

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY ORDER OF  
FORFEITURE FOR SUBSTITUTE ASSETS**

I, Jesse Lake, being duly sworn, depose and state the following:

1. I am a Deputy United States Marshal with the United States Marshals Service (USMS), having been duly appointed on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and as such, am a Federal Law Enforcement Officer within the meaning of Rule 41(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, that is, a government agent engaged in the enforcement of the criminal laws of the United States and thereby authorized to request the issuance of a federal seizure warrant. Upon becoming employed with the USMS, I successfully completed the Criminal Investigator Training Program and the Basic Deputy U.S. Marshal Training Course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA. During my employment I have attended and completed numerous investigative training classes and seminars. I have been involved in the investigation of wanted fugitives, non-compliant sex offenders, and various other violations of Federal and State Laws. I have participated in the execution of search warrants, surveillance and undercover operations, and the arrest of subjects related to the aforementioned violations. I have also participated in the seizure of real property and other assets subject to forfeiture. I have received advanced training in investigative techniques used to investigate Money Laundering and Bank Secrecy Act violations and identifying assets subject to criminal and civil forfeiture through the Department of Justice –Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section. I hold a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati. Currently, I am assigned as an Asset Forfeiture Financial Investigator for the Western District of Michigan. My responsibilities include reviewing financial records and identifying and seizing assets procured through illegitimate means or that are otherwise subject to forfeiture.

2. This investigation involves an individual by the name of Spencer Troy Ward, who pled guilty in the United States of America v. Ward et al (Case No. 2:16-CR-6) in the Western District of Michigan. Ward pled guilty to Count 4 of the Third Superseding Indictment (Dkt. No. 170), which charged him with conspiracy to manufacture, distribute, and possess with intent to distribute marijuana plants and marijuana. As part of the forfeiture phase of trial the court imposed a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of \$475,254.30

3. This affidavit is made in support of the government's motion for a preliminary order of forfeiture for substitute assets to forfeit \$10,694.36 currently located between an UPSET checking account and the property room of the Michigan State Police in Marquette, MI.

4. Despite due diligence, the United States has been unable to locate the \$475,254.30 in gross proceeds that Ward received as a result of his marijuana manufacturing and distribution. In addition, Ward was interviewed by the U.S. Probation Office in preparation for sentencing. The pre-sentence report does not identify any assets belonging to Ward.

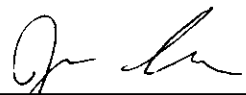
5. During my investigation, I determined that the Michigan State Police and UPSET seized a total of \$10,694.36 during the execution of warrants on February 18, 2017 at Ward's marijuana dispensary stores in Iron River, Watersmeet, and Marquette, and his residence in Bruce Crossing. Some of these funds are currently being held in the custody of the Michigan State Police. The remainder are currently being held in the custody of UPSET in their checking account at Wells Fargo. The following amounts were seized from the following locations, all on February 18, 2017 pursuant to the execution of state search warrants: \$720 from the Iron River Marijuana Store, \$5807.36 from the Watersmeet Marijuana Store, \$265 from Ward's residence in Bruce Crossing. These amounts are currently being held in the Marquette property room of

the Michigan State Police in. From the Marquette Marijuana Store there is \$3902 currently being held in an UPSET checking account at Wells Fargo.

6. As such, the United States now seeks, in partial satisfaction of the Court ordered forfeiture money judgment, \$10,694.36 currently held between the Michigan State Police and UPSET.

7. I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: 10/19/17

  
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Jesse Lake, Senior Inspector  
United States Marshals Service