

THE STATE OF TEXAS	X	IN THE (MUNICIPAL)(JUSTICE)
	X	(COUNTY)(DISTRICT) COURT
	X	(PCT OR C.C. AT LAW ___)
COUNTY OF TRAVIS	X	IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

AFFIDAVIT and COMPLAINT FOR WARRANT OF ARREST AND DETENTION

The Undersigned Affiant, who after being duly sworn by me, on oath makes the following statement:

I, **Special Agent Justin Winkler #15331**, have good reason to believe and do believe that **CARLOS A GIRALDO SANCHEZ, W/M, DOB 06-18-1980, Texas DL#14669363**, on or about the 24th day of April, 2024 in TRAVIS County, Texas, did then and there commit the offense of:

***Interference with Public Duties
Texas Penal Code 38.15
Class B Misdemeanor***

My belief of the foregoing statement is based upon personal knowledge and information provided to me by **Texas Highway Patrol Trooper Rico Nelson and Trooper Max Gouge who Special Agent Winkler believes to be credible and reliable.**

On 04/24/2024, Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Troopers Rico Nelson and Max Gouge were working Field Force Operation Duties assisting the University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) with crowd control during the Free Palestine Protest at the University of Texas (UT) in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

Troopers were assigned to assist UTPD with the crowd to maintain peace around the area. The number of participants had grown to well over a hundred (100) people and the crowd was becoming confrontational, agitated, and uncooperative with law enforcement commands to disperse from the area or move to another designated area.

Troopers, including Trooper Nelson, were wearing Texas Highway Patrol Uniforms and green vest plate carriers that clearly stated, "STATE POLICE," standing alongside uniformed fellow UTPD officers and Austin Police Department Officers (APD) when Troopers encountered agitators within the crowd. SA Winkler observed on obtained body camera footage taken at the scene which shows CARLOS GIRALDO SANCHEZ was in the crowd holding a large camera. SA Winkler then observes on video SANCHEZ moving towards Trooper Nelson while Trooper Nelson has his back turned and is dealing with other protestors in the crowd. SA Winkler observes SANCHEZ lunge toward Trooper Nelson, striking him with the camera, making contact with Trooper Nelson's lower head and neck area with a large camera where Trooper Nelson was not protected by helmet or body armor.

SANCHEZ was arrested on the scene by UTPD and taken into custody for criminal trespass charges at the time of the incident.

On 04/25/2024, the following day, Special Agent (SA) Justin Winkler followed up on this incident after learning that additional witnesses and video footage of the incident had been obtained and reviewed. SA Winkler interviewed Trooper Nelson who was struck by SANCHEZ and met with Trooper Gouge.

On 04/25/2024, SA Winkler contacted Trooper Nelson by phone for an interview. Trooper Nelson stated he was working the UT protests and was deployed to the south lawn near the UT tower. Trooper Nelson stated he was dealing with relocating protestors in front of him to an area where they were ordered to move. Trooper Nelson stated he was suddenly struck on his lower head and neck area from behind by a large object that did not feel like an arm or a hand or another officer. Trooper Nelson stated he observed a male, who was later

identified as SANCHEZ, being arrested by two other Troopers and taken away from the scene. Trooper Nelson observed SANCHEZ to have a large camera near him. Trooper Nelson stated when he went home after work, he felt sore as a result of the incident.

On 04/25/2024, SA Winkler took the following statement from Trooper Gouge: "I, Corporal Gouge, was working UT protests on 04/24/2024 and deployed to the south lawn of the UT tower to assist UTPD and APD. DPS units formed a Trooper line to begin to move protestors back to a designated area. A male reporter with a large shoulder camera somehow got behind the law enforcement line. As the line kept pushing forward, I witnessed the male with the large shoulder camera lunge forward toward the back of the Troopers holding the line, lower head and neck. The area where a Trooper is not protected by the helmet or body armor. I then grabbed the male carrying the camera, causing him to fall to the ground, where he was arrested and released to UTPD". Trooper Gouge stated the male reporter struck the back of a Trooper. The Trooper was later identified as Trooper Rico Nelson.

SA Winkler obtained additional social media footage that shows earlier on in the event, SANCHEZ is seen before the incident coming close to Troopers with SANCHEZ's camera, advancing towards Troopers with his camera coming within arm's reach, causing one of the Troopers to tell SANCHEZ to get back because he was too close.

SA Winkler reviewed several different angles of body camera and videos posted on social media from the incident as well as body camera from a Trooper on scene. Repeated clear commands were given by loudspeakers and verbally by officers on the scene to disperse from the area and move to another designated area. SA Winkler observed SANCHEZ disobey the clear, repeated commands given by law enforcement to disperse and move to a designated area and instead remain in the area, placing him within very close proximity to officers trying to take control of the crowd and keep the peace. This situation made it unsafe for officers, as well as other bystanders, to effectively do their jobs as they were executing their duties to keep the peace within the area and to ensure the safety of all persons present.

Later, during the protest, SANCHEZ remained close to law enforcement inside as they attempted to move the crowd to a designated area. SA Winkler reviewed several different angles of footage of SANCHEZ in the crowd and observed the following. SANCHEZ advances towards Trooper Nelson from behind and lunges toward him at least two (2) times, striking him with the camera between his lower neck and head area, causing fellow Troopers Gouge and Trooper Gonzales to stop moving and monitoring the crowd, hindering their ability to continue moving the crowd in front of them and take action to arrest SANCHEZ. SA Winkler did not observe anyone pushing SANCHEZ and did not observe any objects that would make SANCHEZ have an unsteady gait, causing him to trip or lunge forward.

SA Winkler observed that SANCHEZ was holding a large camera, which is consistent with one that major news outlets use. Because of its large size and weight, the person operating the camera normally carries it on the shoulder. SA Winkler conducted a Google search on the weight of these types of cameras and found that they can weigh anywhere between 8 and 10 pounds.

SA Winkler believes SANCHEZ, through criminal negligence, interrupted, disrupted, impeded, or otherwise interfered with peace officers at the UT protest performing their duty or exercising authority imposed or granted by law.

Based on the information and evidence gathered in this investigation; CARLOS GIRALDO SANCHEZ committed the offense of Interference with Public Duties, Texas Penal Code § 38.15 – Class B Misdemeanor on April 24th, 2024, in violation of the laws of the State of Texas.

This offense was committed against the peace and dignity of the State of Texas.

JW

Affiant **Special Agent Justin Winkler # 15331**

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO, before me by the said Affiant on this the 30 day of April 2024.

Michael A. Coffey
 Notary Public Peace Officer, in and for The State of Texas, **TRAVIS** County
MAGISTRATE



On this the 30 day of April 2024, I hereby acknowledge that I have examined the foregoing Affidavit and have determined that probable cause does exist for the issuance of an arrest warrant for the individual accused herein.

Michael A. Coffey
Magistrate in and for, **TRAVIS** County, Texas



Cause Number # _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS	X	IN THE (MUNICIPAL)(JUSTICE)
	X	(COUNTY)(DISTRICT) COURT
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COUNTY OF TRAVIS	X	IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

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***Assault
Texas Penal Code 22.01
Class C Misdemeanor***

My belief of the foregoing statement is based upon personal knowledge and information provided to me by **Texas Highway Patrol Trooper Rico Nelson and Trooper Max Gouge who Special Agent Winkler believes to be credible and reliable.**

On 04/24/2024, Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Troopers Rico Nelson and Max Gouge were working Field Force Operation Duties assisting the University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) with crowd control during the Free Palestine Protest at the University of Texas (UT) in Austin, Travis County, Texas.

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SA Winkler observed that SANCHEZ was holding a large camera, which is consistent with one that major news outlets use. Because of its large size and weight, the person operating the camera normally carries it on the shoulder. SA Winkler conducted a Google search on the weight of these types of cameras and found that they can weigh anywhere between 8 and 10 pounds.

SA Winkler believes SANCHEZ intentionally, knowingly caused physical contact with Trooper Nelson who knows or should reasonably believe that Trooper Nelson would regard the contact as offensive or provocative. As result of SANCHEZ's camera striking Trooper Nelson, Trooper Nelson found this physical contact to be offensive.

Based on the information and evidence gathered in this investigation; CARLOS GIRALDO SANCHEZ committed the offense of **Assault, Texas Penal Code § 22.01 – Class C Misdemeanor on April 24th, 2024, in violation of the laws of the State of Texas.**

This offense was committed against the peace and dignity of the State of Texas.

JW

Affiant **Special Agent Justin Winkler # 15331**

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO, before me by the said Affiant on this the 30 day of April 2024.

R Allong

**Judge Rae-Ann F. Allong
Austin Municipal Court**

Notary Public Peace Officer, in and for The State of Texas, TRAVIS County

Magistrate



On this the 30th day of April 2024, I hereby acknowledge that I have examined the foregoing Affidavit and have determined that probable cause does exist for the issuance of an arrest warrant for the individual accused herein.

R Allong

Magistrate in and for, TRAVIS County, Texas

**Judge Rae-Ann F. Allong
Austin Municipal Court**

