



NEWS RELEASE  
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
DAN PATTERSON

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10/14/2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Charged with Felony Stealing for Attempted Catalytic Converter Theft

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Gerald Frank. Schmidt, 36, of Springfield, Missouri has been charged with a felony stealing for the attempted theft of a catalytic converter.

On October 7, 2021, Springfield Police officers were dispatched to a business on South Enterprise Avenue for a report of suspicious activity and a loud grinding noise coming from the property. Officers used surveillance footage and witness statements to identify the suspect, who was located nearby with tools commonly used in the theft of catalytic converters. A warrant was issued for Schmidt's arrest and bond was set at \$15,000.

If convicted of this felony offense, the Defendant could face a sentence of up to 4 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, and up to a \$10,000 fine.

Greene County has seen a dramatic rise in catalytic converter thefts. Catalytic converter thefts throughout Springfield and Greene County have occurred at night and in the middle of the day, in front of open businesses. Please report any suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately; it only takes a few minutes to completely remove a catalytic converter.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Schmidt, 2131-CR04266

on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Darren Dodd. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Corey Fitzpatrick is the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Associate Division \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MISSOURI,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	Case No.
	)	
GERALD FRANK SCHMIDT,	)	OCN#
	)	
Defendant.	)	PA File No. 077452228

**FELONY COMPLAINT**

COUNT I

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 570.030, RSMo, committed the class E felony of attempted stealing, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.002 and 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about October 7, 2021, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant attempted to appropriated a catalytic converter of a value of at least seven hundred fifty dollars, by cutting the tail pipe in front of the catalytic converter, and such conduct was a substantial step toward the commission of the offense of stealing, and was done with the purpose of committing such stealing, and which property was owned by Import Car Service, and defendant attempted to appropriated such property without the consent of Import Car Service and with the purpose to deprive Import Car Service thereof.

Defendant is a prior offender under Section 558.016, RSMo. Defendant is also a persistent offender and, pursuant to Sections 558.016 and 557.036, RSMo., if found guilty of a class E felony is punishable by sentence to the authorized term of imprisonment for the offense that is one class higher than the offense for which the defendant is found guilty in that the defendant has been found guilty of two or more felonies committed at different times. The felonies are as follows:

1. On or about June 14, 2013, defendant was found guilty of the felony of forgery in the Circuit Court of Greene County, Missouri, and
2. On or about June 19, 2015, defendant was found guilty of the felony of tampering with a motor vehicle in the Circuit Court of Greene County, Missouri.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

DAN PATTERSON  
Prosecuting Attorney of the County of  
Greene, State of Missouri, by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberley Pulley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'K'.

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# SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



## PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 10/07/2021 Case #: SPD211007036174

I, COREY FITZPATRICK, a law enforcement officer, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that GERALD FRANK SCHMIDT, White/Male, DOB [REDACTED] 1985, committed one or more criminal offenses.
2. The following crime(s) happened on 2021/10/07 05:43 - 2021/10/07 07:00 at 1462 S ENTERPRISE AVE in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.
3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 10/7/21, SPD Officers (Boucher and Anderson) responded to 1420 S. Enterprise for a commercial burglary in progress at 1462 S. Enterprise (Import Car Service). The witness, Gregory Winchester, was working at his office (1420 S. Enterprise) and he observed a silver truck park in front of the office complex. Winchester observed a male exit the truck from the driver's side rear. The suspect (Gerald Schmidt) walked next door to Import Car Service (1462 S. Enterprise). Winchester said the suspect (Schmidt) walked back to the silver truck, then back to Import Car Service. Winchester heard a loud grinding noise at the northeast section of the property. Winchester told me two other occupants were in the silver truck, and the license plate to the truck was 9KF-B01. Winchester said he didn't see the driver, but the second occupant (Kyle Pierce) was wearing black "chino-style" baggie shorts.

Witness #2, Stacey Hammit said he was working in the office and saw the suspect vehicle pull into the parking lot. Hammit observed a male (unknown description) exit the truck and walk towards Import Car Service. Hammit lost sight of the suspect and didn't see the suspect return to the truck.

After SPD Officers were dispatched, Ofc. Boucher observed a silver truck (Ford F150) bearing license 9KF-B01 (same plate as given by Winchester) in the area. Ofc. Boucher stopped the Ford at 1211 E. Grand. The driver was identified as Tanya Little, the front seat passenger was Kyle Pierce, and the driver's side rear was Gerald Schmidt. Schmidt was wearing jeans, a black bandana around his neck, dark shoes, and a black long-sleeve shirt. The Ford F150 was searched (upon probable cause) and Milwaukee saw was located in the passenger side rear seat. Sawzall blades were located in a bag in the driver's side rear seat, where Schmidt was sitting.

Video footage from the scene was obtained. The footage showed the silver- colored suspect vehicle (Ford F150) arrived on scene at 0432 hours. The suspect vehicle parked at 1420 S. Enterprise. The driver's side rear door opened and the occupant (Schmidt) exited. Schmidt walked to Import Car Services. The suspect (Schmidt) was wearing a black bandana, jeans, dark shoes, and a dark-colored shirt (which was consistent with Schmidt's clothing at the time of the traffic stop). Schmidt walked over to a dark colored Lexus SUV (target vehicle) at 0437 hours. Schmidt spent a few seconds next to the Lexus SUV and he walked back to the silver Ford truck. At 0439 hours, Schmidt walked from

the silver Ford truck to the Lexus SUV. At 0442 hours, the employees of the business (witnesses) came outside to investigate. At 0444 hours, the silver truck backed up and parked on the street. An individual approached the front of the truck and stood in front of the hood. Then, the suspect ran from the Lexus SUV and got into the driver's side rear of the F150. At 0447 hours, the F150 left the scene.

Ofc. Anderson inspected the Lexus SUV for damage, and he observed fresh cut marks on the pipe in front of the catalytic converter. The catalytic converter was still intact. The owner of Import Car Service (Michael Delong) was contacted and he confirmed there wasn't damage to the Lexus prior to 10/7/21. I later contacted Josh Sharpley with Import Car Service, and he estimated the cost of parts and labor for the damage was \$1900.

I interviewed Little at the Greene County Jail. Post Miranda, Little said she was told to give Pierce and Schmidt a ride. Little said the truck belonged to "Terrance" and she agreed to give Pierce and Schmidt a ride. Little said they went to a friend's house and Call and Surf, and she pulled over at a vacant parking lot because her check oil light was on. Little said Schmidt exited the truck, but she didn't know where he went after that. Little told me Pierce got out and stood in front of the hood to check the engine, but Little couldn't figure out how to pop the hood. Little said Schmidt and Pierce got back in the truck and they were pulled over by SPD.

I interviewed Kyle Pierce at the Greene County Jail. Post Miranda, Pierce said he went for a ride with Little and Schmidt and they pulled over to park. Pierce said Schmidt exited the truck but he didn't know what Schmidt was doing. Pierce said he got out of the truck at one point and stood in front of the hood to look at the engine, and they all left shortly thereafter. Pierce said he wasn't a look-out for Schmidt.

I attempted to interview Schmidt at the Greene County Jail, but he refused to speak with me.

I am requesting that an arrest warrant be issued because (complete at least one of the following):

1. I have reasonable grounds to believe the defendant will not appear upon a summons based on the facts stated above and the following information:

[Enter supporting facts here]

Not Applicable

2. I have reasonable grounds to believe the defendant poses a danger to a crime victim, the community, or any other person based on the facts stated above and the following information:

Schmidt has prior convictions for felony stealing, felony C/S, and felony tampering

Not Applicable

The facts contained above are true to the best of my information and belief.

/s/ C. Fitzpatrick

1562

Officer

Signature

DSN

Title