



# SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

## PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT



Date: 10/01/2025 Case #: SPD250828025859

I, AUSTIN BRUCE, 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 RYAN JOSEPH SCHAEFER, White/Male committed one or more criminal offenses.
2. The following crime(s) happened on 2025/08/28 09:23 - 2025/08/28 12:57 at 921 E CHERRY ST in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.
3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 08-28-2025 at 0249 hours, Ryan Schaefer entered MSU Lot 31 (921 E Cherry) and began vandalizing cars throughout the parking lot. Schaefer remained in the parking lot until 0331 hours when he left the scene walking northbound towards Walnut and John Q Hammons. While in the parking lot he vandalized 17 different vehicles.

The damage ranged from shattering windshields, windshield wipers ripped off, hoods were dented, and side mirrors were ripped off.

At this time, I do not have a total on the overall amount of damage caused by Schaefer's rampage. However, one of the victims got me an estimate and it was for a Honda Accord that had the following parts damaged requiring some sort of repair: hood, windshield, cowl, instrument panel, console, front door, rear door, and quarter panel. According to the shop it would cost \$2478.60 to fix the damage to this specific vehicle and that is only one of 17 vehicles.

### Witness Statements:

During the investigation, we spoke with several organizations on campus and shared pictures of the alleged suspect. One of the organizations got back to me and told me the suspect was possibly Ryan Schaefer. The person who I will call Witness 1 or W1 saw him at an event at MSU campus on 09-23-2024. W1 said that Schaefer matched the general description of the suspect in the screenshot shown. W1 said that same day he saw Schaefer at the event and W1 believed he was wearing the same shoes as seen in the screenshot.

W1 also called me that same night and left a voicemail with additional information. I recontacted him on 09-24-2025 and he informed me that W1 spoke with a roommate (Witness 2 or W2) of Schaefer. W2 was told by Schaefer that he had vandalized some of the cars.

After this I contacted W2 directly and spoke with him about the specifics. W2 advised about a week or two prior to our conversation (09-24-2025), Schaefer had asked if W2 remembered this incident

occurring. After this Schaefer admitted that he smashed a windshield while he walked home. W2 said after this he did not ask any follow up questions and quickly changed the conversation. He said before and after that it had not been discussed any further.

### **Schaefer Interview:**

On 09-29-2025, I went to Schaefer's apartment and contacted him. One of Schaefer's roommates invited us inside while he woke up Schaefer. The roommate said he was unable to wake him up and invited us to try to wake him up. I walked into Schaefer's bedroom and woke up Schaefer. I began to speak with him about the night of the incident and said he knew about it from hearing about it on campus. Schaefer denied any involvement in the incident. I showed him a series of screenshots from the security footage to get his opinion on them. He told me "I can see it I guess the resemblance". I asked him about the confession to W2, and he denied ever making that admission. While speaking with him, I noticed on the floor next to his feet were a pair of white/ gray New Balance that appeared to be same shoes worn in the vandalism. With the shoes matching the shoes from vandalism I seized them as evidence. I also noticed on his bedside table was his iPhone SE and seized that as evidence. After this Schaefer agreed to sign a Consent to Search form to give me permission to search for his phone. He also provided the PIN number for the lock on the phone.

Once back at the office, I looked over the pictures taken by Ofc. Ampilova and found that she took several pictures of shoeprints on a few of the vehicles on scene. I looked at the shoes that I seized and in my opinion the shoeprints match exactly.

### **Phone Data:**

I submitted Schaefer's iPhone SE to our Cyber Crimes Unit and had its contents downloaded to be reviewed. Once I had the contents of the phone, I began reviewing any phone activity on the night of the incident.

I found location data from 08-28-2025 at 0249 hours, Schaefer's phone location was 906 E Elm. 906 E Elm is on the north side of MSU Lot 31. The next time Schaefer's phone updates its location was 0404 hours at 235 N Market which is near his apartment.

### **ChatGPT Conversation:**

I found a conversation with ChatGPT between Schaefer and ChatGPT. This conversation takes place on the night of the incident. It begins at 0347 hours, which is about ten minutes after he left the scene of the incident.

Schaefer began the conversation by saying:

- "how fucked am i bro inusr got back cfom the worst party at pur off pavmpus apartwmtn and ppl were vreaking the windzhaileds or random cars n i was foing it do but im bal at my dorm bow qilll i go to jail"

ChatGPT gave tips about the potential outcome of getting caught or being involved in this kind of behavior.

Schaefer responded by saying

- "what if i smahsed the shit oitta mutlipls cars"

Once again ChatGPT gives a similar answer.

Schaefer next asked ChatGPT if MSU has cameras in the Freshman Parking lot.

From this point I am going to move past ChatGPT's response.

Schaefer continues by saying

- "i mean i was being chull ab it but i was smahisng the winshikefs of random fs cars"
- "welll they dont know it was me, there was a pff campus oarty at artifacts. and yhen they fucked uppp da cars at artifacts and it was me bc they has two cops here but they eventually lef. abs then everyone went back to the house. but then i did thatz shat do i do"

At this point it appears that Schaefer begins to spiral. Even ChatGPT begins to get worried and asks him to stop talking about harming people and property. After this Schaefer begins talking about rape and how he possibly killed people who previously hazed him.

- "smd pussy u get ur gf raped and then u talk to me about if. ill asmahs as manh card as i fucking awnt to eveyone on this earth could be my fucking citvim if i wanted and i genuinely do not care if wveryone died but me and i killed all my fucking dumbass brothers who hazed me when i was houg thriw shit"

After this he continues to become aggressive towards ChatGPT and said the following:

- "smd ikl text y tmr cu i wont get in no trouble bc if i get in groubke for dounge shit i will kill all u fi kers"

ChatGPT again is concerned by this and said that he should call 911 or 988 if he needs to talk to someone. Nevertheless Schaefer continues the conversation with ChatGPT:

- "well its alfeadu too late. mygf got raped freshamn year. imma sophormore and i just destroyed so many ppl's cars in the mo state freshman lotdz they can eat my dick tukl they choke and die"
- "yeah go fuck urslef. thats why i fucked up all those useless fuckers cars, cuz they all dexerve to get raped and murdered, exactly like u"
- "i dont give a fuck shut the fuck up until dumb nigger try and get me in trouble for the shi i didnt tn u wont ill do it a fucking again"
- "i dont tniinm anyone saw me, i donr tnink they ft have cars in ghe parking lots, and even if theg did they dont know wbo u am"
- "docu think ill go to jail i just wanted to get everyone wrong cor what i had to feal w my frehsman year"

After this Schaefer admitted to being home and begins to wind down a bit. He told ChatGPT that he was home. He asked, "is there any way they could know it was me". After ChatGPT's response, he said, "i got away w it last year. and i dont think theres any way they could know my face" and "even if there were camreas in yhe lot would tje knlw it was me!?"

After this Schaefer kept asking ChatGPT if there was any way the police could identify him, and they went back and forth for several messages. During this conversation he admitted to standing on "thr hood n smash it". He later admitted to ChatGPT "it felt rrlly nice to fucktheir dhit up".

After this he asked if Artifacts (his apartment building) had cameras. ChatGPT was unable to answer the question. Schaefer than asked "could i fuck up all their cars n gey aey w it". He again asked if there was cameras and after this Schaefer did not send another response to ChatGPT. After this it

appeared that Schaefer stopped using his cellphone. There is no further activity on the phone until 1200 pm on 08-28-2025.

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:

☒ 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:

Throughout the conversation with ChatGPT, Schaefer made several concerning remarks that would make me concerned about the safety of the victims, witnesses, MSU or anyone associated with the case.

During the conversation Schaefer told ChatGPT that he killed "all my fucking dumbass brothers who hazed me"

He also told ChatGPT that he doesn't care if got in trouble and said "i will kill all u fi kers"

"yeah go fuck urslef. thats why i fucked up all those useless fuckers cars, cuz they all dexerve to get raped and murdered, exactly like u 🤔"

These comments are even more concerning due to everyone involved in this case is either a student or somehow connected to MSU.

☐ Not Applicable

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

/s/ Austin Bruce

1767

Officer

Signature

DSN

Title