

Gary - Lyc. Rep.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :

CRIMINAL DIVISION

NO. CR-953-2025

v. :

Omnibus Motion

QUODRICE HENDRIX,
Defendant :

OPINION

This matter was before the Court on December 1 and December 8, 2025, for a hearing and argument on Defendant's Omnibus Motion. At the hearing on the Motion, Defendant appeared personally represented by Taylor Paulhamus, Esquire. Assistant District Attorney Jessica Feese appeared on behalf of the Commonwealth. Defendant's Omnibus Motion included (1) a request to proceed Nunc Pro Tunc; (2) A Petition for Habeas Corpus; and (3) a Motion to Suppress. The Commonwealth objected to the untimeliness of the request to proceed Nunc Pro Tunc, but conceded that the interests of justice warranted the Defendant in proceeding with his Omnibus Motion. Accordingly, the Court granted the Defendant's request to proceed Nunc Pro Tunc.

On December 1, 2025, the Commonwealth submitted the preliminary hearing audio as Commonwealth Exhibit No. 1 to address both the Petition for Habeas Corpus and the Motion to Suppress. The Commonwealth also requested to submit written argument on the Motion to Suppress. Defendant did not object to the admission of the exhibit to the record for the purposes of the habeas petition. Defendant did object to the admission of the exhibit to address the Motion to Suppress on the basis that the suppression motion required a different burden, and is not sufficient. The Court admitted the preliminary audio to the record for its consideration of the habeas petition. A hearing on the suppression motion was continued to December 8, 2025. The Court deferred its decision on the Commonwealth's request for

written argument until the conclusion of the hearing on the suppression motion. On December 8, 2025, the Commonwealth presented Sergeant Jody Miller with the Williamsport Bureau of Police. Additionally, the Commonwealth submitted Sergeant Miller's body camera footage from

Defendant is charged in this matter with a sole count of False Identification to Law Enforcement Officer, misdemeanor of the third degree, pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. Section 4914(a).

Background

On July 2, 2025, Sergeant Jody Miller, with the Williamsport Bureau of Police, responded to a 911 call in the area of 2012 West Fourth Street for a complaint of trespass and a disturbance to attempt to issue a trespass notice to the perpetrator. (Commonwealth Exhibit No. 1, Preliminary Hearing Audio at 00:00:44-00:00:58). Sgt. Miller made contact with a male pointing his finger across the street advising Sgt. Miller the individual he had the issue with ran across the street. (00:01:00-00:01:11). Sgt. Miller was made aware of a previous interaction between the individual and the caller the day before when the individual was given a verbal notice. (00:04:53-00:05:03). Sgt. Miller was provided a physical description (00:01:23-00:01:25) by the store owner (00:03:30-00:03:33). Sgt. Miller responded down the alley and no one was observed. (00:01:26-00:01:30). Sgt. Miller circled around and saw an individual who fit the description he was provided coming across a church parking lot. (00:01:33-00:01:38). Sergeant Miller made contact with the individual who identified himself as Jason Jones. (00:01:38-00:01:40). Sgt. Miller made multiple attempts to clarify the identification of the individual including running the name through the dispatch, Jason Jones was not found. (00:01:43-00:01:56). Sgt. Miller requested assistance from the caller in identifying the individual after trying to make several attempts at identification. (00:04:30-

00:04:40). Sgt. Miller advised the individual he was the subject of an official police investigation and if he could not provide identity verification he would be taken into custody and fingerprinted. (00:01:56 00:02:10). The individual provided the name "Jason Jones" again, Sgt. Miller ran the name and DOB provided again, and dispatch could not verify the name and date of birth of the individual. (00:02:11-00:02:16). The individual was detained, and Sgt. Miller determined from the identification in his wallet that his name is Quodrice Hendrix. (00:02:17-00:02:28).

At the hearing on December 8, 2025, through Sgt. Miller, the Commonwealth introduced Commonwealth Exhibit 2, Sgt. Miller's Body Camera footage capturing the interaction between Sgt. Miller and Defendant on July 2, 2025. Commonwealth Exhibit 2 verified Sgt. Miller's preliminary hearing testimony and provided the exact dialogue between Sgt. Miller and Defendant on July 2, 2025. Body worn camera footage shows Sgt. Miller approaching Defendant. Upon making contact, Sgt. Miller responded to something Defendant said by saying "okay, then I'm officially stopping you. It's a temporary detention while I try to determine whether you're the person I'm trying to talk to or not." (Commonwealth Exhibit No. 2, 07/02/2025 at 00:00:18-00:00:25). Sgt. Miller continued by explaining that Defendant fit the description of the individual about whom he received a call and with whom he needed to speak and Defendant was the only individual in the area of the store owner's property fitting the description provided. (Id at 00:00:35-00:00:41). Sgt. Miller first requested Defendant's name, which received push back, and Sgt. Miller stated "because I'm writing a police report." (Id at 00:00:59-00:01:00). Defendant responded that his name is "Jason Jones" he stated he lives in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and he provided a birth date of September 12, 1996. (Id at 00:01:00-00:01:40). At another point in the interaction, Sgt. Miller explained that the clothing store owner called to make a complaint and request a

trespass notice be served on the individual. (Id at 00:05:24-00:05:57). Sgt. Miller requested the store owner come to the area to confirm whether Defendant was the individual for whom he requested a trespass notice. (Id at 00:05:35). When Defendant requested for Sgt. Miller to issue the trespass notice to "Jason Jones" and requested to leave, but Sgt. Miller stated "until I confirm your ID, you're not free to go." (Id at 00:07:53-00:07:55). The store owner arrived and confirmed that Defendant was the individual about whom he called and requested a trespass notice. (00:10:30). Sgt. Miller then told Defendant "okay, so, now all I have to do is confirm your name and date of birth for my report. I'm gonna run this (Jason J. Jones) name again exactly the way you gave it to me, if they say 'I can't find the information,' I am going to detain you and take you to the office." (00:10:31-00:10:59). Defendant requested clarification about whether or not he was detained. In response, Sgt. Miller stated:

...you are the subject of an official investigation. If you give me the wrong name again or bad information, then it is a criminal charge. There is no criminal charge here so far. So, one more time—Jason J. Jones, September 12, 1996?

(00:11:09-00:11:35). Defendant confirmed that was his name and date of birth again. (00:11:40-00:11:48) Once again, Sgt. Miller advised "you are the subject of an official investigation, now that he confirmed it, you are the subject of the investigation. We have to confirm your name and date of birth. If I run this again and they come up with no record found, I'm going to put you in hand cuffs, put you in his car, and taking you to the office to fingerprint you to get a good name and date of birth." (00:11:48-00:12:15). Sgt. Miller provided the County the name and date of birth provided again. (00:12:09). In response to a second officer on the scene, Defendant stated "I have a Pennsylvania license and a license out of a different state...uh Virginia." (00:12:59-13:04). Defendant confirmed the name he provided "Jason J. Jones" and he corrected the officer that the month of birth is "nine." (00:13:05-00:13:09).

Defendant was ultimately placed in handcuffs, and the identification card he handed to the woman who came to the scene revealed that his name is Quodrice Hendrix.

I. Petition for Habeas Corpus

Defendant contends that Sgt. Miller never advised Defendant that he was under an official investigation of a violation of law, and as such, the Commonwealth has not provided proof of each material element contained in Section 18 Pa.C.S. Section 4914(a) to meet its *prima facie* burden for the charges to proceed to trial.

In evaluating a petition for writ of habeas corpus, the court must examine the evidence in a light most favorable to the Commonwealth. *Commonwealth v. Starry*, 196 A.3d 649, 656 (Pa. Super. 2018). The Commonwealth bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case “that a crime has been committed and that the accused is probably the one who committed it.” *Id.*; Pa.R.Crim.P. 141(d). “To demonstrate that a *prima facie* case exists, the Commonwealth must produce evidence of every material element of the charged offense(s) as well as the defendant's complicity therein,” *id.*, and may do so by utilizing evidence presented at the preliminary hearing as well as submitting additional proof. *Id.* Weight and credibility of the evidence are not factors for the Court to consider. *Commonwealth v. Marti*, 779 A.2d 1177, 1180 (Pa. Super. 2001); *see also Commonwealth v. Huggins*, 836 A.2d 862, 866 (Pa. 2003) (holding that “[t]he evidence need only be such that, if presented at trial and accepted as true, the judge would be warranted in permitting the case to go to the jury”). “Inferences reasonably drawn from the evidence of record which would support a verdict of guilty are to be given effect, and the evidence must be read in the light most favorable to the Commonwealth's case.” *Commonwealth v. Owen*, 580 A.2d 412, 414 (Pa. Super. 1990).

There is no dispute that Defendant furnished false identification information to law enforcement and there can be no dispute that Defendant was told he was under official

investigation. The issue turns to what violation of law occurred for Defendant to be the subject of an official investigation. Under Section 4914(a), “[a] person commits an offense if he furnishes law enforcement authorities with false information about his identity after being informed by a law enforcement officer who is in uniform or who has identified himself as a law enforcement officer that the person is the subject of an official investigation of a violation of law.”

It is the Defendant’s position that Sergeant Miller was only looking to serve a trespass notice and not conducting an investigation of a violation of law. Defendant avers that the only investigation was for his false identification, which does not constitute a violation of law under Section 4914(a). Defendant relies on *Commonwealth v. Barnes*, 14 A.3d 128, 131 (Pa. Super. 2011), wherein the Court stated that the False Identification Statute

does not make it illegal to provide to a law enforcement authority false information as to one’s identity unless and until one is first apprised that he is the subject of an official investigation of a violation of law. If one provides false information as to his identity prior to that point, he has not violated the statute. Thus, any investigation centered solely upon providing false information as to one’s identity would not be an investigation of a violation of law.

Defendant specified that “failure to provide true information cannot constitute the basis for the official investigation of a violation of law.” *Id* at 132. At the hearing, Defendant asserted that Sgt. Miller did not advise Defendant of the violation of law for which Defendant was subject to an official investigation. Defendant argues that Sgt. Miller’s communication with Defendant that he was trying to issue a trespass notice is not sufficient to satisfy the Commonwealth’s burden that a Defendant was subject to an official investigation for a violation of law. Defendant’s argument relies on the fact that officers were attempting to issue a trespass notice, but a violation by trespassing had not yet occurred such that Defendant was

subject to an official investigation for a violation by trespassing, noting that the criminal information does not contain any other offense charged.

The Commonwealth disagreed with the Defendant's characterization of the facts. Specifically, the Commonwealth argued that the trespassing was the underlying crime for which Defendant was under an official investigation wherein he provided false identification to Sgt. McGee. The Commonwealth asserts that a trespass was called in, the caller confirmed the identity of the individual he called about, and then Defendant provided false information about his identity despite having multiple warnings that the information was not coming back with any results.

Although the Commonwealth's *prima facie* burden is a low threshold, and they need not prove anything beyond a reasonable doubt, the Commonwealth is required to prove that evidence of each material element exists. The testimony from Sgt. Miller provided that the store owner called to request a notice of trespass be served on the Defendant due to an incident that occurred at or around the business on July 2, 2025. There was no testimony Defendant had refused to leave or returned to the property. Additionally, Sgt. Miller is heard on the body worn camera footage saying "there is no crime here so far" (Commonwealth Exhibit 2, 00:11:09-00:11:35), which contradicts the requirement that a violation of law has occurred and the individual is under an official investigation pursuant to a violation of law. Defendant is only charged with false identification to law enforcement and not any violation under 18 Pa.C.S. 3503, the criminal trespass statute. The investigation as presented through the facts was an investigation into the individual who would receive a notice of trespass¹.

¹ See: *Commonwealth v. Barnes*, 14 A.3d 128, 131 (Pa. Super. 2011)(explaining any investigation centered on the providing of false information regarding ones' identity is "not an investigation of a violation of law[, while] it might be an 'investigation' in the eyes of the law enforcement officer, perhaps even an 'official' investigation in that it is being conducted by a police officer in the course of his duties" the investigation is not an "investigation of a violation of law" as contemplated by the statute).

Accordingly, the Court finds that no violation of law occurred, and the investigation into Defendant cannot be the basis for the false identification charge; and thus, Defendant's Petition for Habeas Corpus shall be granted and the charge dismissed.

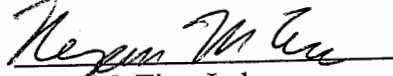
Because the Court is granting the petition for habeas corpus and dismissing the charge for false identification, the Court need not address Defendant's Motion to Suppress Arrest.

Accordingly, the Court enters the following Order:

ORDER

AND NOW, this 9th day of October, 2026, based on the totality of the allegations, the facts as presented, and the evidence as presented, the Commonwealth has failed to present sufficient evidence of the material element that a violation of law occurred to support its *prima facie* burden under Section 4914(a), and Defendant's Petition for Habeas Corpus is **GRANTED**. Defendant's Motion to Suppress is dismissed as moot.

By the Court,


Ryan M. Tira, Judge

RMT/asw

CC: DA; CA

Brian Ulmer, Esq.

Gary Weber, Esq.—Lycoming Reporter