

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070112753
Court File No. 07-CR-26-433

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Warrant

vs.

MATTHEW MARTINE SHEETZ DOB: 10/29/1997

730 W Broadway Street
Winona, MN 55987-2703

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Theft-Take/Drive Motor Vehicle-No Owner Consent

Minnesota Statute: 609.52.2(a)(17), with reference to: 609.52.3(2)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years or \$20,000, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26003361

Charge Description: On or about February 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Matthew Martine Sheetz did take or drive a motor vehicle without the consent of the owner or an authorized agent of the owner, knowing or having reason to know that the owner or an authorized agent of the owner did not give consent and the value of the property or services stolen exceeds \$5,000.00.

COUNT II

Charge: Traffic - DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of Alcohol

Minnesota Statute: 169A.20.1(1), with reference to: 169A.25.2

Maximum Sentence: 364 days or \$3,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 02/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26003361

Charge Description: On or about February 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Matthew Martine Sheetz, did, drive, operate, or was in physical control of any motor vehicle when he was under the influence of alcohol, and two or more aggravating factors were present when the violation was committed.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On February 2, 2026, at approximately 10:10 PM, Ofc. Keaton Rutz with the Mankato Department of Public Safety was dispatched on a report of a motor vehicle theft at the Cherry Street ramp in the City of Mankato. Victim 1 reported that his vehicle, a Hyundai Sonata, was parked in the Cherry Street ramp and that he had come outside and started it and then returned to the bar for another game of darts. Victim 1 stated when he came outside again his vehicle was gone.

Ofc. Rutz responded to the scene and met with Victim 1. Victim 1 stated that his car doors do not lock when he starts the vehicle without the key inside the vehicle, so the doors of the vehicle were unlocked. Victim 1 stated he did not give anyone permission to drive his vehicle. The value of the vehicle was approximately \$9,000.

Officers had been dispatched at approximately 9:41 PM to a suspicious person in the ramp trying to open up car doors. The person was identified as a white male approximately 5'8" tall wearing a brown jacket.

Officers reviewed the camera footage from the ramp and found a male matching the description driving Victim 1's vehicle. The vehicle was last seen entering the Mankato Place Ramp parking ramp.

Ofc. Rutz went to the ramp and observed Victim 1's car parked in a spot with the hazard lights on. Ofc. Rutz approached the vehicle and observed that it was unoccupied.

Ofc. Rutz was then sent a picture of the suspect showing him to be a white male with a tan or light brown jacket. Ofc. Rutz began searching for the suspect. Ofc. Rutz found the suspect walking eastbound from the Mankato Place Mall. Ofc. Rutz was able to catch up to the male and approach him. The male was identified as Matthew Martine Sheetz.

Ofc. Rutz spoke with Sheetz. Sheetz initially denied driving any vehicles and denied pulling on any car door handles. Ofc. Rutz then showed Sheetz the picture of Sheetz in the parking ramp and Sheetz agreed that it was him. Ofc. Rutz asked Sheetz why he had gotten into the car and Sheetz stated, "to get out of here." Sheetz stated that he didn't know what he was doing driving someone else's car.

Ofc. Rutz noted several indicia of alcohol impairment on Sheetz including a strong odor of consumed alcoholic beverage, bloodshot/watery eyes, slurred speech and swaying while standing. During a search prior to placing Sheetz in the backseat of his squad car, officer Rutz located a 100 mL bottle of Fireball whiskey in Sheetz's jacket pocket.

Officer Rutz read Sheetz the implied consent advisory and Sheetz agreed to take a test of his breath. The result of that test was .19.

Sheetz was transported to the Public Safety Center where he was administered a PBT which will result of .21. Ofc. Rutz had Sheetz submit to several field sobriety tests all of which Sheetz performed poorly or failed.

Sheetz agreed to speak with Officer Rutz after being read his Miranda rights. Sheetz advised that he had no memory of driving someone else's car tonight. Sheetz then stated he didn't remember where he may have been driving from or where he may have been driving to, but it is possible he may have, "blacked out." Sheetz admitted that his consumption of alcohol may have affected his ability to drive.

A review of Sheetz's criminal history shows two prior DWI convictions. Both convictions occurred on April

22, 2021, in Blue Earth County (07 – CR – 20 – 1366 and 07 – CR – 20 – 356).

Sheetz was transported to New Ulm Detox, for this reason a Warrant is requested.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Craig Frericks
Commander
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803
Badge: 3102

Electronically Signed:
02/03/2026 10:26 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Michael Hanson
Assistant County Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
02/03/2026 10:22 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

☐ SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

☒ WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

☐ *Execute in MN Only*

☐ *Execute Nationwide*

☒ *Execute in Border States*

☐ ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: February 3, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Mark Betters
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 02/03/2026 10:52 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

COUNTY OF BLUE EARTH
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Matthew Martine Sheetz

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: