bend County, Texas in the 268 Judicial District of Texas. One warrant was to Google for the contents of the mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com account. The other warrant was to Meta Platforms Inc. (Facebook), for the contents of the Antonio Scalywag Facebook account.

On or about May 14, 2024, Affiant received records from Google, in response to the mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com search warrant. Affiant reviewed the records and observed that the device associated with mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com was a Pixel 6 Pro mobile phone device. Affiant also observed the Google records to show that in addition to mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com, the Pixel 6 Pro mobile phone device was associated with several other email accounts, including but not limited to:

taralvpatel@gmail.com, electkpgeorge@gmail.com, info@kpgeorge.com, taralfbc@gmail.com, tpatel@intuitivegc.com, kpgeorge@kpgeorge.com, info@taralpateltx.com. Affiant knows from her investigation and review of campaign materials published by Taral Patel, that Taral Patel worked as Chief of Staff for K.P. George, County Judge for Fort Bend County, Texas at or near the time the Google records were created. Affiant looked at the contact information available on Taral Patel for Commissioner of Precinct 3 Campaign's website (https://www.taralpateltx.com) and saw that the email published on the website was info@taralpateltx.com.

Affiant continued her review of the records from Google in response to the mountaingoatzrule@gmail.com search warrant and saw an email from Facebook to Antonio Scalywag dated July 15, 2022 that read in part "Hi Antonio, Your Facebook password was reset on Friday, July 15, 2022 at 9:54 AM (EDT) Device: Pixel 6 Pro IP address: 38.42.1.196".

Affiant used an open-source search engine to look up the IP address 38.42.1.196 and learned that it belonged to Starry, Inc. in the Washington, D.C. Metro area. Affiant sent a grand jury subpoena to Starry Inc. requesting subscriber information for the IP address. On or about May 21, 2024, Affiant received records from Starry Inc. responsive to the grand jury subpoena. Affiant reviewed the records and observed the following subscriber information: Name: Taral Patel, Address: [redacted], Phone: [redacted], Length of Service: 06/27/2022 to 05/31/2023, and Email: Taralvpatel@gmail.com. Affiant noted that the email and phone number for this account are associated with the identity of Taral Patel across multiples credible sources, including but not limited to DPS and JP Morgan Chase.

On or about May 16, 2024, Affiant reviewed a press release from Fort Bend County Judge K.P. George from February 22, 2021, that stated Taral Patel had accepted a job in Washington, D.C. and his last day would be March 2, 2021. Affiant also used open source search tools and found a commencement program for the May 19, 2023 graduation ceremony for George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, which listed Taral Patel as a graduate. Affiant knows based on information distributed by Taral Patel's campaign that Taral Patel asserts he worked in Washington, D.C. for the Federal Government and attended evening classes at George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School.

Affiant noted that the phone number [redacted] was the account recovery phone number for multiple emails associated with Taral Patel, and was also associated with the subscriber Taral Patel in Arlington, VA. Affiant conducted an open source search of the phone number [redacted] and found that it is a cell phone number registered to T-Mobile. On or about May 16, 2024, Affiant issued a grand jury subpoena to T-Mobile for the subscriber information for phone number [redacted] On May 24, 2024, T-Mobile responded to the subpoena and Affiant observed that the subscriber associated with cell phone number [redacted] is Atula Patel, [redacted].

On May 22, 2024, Affiant received records from Meta Platforms, Inc. (Facebook) in response to the search warrant for the Antonio Scalywag Facebook account. Affiant reviewed the records and observed that the photo of Patrick Ernst was uploaded to Antonio Scalywag's profile on or about October 20, 2022, from a mobile device using IP address: 38.42.1.196. Affiant knew based on her investigation that this was a Starry, Inc. IP address that was registered to Taral Patel in Arlington, VA. Affiant located in the Facebook records the three posts which were used in Taral Patel's press release on September 18, 2023. Affiant also observed in the records a threat made to another user by Antonio Scalywag. From Affiant's review, it appeared that Antonio Scalywag, after sending the threatening message deleted the message. Affiant observed before the message was deleted, it had been preserved by the recipient and sent back to Antonio Scalywag as a media message.

Affiant also observed in the records from Meta Platforms that Antonio Scalywag became "Facebook Friends" with user Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted]) on July 28, 2021. Affiant knows Surendran K. Pattel is the elected judge for the 240th District Court in Fort Bend County from various interactions in the course of her employment and because his photo hangs on the wall in the Fort Bend County Justice Center where Affiant works. Affiant recognized the profile Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted]) to be Judge Pattel's profile based on the photo. Affiant saw that Antonio Scalywag made several comments on user Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted])'s posts that were complimentary to user Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted]). Affiant also observed a series of direct messages between user Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted] and Antonio Scalywag beginning in August 2021. Affiant observed that the conversation was friendly in nature until January 2022, when it appeared that user Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted]) was upset with something Antonio Scalywag had posted publicly. Affiant observed no further communication until November 2023 when Antonio Scalywag sent several messages to user Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted]) and made an attempt at a phone call using Facebook messenger to user Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted]) but received no response.

On or about June 12, 2024, Affiant learned from Garrett Chapman that Taral Vipul Patel was arrested pursuant to Arrest Warrants # 6-11-24 AW1 and 6-11-24 AW2 signed June 11, 2024, by Judge Chad Bridges of the 458th District Court in Fort Bend County, Texas. Affiant learned that at the time of Taral Patel's arrest, he was in possession of a black Google brand cell phone. Affiant learned that Taral Patel identified the last four digits of the cell phone number as '[redacted]. On June 12, 2024, Judge Bridges issued a search warrant for the seized phone. Affiant learned from Ranger Chapman that the phone was forensically examined by Texas Department of Public Safety Investigator Andrew Lott. Affiant received a preliminary device report from Inv. Andrew Lott that contained user accounts and associated URLs that were stored on the phone. Affiant observed a Facebook account listed for "Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted]) that was associated with the email Taral@movetexas.org.

On or about June 24, 2024, Affiant searched Facebook for "Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted]) and noted that it was a different profile from Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted]). Affiant observed that this second profile, "Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted], also contained a photograph of Judge Surendran Pattel in the 240th District Court, Fort Bend County, Texas. Affiant observed that the profile picture was updated on December 18, 2023. Affiant also observed on the account for "Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted]) that the account only followed two other accounts, "Nikita Khambe" and "Re-Elect Commisioner Andy Meyers" and had no other public information available.

On or about July 1, 2024, Affiant and Ranger Garrett Chapman interviewed Judge Surendran K. Pattel. Judge Pattel was shown a screenshot of the Facebook profile "Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted]. Judge Pattel identified the photo on the profile as a photo of him and the same photo Judge Pattel uses on his personal Facebook profile, which he identified as Surendran K. Pattel (ID [redacted]). Judge Pattel stated that he did not create the profile "Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted]) and he did not authorize anyone else to create the profile on his behalf. Judge Pattel stated that the Facebook profile "Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted]) was created using his name and displaying his photo without his consent. Judge Pattel was asked whether he was associated with the email Taral@movetexas.org, and Judge Pattel stated that he was not. Judge Pattel showed Affiant his true and authentic account and Affiant saw that the username was "Surendran K. Pattel" (ID [redacted]), the account displayed the same profile photograph, and had much more content and active engagement than "Surendran Pattel (User ID [redacted]).

Based upon all the foregoing information, Affiant believes that a search of the **Facebook** account **"Surendran Pattel" (User ID** [redacted]) for the entirety of its contents, from the time the account was created to the issuance of this warrant, would yield pertinent information that would constitute evidence of the offense(s) of Online Impersonation (Texas Penal Code 33.07) or evidence that a particular person(s) committed the offense of Online Impersonation (Texas Penal Code 33.07). Affiant reasonably believes that all the account's contents are material to this investigation because the account was created using Judge Pattel's name and persona without his consent, thereby making every action taken on the account evidence of the offense of Online Impersonation or evidence that a particular person committed said offense.

Based upon the foregoing information, there is probable cause to believe that evidence of Online Impersonation will be found within Meta Platforms, Inc. (specifically the social media platform of Facebook). Based on Affiant's training and experience, Affiant has reason to believe that by securing the requested information related to this Meta Platforms, Inc. (specifically the social media platform of Facebook) account will lead Affiant to information important to this criminal investigation and subsequent prosecution of the crimes stated within this affidavit.

Subscriber information that includes names, e-mail address, recent logins and time stamps for activity would identify the suspect(s). Expanded subscriber content like profile contact information, status updates, shares, notes, wall postings, and friend listings would help identify the suspect(s) further and possible associates in the crime pictured with the suspect(s). Stored active session content including the date, time, device, IP addresses, machine cookies and browser information stored by Facebook would help identify how and where the suspect(s) use his/her phone or computer. Current and past address(es) associated with the account will help identify where the suspect(s) reside to place them at or near the crimes. Alternate names on the account will help further identify the suspect(s). Third-party applications or "apps" that use Facebook, link to Facebook, or that pull information from Facebook, will be helpful in identifying further information the suspect(s) used to commit the offenses. History of conversations the suspect(s) had on Facebook could be evidence of coordinating the events of the crime or posts. Places the account holder has checked into will help identify the locations the suspect(s) have been to track and coordinate movements establishing that a suspect was in control of the account at the time the posts were made. Credit card information that may be stored with Facebook could be evidence of the identity of the suspect(s). E-mail addresses connected to the account would be evidence to help further identify the suspect(s). Events the account holder has been invited to or joined will be evidence of how the suspect(s) lives or help identify additional suspects. Friends the account holder has indicated as family would help identify the suspect(s)' connections and possibly identify the suspect(s) who are thus unidentified. The list of followers could be evidence of accomplices in the crime. The list of individuals and accounts the suspect(s) follows could help identify accomplices. A list of the account holder's friends could be evidence of accomplices. Any location data including check-ins, addresses, pins, likes of businesses that are kept by Facebook would be evidence of the suspect(s)' movements and actions before, during, and after the commission of the crimes. A list of accounts the account holder has linked to Facebook or apps the account holder has given Facebook (Meta Platforms, Inc.) access to could provide evidence of additional applications the suspect(s) used to coordinate and execute the offense. The list of IP Addresses used to login and logouts to this Meta Platforms, Inc. account will provide evidence of account holder and location information. Archived messages could be evidence of communications with accomplices. Mobile phone numbers associated to the account would point to potential devices the suspect(s) used in the commission of the murder. Photographs and videos posted to the account help identify the suspect(s) and how the suspect(s) looked during periods the suspect(s) committed the crime, and could be evidence of the crime itself. The associated information gathered by Meta Platforms, Inc. like date, time, GPS location, and device used including serial numbers, makes, and models to the upload images and videos

would help identify devices used to help commit the murder. Additional screen names the account holder has linked to the account could lead to additional evidence about the suspect(s) or accomplices with the suspect(s).

Affiant has both training and experience in the investigation of crimes involving the use of stored electronic communications and stored electronic customer data services. Affiant has also had conversations with other law enforcement officers, including Texas Ranger Garrett Chapman, who have experience and training in the investigation of crimes involving the use of stored electronic and stored electronic customer data services. Affiant knows the following through her training, experience, and conversations with other law enforcement officers:

1. Affiant knows from training and experience that social media records such as those held by **Meta Platforms, Inc. (Facebook)** may support evidence of current, on-going, future, and past criminal activity. Affiant knows that such information may be used to identify victims, witnesses, associates, and co-conspirators.

2. From Affiant's review of publicly available information provided by Facebook about its service, including Facebook's "Terms of Use" policy, "Data" policy, and "Information for Law Enforcement", Affiant is aware of the following about Facebook and about the information collected and retained by **Meta Platforms, Inc. (Facebook)**. Facebook is owned by Meta Platforms, Inc. and operates a free-access social-networking website of the same name that can be accessed at **http://www.facebook.com**. Facebook allows users to create their own profile pages, which can include a short biography, a photo of themselves, and other information. Users can access Facebook through the Facebook website or by using a special electronic application ("app") created by the company that allows users to access the service through a mobile device or tablet.

3. Facebook permits users to post photos to their profiles on Facebook and otherwise share photos with others on Facebook, as well as certain other social-media services, including Flickr, Instagram, Tumblr, and Twitter. When posting or sharing a photo on Facebook, a user can add to the photo, a caption; various "tags" that can be used to search for the photo (e.g., a user made add the tag #Chevy so that people interested in Chevrolet vehicles can search for and find the photo); location information; and other information. A user can also apply a variety of "filters" or other visual effects that modify the look of the posted photos. In addition, Facebook allows users to make comments on posted photos, including photos that the user posts or photos posted by other users of Facebook. Users can also "like" photos.

4. Upon creating a Facebook account, a user must register an email address and create an account password. This information is collected and maintained by Facebook. Facebook also requests users to provide basic identity and contact information upon registration and also allows users to provide additional identity information for their user profile. This information may include the user's full name, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers, as well as potentially other personal information provided directly by the user to Facebook. Once an account is created, users may also adjust various privacy and account settings for the account on Facebook. Facebook collects and maintains this information.

5. Social networking sites, including Facebook, which allow users to establish online accounts, create profiles, and invite others to access profiles as friends are susceptible to fabrication and manipulation.

6. Facebook allows users to have "friends," which are other individuals with whom the user can share information without making the information public. Friends on Facebook may come from either contact lists maintained by the user, other third-party social media websites and information, or searches conducted by the user on Facebook profiles. Facebook collects and maintains this information.

7. Facebook also allows users to "follow" or "Friend" another user, which means that they receive updates about posts made by the other user. Users may also "unfollow" or "Unfriend" users, that is, stop following them or block them, which prevents the blocked user from following that user. Facebook also allows users to post and share various types of user content, including photos, videos, captions, comments, and other materials. Facebook collects and maintains user content that users post to Facebook or shared through Facebook.

8. Facebook users may send photos, videos, and messages to select individuals or groups via Facebook Messenger. Information sent via Facebook Messenger does not appear in a user's feed, search history, or profile. Users on Facebook may also search Facebook for other users or particular types of photos or other content.

9. For each user, Facebook also collects and retains information, called "log file" information, every time a user requests access to Facebook, whether through a web page or through an app. Among the log file information that Facebook's servers automatically record is the particular web requests, any Internet Protocol ("IP) address associated with the request, type of browser used, any referring/exit web pages and associated URLs, pages viewed, dates and times of access, and other information.

10. Facebook also collects and maintains "cookies," which are small text files containing a string of numbers that are placed on a user's computer or mobile device and that allows Facebook to collect information about how a user uses Facebook. For example, Facebook uses cookies to help users navigate between pages efficiently, to remember preferences, and to ensure advertisements are relevant to a user's interests.

11. Facebook also collects information on the particular devices used to access Facebook. In particular, Facebook may record "device identifiers," which includes data files and other information that may identify the particular electronic device that was used to access Facebook. Facebook also collects data from device settings including GPS location, camera, photos, and more specific device identifies such as IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity), MEID (Mobile Equipment Identity), and UDID (Unique Device Identifier).

12. Facebook also collects other data associated with user content. For example, Facebook collects any "hashtags" associated with user content (i.e., keywords used), "geotags" that mark the location of a photo and which may include GPS data such as latitude and longitude information, comments on photos, and other information.

13. Facebook also may communicate with the user, by email or otherwise. Facebook collects and maintains copies of communications between Facebook and the user.

14. As explained herein, information stored in connection with a Facebook account may provide crucial evidence of the "who, what, why, when, where, and how" of the criminal conduct under

investigation, thus enabling investigators to establish and prove each element or alternatively, to exclude the innocent from further suspicion.

15. A Facebook user's account activity, IP log, stored electronic communications, and other data retained by Facebook, can indicate who has used or controlled the Facebook account. This "user attribution" evidence is analogous to the search for "indicia of occupancy" while executing a search warrant at a residence. For example, profile contact information, direct messaging logs, shared photos and videos, and captions (and the data associated with the foregoing, such as geo-location, date and time) may be evidence of who used or controlled the Facebook account at a relevant time. Further, Facebook account activity can show how and when the account was accessed or used. For example, as described herein, Facebook logs the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses from which users access their accounts along with the time and date. By determining the physical location associated with the logged IP addresses, investigators can understand the chronological and geographic context of the account access and use relating to the crime under investigation. Such information allows investigators to understand the geographic and chronological context of Facebook access, use, and events relating to the crime under investigation.

16. Additionally, Facebook builds geo-location into some of its services. Geo-location allows, for example, users to "tag" their location in posts and Facebook "friends" to locate each other. This geographic and timeline information may tend to either inculpate or exculpate the Facebook account owner. Last, Facebook account activity may provide relevant insight into the Facebook account owner's state of mind as it relates to the offense under investigation. For example, information on the Facebook account may indicate the owner's motive and intent to commit a crime (e.g., information indicating a plan to commit a crime), or consciousness of guilt (e.g., deleting account information in an effort to conceal evidence from law enforcement).

Affiant knows from her training, experience, and consultation with other certified peace officers that Meta Platforms, Inc., located at 1 Meta Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025, is a provider of an electronic communications service/remote computing service. Affiant knows from her training and experience that this company provides access to a worldwide computer network, commonly known as the Internet, to individuals and/or other users who have a subscription to, membership with, or affiliation with their company, organization or commercial service. Meta Platforms, Inc., also provides web hosting, e-mail/messaging services, image/video storage services, access solutions, etc. to its customers in which Meta Platforms, Inc., reserves and/or maintains computer disk storage space on its own computer system servers for the use of the subscribers/customers/users associated with its company. Information contained on this previously mentioned storage space is Electronic Customer Data as defined in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (T.C.C.P.) Chapter 18 and may include electronic communications (commonly known as e-mails and or messages) between subscriber(s) and other parties, graphic image and/or text files, Internet history or Internet hyperlinks, file transfer protocol logs, website access logs, programs and other types of data or information stored in electronic form(s). Providers of electronic communications services/remote computing services, such as Meta Platforms, Inc., also maintain records pertaining to the individuals and/or other users who have subscriber accounts with their company. This information can include registration information, account application information, credit card or other billing information, account access information, user logon information (including secondary user log on names), account usage reports, e-mail transaction information, news group access and posting information and other information both in computer data and written record format that records the activities of these accounts relating to the subscriber's use of the services offered by the provider.

Affiant knows from her training, experience, and consultation with other law enforcement officers that an I.P. address is a unique number assigned to a computer when that computer accesses the Internet. I.P. addresses allow computers on the Internet to locate, contact, and communicate with other computers via the Internet network. An I.P. address refers to a unique number used by a computer to access the Internet; it is unique in the sense that no two users can have the exact same I.P. address at the same time. Every computer or machine that is on the Internet has a unique I.P. address. If a computer or machine does not have an I.P. address, it is not really on the Internet. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are companies that provide individuals and other companies with access to the Internet, commonly for a fee, through telephone, cable, or satellite connections. Some ISPs also offer an extensive online array of services of their own apart from the rest of the Internet, such as e-mail access, newsgroup access, instant message chat, etc. Companies such as Internet Service Providers or Web Hosting Services doing business on the Internet commonly obtain a block or series of I.P. addresses. Using a specific type of software, the I.P. address assigned to the computer can be subsequently traced to the Internet Company providing the I.P. address. A request to the ISP, usually in the form of a subpoena, can reveal the subscription information that the ISP receives when establishing service to the customer, including name, billing address, address of service, and form and method of payment for the service. Affiant knows through her training and experience that an I.P. address is an accurate technique to find the method of Internet connection for an individual accessing the Internet. The service providers for I.P. addresses keep accurate records that can be traced back to specific accounts if they are provided with accurate dates and times of use. Affiant is aware that a dynamically assigned I.P. address is subject to periodic change; however, in in speaking with other more experienced law enforcement officers in this area, Affiant is aware that I.P. addresses assigned by Comcast do not change on a regular basis. Affiant is aware that some I.P. address may be static and that static I.P. address do not change periodically. Corresponding to a particular IP Address is the Universal Resource Locator (hereinafter referred to as a URL), which is the address of the site in a text format. Uniform Resource Locator (URL) specifies the location of and is the address of a file or resource accessible on the Internet. An IP address may look something like "67.15.250.7." A URL may look something like http://www.yahoo.com.

As a result of the above-mentioned training and experience, and in speaking with more experienced investigators, Affiant has learned that people can use these social media profiles to mask their true identities and often utilize several different profiles to engage in acts of online impersonation.

By nature of Meta Platforms, Inc. being an Internet service provider, it is realized that many other individuals, organizations, businesses, and other entities utilize this company's services and have no association with the subject investigation. These other unnamed individuals, organizations, businesses, and other entities may have various amounts of information maintained in various forms with Meta Platforms, Inc. with a reasonable expectation of privacy. It is Affiant's intent that the search conducted at Meta Platforms, Inc. be as least intrusive as possible to complete this search as it relates the offense(s) of Online Impersonation, Misrepresentation of Identity, and/or True Source of Communication. Further, it is Affiant's intent to use whatever means or methodology on hand to conduct this search with limited or no interruption of the service provided to these other unnamed individuals. It is for these reasons that Affiant requests that Meta Platforms, Inc. locate and isolate the above named information on their servers and make a copy of such information in a readable format to provide to Affiant for review as part of this investigation.

Affiant further requests that Meta Platforms, Inc. be precluded from disclosing the existence of this warrant to any person. Affiant believes that a serious adverse result as defined by T.C.C.P Article

18B.501(c) would arise if Meta Platforms, Inc. was not precluded from notification to any customer/subscriber. Specifically, Affiant believes that because this case involves one or more suspects masking their identities online that disclosure would lead to tampering with witnesses and evidence.

Affiant hereby notifies Meta Platforms, Inc., that an executed affidavit is required and requests that Meta Platforms, Inc. be ordered to provide said executed affidavit along with any responsive customer data, contents of communications, and other information produced in compliance with the warrant.

All information noted in this affidavit for search warrant has been related to Affiant by the person(s) and/or source(s) attributed or referenced. Affiant further believes in good faith that the information provided herein to be true, correct, and worthy of credibility. Because the sole purpose of this affidavit is to establish probable cause that a criminal offense has occurred, not every relevant fact known to me, or to other investigators, is included within. Rather, only those facts necessary to establish probable cause have been discussed.

An exact copy of the warrant will be served to Meta Platforms, Inc. personnel, either by telephonic facsimile transmission, electronic mail (email) transmission, or by uploading the warrant to the provider's law enforcement compliance portal, who will be directed to produce those account records and communications in its possession. The information requested should be readily accessible to Meta Platforms, Inc. by computer search, and its production should not prove to be burdensome.

Affiant knows the disclosure of transactional and subscriber records and information is regulated by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), specifically found in Title 18 U.S.C., Section 2701, et seq. The ECPA requires the disclosure of content of an electronic communication held by an electronic communication or remote computing service pursuant to a state search warrant, and Title 18 U.S.C. Section 2703(g), states the presence of an officer is not required for service or execution of a search warrant issued requiring the disclosure by a provider of electronic communications service or remote computing service of the contents of an electronic communication.

Affiant believes that **Meta Platforms, Inc.** holds information and evidence related to the above described account identifier/s and that said information constitutes evidence of the above enumerated offense(s) or evidence that particular person(s) committed the above enumerated offense(s) and that it is held in electronic storage by the named service provider.

Based on the information gathered in this investigation thus far, Affiant feels that the information provided by **Meta Platforms, Inc.** for records relating to the **Facebook** account **"Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted])** could be material to the Affiant's investigation. Based on the information set forth in this affidavit, Affiant believes specific, articulable, sufficient, and substantial facts exist establishing probable cause to believe that the requested records constitute evidence of the offense(s) of Online Impersonation (Texas Penal Code 33.07), or evidence that a particular person(s) committed the offense of Online Impersonation (Texas Penal Code 33.07).

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Affiant respectfully requests that a warrant issue authorizing Affiant, or any other peace officer of Fort Bend County, Texas, to search the aforesaid location or compel an agent of **Meta Platforms, Inc.** to search **Facebook** account identifier **"Surendran Pattel" (User ID [redacted])**, held in their custody with authority to search for and to seize any and all

property, items, and contraband set out earlier in this Affidavit that constitutes evidence of the offense(s) of Online Impersonation, which is a violation of section 33.07 of the Texas Penal Code.

As required under California Penal Code § 1524.2(c), I attest that the evidence sought in this warrant is not related to an investigation into, or enforcement of, a "prohibited violation," as defined in California Penal Code § 629.51. "Prohibited violation" under that section means "any violation of law that creates liability for, or arising out of, either of the following: providing, facilitating, or obtaining an abortion that is lawful under California law; [or] intending or attempting to provide, facilitate, or obtain an abortion that is lawful under California law."

Investigator Evett Kelly, AFFIANT

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME on this the 15 day of July 2024.

458th HONORABLE PRESIDING JUDGE
DISTRICT COURT
FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

PRINTED NAME OF JUDGE

FILED
JUL 02 2024
AT 12:15 P M.
CLERK DISTRICT COURT, FORT BEND CO., TX

WARRANT NUMBER: _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF FORT BEND §
268TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT §

RETURN AND INVENTORY

The undersigned Affiant, being a Peace Officer under the laws of Texas and being duly sworn, on oath certifies that the foregoing evidentiary search warrant came to hand on the day it was issued and that it was executed on the 1ST day of July, 2024, by making the search directed therein and seizing during such search the following described property:

AFFIANT

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, the undersigned authority, on this the 1st day of July, 2024.

HERLINDA NANEZ
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF TEXAS
Notary ID #125555503
Expires May 21, 2028

NOTARY PUBLIC OF THE STATE OF TEXAS