

CAPIAS REQUEST

Winter Park Police Department

Marsy's Law CVI X

For the Public:
Juvenile: Yes

CSA 2 GRID

Agency ORI#: FL0480600 OBTS#:

Agency Report #: 202446000338

SUSPECT

Name HOATS, CHRISTOPHER MARTIN Race: White Sex: M DOB: 8/27/1990 Or Age:
Height: 510 Weight: 155 Eyes: BLU Hair: BLN Alcohol Related: N Drug Related: N Religion:
Local Address: 100 KYLE DR MAITLAND FL 32751 Phone: Residence:
Business Name: Business Address:
Job: Business Phone:
DL#: DL State: FL SSN: Marital:
Place of Birth Citizenship:
Weapon Type: NA Local#:
Next of Kin: Relationship: NOK Phone:

Alias Name(s): Person Identifier(s):

Co-Defendant(s):

Full Name Race Sex DOB or Age

CHARGE(S)

Table with columns: Off#, Description, Statute#, Counts, UCR, Ordinance, Attempt/Commit, Warrant#, DVR, Drug Activity. Contains two rows of charges including LARC PETIT THEFT and CONTRIB DELINQ MINOR CAUSE.

PROBABLE CAUSE

On March 21, 2024, at 1355 hours, Winter Park Police officers were dispatched to in Winter Park, Florida. This address is within the city limits of Winter Park Florida. Turn by turn instructions were provided by the victim (V1), who was following the juveniles until law enforcement arrived to the area of Magnolia Avenue and Sunnyside Drive in Winter Park. The victim advised she observed four juveniles, two of which she lost sight of, had stolen political signs from her property. The victim advised the following information via a verbal and sworn written statement:

V1 observed the signs under the arm of a juvenile white male, later identified as (S1). V1 lowered her vehicle's window and told S1 and the other white male juvenile, later identified as (S2), to put the signs back, however the juveniles kept riding on their skateboards. V1 stated the signs taken were political signs in support of Jason Johnson. V1 stated as (S1) and (S2) passed the area of Brock Avenue, she observed both juvenile suspects throwing the signs on the ground and kept Skateboarding until Officers later made contact with them. The victim stated she did not see all four juveniles taking signs from the grass, only S1 and S2. V1 never gave anyone permission to go on her property to take her signs valued at five dollars each (\$5). V1 advised she personally knew coach Russell from Winter Park High school, the individual running against Jason Johnson, however the election that occurred on March 19, 2024, was a runoff for both candidates. All of the signs were returned to the victim. The victim advised she desired prosecution.

Officer Ellison (#651) made contact with S1 and S2. S1 called the two additional juvenile males via phone, and were later identified as (S3) and (S4) (Juvenile Associate) and (S5) and (S6) (Juvenile Associate); they arrived to the area of Magnolia Avenue and met with police officers at a later point. S1 stated all four juveniles were at a barbershop somewhere in Maitland, when a male named "Chris Hoats" told them he would give them \$50 if they brought him fifty (50) signs. S1 and S2 stated the unknown male gave them his Instagram account information and told them to directly message him when they took the signs. It should be noted the juvenile's statements to law enforcement were consistent. S1 showed police officers the Instagram account profile which displayed "Chris Hoats" and allowed officers to look at the Instagram profile. Officers noted the profile showed multiple photographs of who appeared as "Craig Russell", the individual who is

CAPIAS REQUEST

Winter Park Police Department

Marsy's Law CVI X

For the Public: #Error
Juvenile: Yes

CSA 2 GRID

Agency ORI#: FL0480600 OBTS#:

Agency Report #: 202446000338

running against Jason Johnson for city commissioner. All juveniles were apologetic and advised they
All juveniles' parents were contacted and made aware of the incident. Officer Ellison (#651) listed S1 and S2 as suspects for the theft for the theft,
and forwarded the case to the State Attorney's Office for review.

On March 27, 2024, Detective Terc (#654), who is currently assigned to the Winter Park Police Department Criminal Investigations Division
(CID), was assigned this case. Detective Terc observed Instagram profile image which displayed "Chris Hoats" attached to this report. Instagram
account preservation request was made.

A Google search using the name "Chris Hoats" was conducted, which revealed several open source platforms, one of which showed Twitter.com.
Upon opening the link (https://twitter.com/CoachHoats), the page showed "Coach Chris Hoats" "Defensive Backs/ Recruiting Coordinator" The
page displayed Winter Park High School Football team, Wildcats. Photographs showed a white male whose appearance was consistent with the
profile photograph of the Instagram account for a Chris Hoats shown by the juveniles on March 21, 2024. Detective Terc noted that the juveniles
informed they were in the area and were approached by a white male who stated he was a football coach for Winter Park High School. The white
male offered to pay them one dollar (\$1) for each sign, since the other individual was also stealing his "orange signs". He then instructed the
juveniles to steal the "Jason Johnson" signs, "the blue ones with the red stars". During this interaction, the juveniles informed they attended

Investigative resources were utilized and it was confirmed the school name provided by the juveniles was consistent with the school registration
information. Detective Terc conducted a query search revealed information regarding a white male named Christopher Martin Hoats (D.O.B.
08/27/1990) / (Suspect 3)/(S3).

Two photo lineups were generated with case ID#'s listed as (202446000338-A), and (202446000338-B).

On March 29, 2024, Detective Terc (#654) and Detective Richard Sotomayer (#653), arrived at
) to meet with the juveniles in attempt to obtain further information regarding "Chris Hoats".

Upon our arrival, Detectives met with Seminole County Sheriff's Deputy, School Resource Officer (SRO) Mattingly, who assisted with contacting
the student's teachers, and confirmed the student's attendance. The students arrived separately to the SRO's office.

Detective Terc and Detective Sotomayer made contact with a white male juvenile, who was identified as Suspect 1 (S1),
). Detective Terc and S1 exited the SRO's office, while Detective Sotomayer remained inside. Detective Terc explained to S1 the purpose
for making contact with him was to possibly utilize his assistance in identifying the male who approached them about the signs; S1 agreed to assist
with a photo lineup. Detective Terc and S1 reentered the SRO's office to meet with Detective Sotomayer, who administered photo lineup
(202446000338-A), and read the instructions to eyewitness for photo lineup to S1; he later completed a Winter Park Police Department Affidavit
of Eyewitness Identification. S1 selected the subject in position number 3 of this photo lineup. S1 stated the following information on the Affidavit
of Eyewitness via sworn statement:

S1 identified the subject in position 3 as the person who "was going to pay me to steal signs in Winter Park. The man told us to steal these signs
that had Jason Johnson on the signs. It was for a city election if I'm not mistaken. He told us the other candidate was stealing his signs so he ran
out from the barber shop and asked if we were willing to steal signs for some cash. "

Detective Terc and Detective Sotomayer made contact with a white male juvenile, who was identified as Suspect 2 (S2),
). Detective Terc and S1 exited the SRO's office, while Detective Sotomayer remained inside. Detective Terc explained to S2 the purpose
for making contact with him was to possibly utilize his assistance in identifying the male who approached him about the signs; S2 agreed to assist
with a photo lineup. Detective Terc and S2 reentered the SRO's office to meet with Detective Sotomayer, who administered photo lineup
(202446000338-B), and read the instructions to eyewitness for photo lineup to S2; he later completed a Winter Park Police Department Affidavit
of Eyewitness Identification. S2 selected the subject in position number 2 of this photo lineup. S2 stated the following information on the Affidavit
of Eyewitness via sworn statement:

S2 identified the subject in position 2 as the person who
was an illegal action. He came out of a barber shop and approached me and my friends offering money to steal Jason Johnson signs before that
I've never seen him and haven't since."

Suspect Interviews:

Upon the administration of the photo lineup, Detective Terc met with
)/(S1), who agreed to speak, and provided
the following information via sworn statement:

A man approached them at a barbershop, he was unable to recall the name of the barbershop however possibly "Maitland Road" he was
unfamiliar with the area. The male yelled and asked him and his friend if they wanted to steal some political signs, because the other candidate in

CAPIAS REQUEST

Winter Park Police Department

Marsy's Law CVI X

For the Public: #Error  
Juvenile: Yes

CSA 2 GRID

Agency ORI#: FL0480600 OBTS#:

Agency Report #: 202446000338

the election was stealing his signs, therefore he wanted them to steal the signs for him. The male provided his Instagram account, and S1 did not communicate with him. S1 stated his (S2) were the only people that talked to that man, and S2 blocked him on Instagram. One of the people in the barbershop ran outside of the shop to tell him it was time for him to get the haircut. The man was wearing a shirt that said Winter Park Football on the collar, he did not recall the colors of the shirt, and it possibly had "high school mascot colors, orange or gray maybe", the male also wore sunglasses on the back of his head. When S1 asked to put the signs back by the victim, he stated the reason was because they were far away from her and they were trying to find their other friends. S1 added they

Detective Terc and Detective Sotomayer made Contac with (S2), who agreed to speak, and provided the following information via a sworn statement:

S2 was skating in the area located at Floyd 99 barbershop (111 North Orlando Avenue Maitland, FL) when he approached by a male named "Chris Hoats", who told them he was looking for some people to take Jason Johnson signs for him for money, and he never mentioned anything to them to let them know they would get in trouble for doing so. The male provided his name and provided his Instagram, which was how he was able to recall how the male looked. S2 never communicated with Chris Hoats, however he sent him one message with a picture of a sign. S2 no longer had this information and believed the message was deleted. S2 then showed a photograph of Chris Hoats Instagram account and gave permission for Detective Terc to take a photograph of the image. The image was taken using her agency issued work phone, and attached to this report. S2 stated he stepped outside of Floyds barbershop to speak with them on the same day law enforcement made contact with them. The incident occurred around (1330 -1400) hours. Upon in Winter Park FL, Suspect-3 informed he would meet with them, however since they were contacted by law enforcement, they never met with him, or continued communication with him since the incident. S2 was unfamiliar with the area in Winter Park. When asked why he never stopped for the victim, S2 replied they were trying to find their friends who were somewhere else. S2 stated he was unaware since it was a piece of cardboard.

It should be noted the Instagram profile picture shown to Detective Terc was consistent with the male previously observed on open source platforms as well as through the use of law enforcement investigative tools. S1's S2's parents were notified of this incident.

On April 2, 2024, Detective Terc obtained video footage from Floyd's Barbershop (111 North Orlando Avenue Maitland, FL) which revealed Suspect 3 was observed at the business and had an appointment scheduled for March 21, 2024. An appointment schedule was obtained from Floyds Barbershop, which showed the time he checked in was at approximately 1251 hours. The videos and still images were collected and submitted as evidence this date, and the Business Record Certification was attached to this report.

Detective Terc and Detective Sotomayer arrived (S3), in attempt to meet with S3. Detectives met with the School Resource Officer (SRO), who escorted us to the area of building 700. The SRO was unaware of the details of this incident, he later confirmed that S3 was not on campus. It was informed that S3 was not a teacher and he assisted with coaching on the football team occasionally. The SRO was provided with S3's phone number as . Law Enforcement tools were utilized which showed a possible address for S3. Detectives then arrived at 100 Kyle Drive Maitland, FL in attempt to contact S3. Detectives were given an updated address for S3, by S3's parent. Moments later, S3 contacted the Winter Park Police Department, and requested to speak with the Detectives that spoke with his parent. He provided the aforementioned phone number. Detective Terc called S3, who agreed to meet at the Winter Park Police Department.

On April 2, 2024, Detective Terc and Detective Sotomayer met with a white male in the lobby at approximately 1351 hours. The male identified himself as Christopher Martin Hoats (D.O.B. 08/27/1990)/(S3) via Florida driver license and agreed to speak. S3 advised following information via a sworn statement:

He coaches high school football, and initially advised he did not recall any juveniles that were skateboarding. He then stated he recalled speaking with possibly two of the skateboarders and asked where they were skateboarding, while he was at a barbershop located in Maitland called Floyds barbershop in the area of "Horatio and 1792". S3 asked "they are saying I stole signs?" and immediately stated he spoke to the juveniles about a local city election that is going on. S3 added that he inquired about where they were skateboarding, what they were doing, and who they were voting for, or who their parents were voting for. Additionally, he stated they were younger; and that it was a "harmless conversation" all while he was located outside of the aforementioned business, waiting to get a haircut. One of the guys he knows, a buddy of his named Craig Russell, is also running in the election.

S3 inquired if they were stealing campaign yard signs. It should be noted that during this interview, Detective Terc did not mention the juvenile suspects stole "campaign signs", and did initially mention they stole "signs" without specifying the type of signs. S3 advised the juveniles were not from the Winter Park area, and they occasionally skateboard in the area of Winter Park. He noted "none of them were of driving age". S3 stated one of the juveniles sent him his Instagram profile so he can follow his Instagram page. When S3 was asked if there was a reason why he would follow someone he did not know on Instagram, he replied "yeah to tell them who to vote for or who not to vote for, this is who were going up against, this our competition" he later spontaneously advised he was losing where his involvement was, as he did not "encourage them to steal signs". S3 stated Detective Terc spoke with the Winter Park High School coach Russell this date, at which point he was advised Detectives did not speak with him, and only spoke with the SRO at the school. S3 stated he was not a "kingpin", and that no one asked him to have the signs stolen, he only informed the juveniles not to vote for Jason Johnson, and to vote for Craig Russell, "here's the good guys, here's the bad guys". S3 then denied offering the juveniles a dollar for every sign they stole, or having any involvement in the incident.

CAPIAS REQUEST

Winter Park Police Department

Marsy's Law CVI X

For the Public: #Error

Juvenile: Yes

CSA 2 GRID

Agency ORI#: FL0480600 OBTS#:

Agency Report #: 202446000338

It should be noted that time frame provided by the juveniles for when they were approached by S3, as well as their statements to law enforcement on March 21, 2024, were consistent with the information they provided when they were interviewed separately by Detective Terc and Detective Sotomayer on March 29, 2024. During their interviews, the descriptions of S3, to include his appearance, and clothing were consistent with the video footage, and the still images provided by Floyd's Barbershop. Floyd's Barbershop members informed the video footage time displayed was off by approximately one hour, however the check in time showed was 1251 hours on March 21, 2024. It is believed S3 was a principal of the first degree for the theft.

Based on the investigation, there is probable cause to believe Christopher Martin Hoats (S3) violated F.S.S. 812.014. 3(a); Theft, and F.S.S. 827.04; Contributing to the delinquency of a child.

Detective Terc and Detective Sotomayer utilized their agency issued body worn cameras to record all interviews and interactions related to this incident.

On April 8, 2024 Detective Terc (#654) and Detective Lopez (#611) arrived at \_\_\_\_\_, in reference to an attempt to contact Craig Russell. Upon arrival Detectives met with the School Resource Officer and were guided to the football coach's office and gym area of the school. It was determined Craig Russell was not at the school this date.

Detective Terc was later informed Craig Russell requested to meet with Detectives and his contact information was provided. Upon making contact via phone, a male advised his name was Craig Russell and stated he wished to meet at his residence. Detective Terc and Detective Lopez arrived at 1923 Summerfield Road Winter Park, Florida. Upon arrival we made contact with a black male, who identified himself as Craig Russell (D.O.B. 11/20/1980)/(Adult/Other).

Craig Russell advised the following information via a sworn verbal statement:

He previously contacted Christopher Hoats to inform him that Detectives previously arrived at the school to speak with him. He previously obtained details from "Chris" regarding juveniles stealing his opponent's political signs. When he began the campaign, he had little knowledge about the political make up of the city and how involved people were, or the extent that people would go to make things up. He provided rules to his campaign volunteers regarding the political signs, including not to touch other signs that were not his signs. Mr. Russell further stated he did not have time to conspire to get kids to take signs. When Craig Russell was asked about Christopher Hoats affiliation with his campaign, Craig stated Christopher was his Treasurer, and due to the campaign being a runoff, he asked him to "step away". Christopher Hoats works for a CPA firm, and has been very busy recently. Craig stated he did most of the work, and that Christopher Hoats assisted him with numbers and was assigned as the Treasurer for his campaign from December 2023 to approximately end of February or March 2024. Craig Russell stated Due to Christopher Hoats being busy, he was in the process of amending campaign related paperwork to remove Christopher Hoats as Treasurer. Craig Russell repeatedly stated there was no way Christopher Hoats would have sent the juveniles to take the signs, and believed his opponent's supporters were involved with this incident. Craig Russell stated he won the general election, and the messages he sends are about "being positive and doing everything the right way". Craig Russell further stated the messages he sends out have nothing to do with his opponent Jason Johnson contrary to the messages Jason Johnson sends, which have everything to do with him. He found it suspicious this occurred after he won the general election. Christopher Hoats would have never asked the juveniles to take signs, or jeopardize his family, work, or his ability to coach. He has known Christopher Hoats between approximately 2007 and 2009. Christopher is the Assistant Defensive Coordinator for the Winter Park High School Football team. Lastly, Craig Russell restated the allegations against Christopher Hoats were false.

Contact was made with \_\_\_\_\_)/(Juvenile/Associate), who advised the following information via a sworn statement:

He and friends were skating around, and visited a 7-11 (unknown location). They later skateboarded past Floyd's Barbershop. He observed an unknown male exit the barbershop to speak with friends. He did not hear the initial part of the conversation as he and his other friend skated ahead of \_\_\_\_\_. Several moments later, his friends approached him, informing the male offered to pay them fifty dollars (\$50) for fifty (50) signs \_\_\_\_\_. They later visited Winter Park, and at some point, a female drove behind his friends advising they took signs, and needed them returned and later all juveniles were contacted by Police Officers. He was unable to observe the male since he skated ahead of everyone, and stated he was unable to identify him.

Detective Terc and Detective Lopez made contact with a white male juvenile, who was identified as \_\_\_\_\_ (Juvenile/Associate). \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to speak to detectives about this incident at which point Detective Terc left the immediate area. Detective Lopez administered a photo lineup (202446000338-C). \_\_\_\_\_ completed a Winter Park Police Department Affidavit of Eyewitness Identification. \_\_\_\_\_ selected the subjects in position number 1, and 3 this photo lineup. \_\_\_\_\_ stated the following information on the Affidavit of Eyewitness via sworn statement: "NA" and verbally stated the people in position 1 and position 3 were not the suspect.

\_\_\_\_\_)/(Juvenile/Associate) advised the following information via a sworn statement:

He was skating with his friends in Maitland next to Jeremiahs. He skated past Floyd's Barbershop and noticed

**CAPIAS REQUEST**

**Winter Park Police Department**

**Marsy's Law CVI**

For the Public: #Error

Juvenile: Yes

CSA 2 GRID

Agency ORI#: FL0480600 OBTS#:

Agency Report #: 202446000338

that a male exited the barbershop to speak to his friends . Upon noticing the male speaking with them, went back towards the end of their conversation. His friends informed him that the male offered one dollar (\$1) for ever sign they took. The male added he would pay them fifty dollars (\$50) if they brought back 50 Jason Johnson signs. The male was described as a Caucasian male, approximately six feet tall, with a beard, a hat, and a shirt that had Winter Park football written on it. The male informed the juveniles that they would not get in any trouble for taking the Jason Johnson signs. The male stated he would communicate with the juveniles via Instagram upon their completion. stated the Instagram account for the male that obtained was the same as the one displayed to police officer initially "chris\_hoats". The photograph of the Instagram account was previously attached to this report. The juveniles later visited a neighborhood area when a female drove at a high rate of speed. The female stopped in the middle of the roadway. The female drove towards his friends, met with his friend and later arrived to speak with police officers.

It should be noted the juveniles interviewed this date were interviewed separately and their statements were consistent with the statements previously provided by the juvenile suspects. The parents of and gave Detectives permission to speak to the juveniles regarding this incident.

This concludes all available information regarding this case. Due to the aforementioned information this case was forwarded to the State Attorney's Office for review.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION**

I swear/affirm the above and reversed and attached statements are true and correct Officer's/Complainant's Signature:	Verified By: Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority, this ____ day of _____, in the year _____. Name/Title of Person Authorized to Administer Oath: _____
--	---