

Case 2021-001108

Moab Police Department - 217 E. Center Street Ste, 130 Moab, Utah 84532 435-259-8938

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Retrieved September 15th 2021

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Case Details

Case Number: 2021-001108
Disposition: Closed
Original Date: Aug 12, 2021, 4:30 p.m. - Aug 12, 2021, 6:04 p.m.
Original Location: 39 E 100 N, MOAB, UTAH 84532
Last Modified: Aug 18, 2021, 4:19 p.m.
Status: Closed
Description: DISORDERLY CONDUCT (5311)

Offense

(5311) DISORDERLY CONDUCT (Infraction)

Offense: (5311) DISORDERLY CONDUCT
UCR: (90C)
Attempted/Completed: Completed
Location Type: convenience store
Bias Motivation: None (no bias)
Suspected Of Using: Not Applicable

People

CHRISTOPHER [REDACTED] Reporting Party, Witness

Aliases:
Gender: Male
Race: White
Ethnicity: non Hispanic
Incidents: I3039512

BRIAN CHRISTOPHER LAUNDRIE Victim

Aliases:
Gender: Male
Race: White
Ethnicity: non Hispanic
Incidents: I3039512

GABRIELLE VENORA PETITO Suspect

Aliases:
Gender: Female
Race: White
Ethnicity: non Hispanic
Incidents: I3039512

Vehicles

Public Copy**Vehicles****Ford TRANSIT VAN WHITE****Information**

Plate: QFTG03 FL
Plate Expires: Mar 19, 2022
VIN: NM0LS7AN7CT121165
Style: Minivan
Off Road Vehicle: False
Make: Ford
Model: TRANSIT VAN
Color: WHITE

People
Owner: GABRIELLE VENORA PETITO

Incident**I3039512**

Occurred Time: Aug 12, 2021, 4:30 p.m. - Aug 12, 2021, 6:04 p.m.
Reported Time: Aug 12, 2021, 4:39 p.m. - Aug 12, 2021, 4:44 p.m.
Field Reports: R291160 Supplemental - 2021-001108
R307507 Crime - 2021-001108 (DISORDERLY CONDUCT)
Reporting Officers: Pratt, Eric , Robbins, Daniel Scott
People: CHRISTOPHER [REDACTED]
BRIAN CHRISTOPHER LAUNDRIE
GABRIELLE VENORA PETITO
Vehicles: Ford TRANSIT VAN WHITE QFTG03 FL

Pratt, Eric R291160 Aug 13, 2021

On 08/12/21, MCPD officers were dispatched to a report of a domestic problem that had taken place near the Moonflower Co-op. It appeared that a male and female had left the scene traveling north on Main in a white Ford Transit van with a black ladder on the rear after the male and female had engaged in some sort of altercation. It wasn't clear, but I believe it was reported the male had been observed to have assaulted the female. I heard other officers report they were off to look for the vehicle, and being that I had to pass the Moonflower in order to get to Main St, I stopped there to see if any witnesses were still in the area. I found one, identified as Chris [REDACTED] I took down his phone number and left the scene because I heard Officer D. Robbins tell dispatch he'd located the suspect vehicle near the turn to Arches National park. I heard him state that upon initiating a traffic stop, he'd observed the vehicle leave it's lane and strike the curb before stopping near the entrance to the park.

Public Copy**Incident****Pratt, Eric** R291160 Aug 13, 2021

I arrived on scene and observed as two park officers also arrived. I assisted Officer Robbins with his investigation until I was called away to a report of an intoxicated male near MRH posing a safety risk to himself or others. Before leaving, I spoke with the male driver of the van, the female passenger, and also called Chris to get more information from him. All three individuals gave me a similar and consistent story, consisting of the basic idea that the driver of the van, a male, had some sort of argument with the female, Gabbie, as I recall. The male tried to create distance by telling Gabbie to go take a walk to calm down, she didn't want to be separated from the male, and began slapping him. He grabbed her face and pushed her back as she pressed upon him and the van, he tried to lock her out and succeeded except for his driver's door, she opened that and forced her way over him and into the vehicle before it drove off. No one reported that the male struck the female, both the male and the female reported they are in love and engaged to be married and desperately didn't wish to see anyone charged with a crime. There were no significant injuries reported and both agreed that Gabbie suffers from serious anxiety, etc. It appeared that this incident was more accurately categorized as a mental/emotional health "break" than a domestic assault. I had to leave but I understand that Officer Robbins got the male lodging through Seekhaven, Gabbie retained possession of the van, and they agreed to separate for the night. No charges were filed and no one wished for charges to be filed or for the separation to take place, although that was at minimum what Officer Robbins required in lieu of making a case against Gabbie for domestic assault. Gabbie is a 22 year old female who is approximately 5'2"-5'4" and ~110-120 lbs, while her fiance is older, taller, and much heavier than her. He had no fear for his safety and did not exhibit any indicators that he may be a victim of "battered boyfriend syndrome" etc. He was assessed to be at low risk of danger or harm as a result of his proximity to his fiance Gabbie. Nothing further. EOS. EMP.

Robbins, Daniel Scott R307507 Aug 13, 2021

On 8-12-21 at approximately 1644 hours, I responded to a possible domestic violence in progress call. A van, with both a male and female as occupants, was reported leaving the area of 39 E 100 North northbound on Main Street. One of the witnesses described the vehicle as a white Ford Transit Van with a black ladder on the rear with Florida license plate QFTG03. Witness, Christopher [REDACTED], reported seeing a male, later identified as Brian Laundrie, and a female, later identified as Gabrielle Petito, arguing over a phone. Christopher stated that when Brian got into the van, he saw what appeared to him as Gabrielle hitting Brian in the arm and then climbing through the driver's window as if Brian had locked her out and she was trying to find a way in.

I located a white van that matched the description on North Main Street at the Highway 128 turn off. After I crossed the bridge, I was able to catch up to the van at the turn off to Arches National Park. I confirmed the vehicle's license plate and initiated the stop. I followed the vehicle as it continued towards the entrance gate to Arches National Park. I noted the van traveling approximately 45 miles per hour in the 15 mile per hour speed zone. After I had activated my lights to initiate a traffic stop, I watched the van cross the double yellow dividing line in lane one, merge to lane two, and abruptly swerve to the right. When the vehicle swerved, both the front and rear passenger side wheels hit the curb. A short distance before the entrance gate, the vehicle came to a stop.

I approached the vehicle and saw the only occupants being Gabrielle and Brian. Gabrielle, who was in the passenger seat, was crying uncontrollably. I asked Gabrielle to get out of the vehicle to speak with me. Gabrielle told me that she suffers from [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. She continued, because of her [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], combined with little arguments she and Brian had been having that day, she was struggling with her mental health, which led to the incident that was reported to law enforcement. Gabrielle stated that when saw my lights, she hit Brian in the arm to get his attention, which in turn caused him to hit the curb while I was following them. I asked Gabrielle if her intention was to hurt Brian and her response was that she did not intend to hurt him, but rather get his attention to notice me as I was behind them with my lights on. At no point in my investigation did Gabrielle stop crying, breathing heavily, or compose a sentence without needing to wipe away tears, wipe her nose, or rub her knees with her hands.

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Incident

Robbins, Daniel Scott R307507 Aug 13, 2021

After I sat Gabrielle in the backseat of my car, I asked Brian to step out of the vehicle to speak with me. He told me they both suffer from [REDACTED], and although her [REDACTED] is more advanced than his, issues between the two had been building over the last few days. This in turn, caused them to argue more than usual. Brian told me neither he nor Gabrielle take medication for their [REDACTED]. Brian explained he and Gabrielle have been traveling together for the last 4 or 5 months. That time spent created emotional strain between them and increased the number of arguments. While arguing near Main Street, he had attempted to separate from her in so they could both calm their emotions. He got into their van and Gabrielle had gone into a manic state. Brian said Gabrielle, thinking he was going to leave her in Moab without a ride, went to slap him. As Gabrielle started to swing, Brian pushed her away to avoid the slap. As a result Gabrielle off balance, but still caught Brian's face with some fingers causing some minor visible scratches. Brian continued that when he had seen my lights, he thought Gabrielle had grabbed the wheel of the van and pulled it, causing the van to hit the curb. I observed some small scratches to Brian's right arm and when I asked him about them, he supposed they must've happened when Gabrielle was trying to get his attention about me being behind them with my lights on. This, however, was not consistent with Gabrielle's statement, further suggesting her confused and emotional state.

After evaluating the totality of the circumstances, I do not believe the situation escalated to the level of a domestic assault as much as that of a mental health crisis. I then determined the most appropriate course of action would be to help separate the parties for the night so they could reset their mental states without interference from one another, and although they did express a desire to remain together, they both ultimately agreed to be separated until the following day. Accordingly, I was able to contact Safe Haven and get Brian a hotel room for the night. I instructed both Brian and Gabrielle to take advantage of this time apart to relax their emotions and regain control of their anxiety. I also asked them to avoid contacting each other until the next morning if at all possible. Gabrielle maintained possession of the van while I transported Brian to the hotel. They did both have their own cell phones in case of emergency.

Around 1900 hours, I went to [REDACTED] where witness Christopher [REDACTED] lived and had him fill out a statement form. Christopher told me that he was not entirely sure what it is he had seen, but feared the worst, which is why he came forward as a witness and agreed to complete a written statement.

Body camera video is available on Evidence.com

The statement form from Christopher has been filed at Moab City Police Department.

End of Report
D. Robbins
2T9
8-13-21

Attachment

2021-001108 Chris
[REDACTED] Statement.pdf

Download Attachment (643
KB)

Reports

Date Created	Report No.	Reporting Officer	Title	Supp.	Pending Review/ Status
Aug. 13, 2021	R291160 [Open / Print]	Eric Pratt	Supplemental - 2021-001108	Supp.	Committed
Aug. 13, 2021	R307507 [Open / Print]	Daniel Robbins	Crime - 2021-001108 (DISORDERLY CONDUCT)		Committed
Sept. 12, 2021	R291203 [Open / Print]	Eric Pratt	Supplemental - 2021-001108	Supp.	Deleted