

OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tony Palumbo, County Attorney



2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 720, Anoka, MN 55303
763-324-5550
anokacounty.us/attorney
twitter.com/AnokaCountyAtty
facebook.com/AnokaCountyAttorneysOffice

Media Contact:

Elizabeth Mohr, ACAO Community Relations Coordinator
elizabeth.mohr@co.anoka.mn.us
763-324-5471 (desk)
612-619-8345 (cell)

Sept. 25, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANDONII CHARGED, MAKES FIRST APPEARANCE

The Anoka County Attorney's Office today filed charges in connection to a significant seizure of THC cartridges with an estimated value of more than \$3 million.

Defendant Valentin V. Andonii, 22, is charged with two counts: felony first-degree controlled substance (sale or intent to sell) and felony first-degree controlled substance (possession). The criminal complaint is included with this release.

Andonii made his first appearance in Anoka County District Court this afternoon.

Prosecutor Paul Ostrow asked the court to set bail at \$4 million dollars, arguing Andonii posed a significant flight risk.

Andonii is involved in a multi-million dollar operation, and has "considerable assets at his disposal," Ostrow said. Ostrow also noted that, "This amount of THC – especially unregulated – poses real concerns for public safety."

Judge Kristin Larson said the defendant's alleged activities have "extremely serious public safety consequences" and that the state's request was not unreasonable. Larson also pointed out that Andonii is currently on probation for felony drug charges and has a pending felony fleeing case.

Larson set bail at \$3 million with no conditions, or \$1 million on the conditions that Andonii not leave the state of Minnesota and that he surrender his passport.

Defendant's next hearing was scheduled for Oct. 22 at 1 p.m.

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2019-01890
Court File No. 02-CR-19-6205

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

VALENTIN V. ANDONII DOB: 10/11/1996

11710 Utah Avenue N
Champlin, MN 55316

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: Controlled Substance Crime in the 1st Degree (Sale) (Marijuana or Tetrahydrocannabinols) (25 or More Kilograms)

Minnesota Statute: 152.021.1(6), with reference to: 152.021.3(a)

Maximum Sentence: 0-30 Years and/or \$300,000.00 - \$1,000,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/01/2019 to 09/23/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19013575

Charge Description: On or about July 1, 2019 - September 23, 2019, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, VALENTIN V. ANDONII, did on one or more occasions within a 90-day period unlawfully sell or possess with the intent to sell, one or more mixtures of a total weight of 25 kilograms or more containing Tetrahydrocannabinols.

COUNT II

Charge: Controlled Substance Crime in the 1st Degree (Possession) (50 or More Kilograms of Marijuana or Tetrahydrocannabinols or 500 or More Marijuana Plants)

Minnesota Statute: 152.021.2(a)(6), with reference to: 152.021.3(a)

Maximum Sentence: 0-30 Years and/or \$300,000.00 - \$1,000,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 09/23/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19013575

Charge Description: On or about September 23, 2019, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, VALENTIN V. ANDONII, did unlawfully possess one or more mixtures of a total weight of 50 kilograms or more containing marijuana or Tetrahydrocannabinols.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

During the months of July, August and September 2019 Detective Mike TenEyck and other members of the Northwest Metro Drug Task Force, hereinafter "NWMDTF," investigated the unlawful sale of cartridges containing tetrahydrocannabinols, also known as THC, defined when in excess of 0.3% concentration as an unlawful Schedule I controlled substance. A confidential informant whose identity is known to law enforcement, hereinafter "CI," told detectives that an adult male known to the CI as "Valicious or Valic," was selling large quantities of THC cartridges and that he or she could arrange controlled buys from the Valicious. In July, August or September 2019 the CI contacted Valicious and agreed to purchase 100 THC cartridges for \$1500. While under continuous surveillance an undercover detective, hereinafter "UC" met with Valicious at a pre-arranged location in Anoka County to complete the purchase of the THC cartridges previously arranged by the CI. Valicious arrived in a 2005 Mercedes-Benz motor vehicle (Minnesota License No. BPY867), a vehicle registered to an adult male, VVA (DOB 07/21/1964). Detectives witnessed the UC hand an adult male identified by the CI as Valicious \$1500 in recorded NWMDT US currency in exchange for a package. The package was later confirmed to contain 100 cartridges containing identical information on the label stating, "contains 94% or greater THC." a sample cartridge from the controlled buy field tested positive for THC. Detective TenEyck later confirmed through DVS records that the registered owner of the Mercedes-Benz vehicle, VVA, was an older relative to Valentin V. Andonii (DOB 10/11/1996), the above-named defendant. The CI identified that adult male who sold the THC cartridges as the person known to him as Valicious and the UC and the CI positively identified the adult male as the defendant.

In July, August or September 2019 the CI contacted the defendant and agreed to a second purchase of 100 THC cartridges for \$1500. While under continuous surveillance the UC met with the defendant at a pre-arranged location in Anoka County to complete the second purchase of the THC cartridges previously arranged by the CI. The defendant arrived in a 2016 Jeep Cherokee (Minnesota License No. 425UVR). Detectives witnessed the UC hand the defendant \$1500 in recorded NWMDTF US currency in exchange for a package. The package was later confirmed to contain 100 cartridges containing identical information on the label stating, "contains 94% or greater THC." A sample cartridge from the controlled buy field tested positive for THC. Subsequent to the initial controlled purchase of THC the defendant sent a text message to the UC offering "1 the for 13.5," understood by detectives as an offer to sell one thousand cartridges for \$13,500.

On September 23, 2019 the NWMDTF executed a search warrant at 3686 Coon Rapids Boulevard NW in the City of Coon Rapids, County of Anoka, confirmed to be the defendant's residence. Upon entry into the residence detectives immediately detained an adult female and an adult male identified by law enforcement from prior contacts as the defendant. Detectives also executed a search warrant on the Mercedes-Benz and Jeep Cherokee used by the defendant during the two controlled buys and on a 2007 Cadillac Escalade (Minnesota License No. 8BB667), a vehicle registered to the defendant and previously seen parked in the driveway. Detectives seized 500 cartridges from the upstairs NE bedroom and 2370 cartridges from a box located in the living room. Samples taken from the cartridges field tested positive for 1.1 grams of THC. Detectives seized 11,300 cartridges from the garage. Samples taken from the cartridges field tested positive for 1.1 grams of THC. Detectives seized 28,800 cartridges from the passenger compartment of the Cadillac Escalade. Samples taken from the cartridges field tested positive for 1.1 grams of THC. Detectives seized 30,600 cartridges from the garage next to the Cadillac Escalade. Counterfeit currency totaling \$23,800 was found on top of the Escalade. A total of \$144,761.00 in US currency was seized from the residence.

The search of residence and vehicles resulted in the seizure of a total of 76,972 cartridges each containing 1.1 grams of THC as confirmed from field testing and labeling on the cartridges. Each cartridge also contained labeling that the cartridges contained 94% or greater THC. The total amount of THC in the

cartridges is 84.669.2 grams and in excess of 84 kilograms of THC.

Based upon training and experience the NWMDTF believes that the total value of the THC cartridges is in excess of three million dollars.

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

Michael TenEyck
Officer
4401 Xylon Avenue N
New Hope, MN 55428
Badge: 77

Electronically Signed:
09/25/2019 08:50 AM
Hennepin County, MN

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Paul T. Ostrow
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-2265
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:
09/25/2019 08:46 AM

