

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

TIMOTHY RUNNELS,

[DOB: 07/26/1983]

Defendant.

Case No. _____

COUNTS ONE AND TWO

18 U.S.C. § 242 (Deprivation of Rights)

NMT: 10 Years

NMT: 3 years Supervised Release

NMT: \$100,000 Fine

Class C Felony

COUNT THREE

18 U.S.C. § 1519 (Obstruction of Justice)

NMT: 20 Years

NMT: 3 Years Supervised Release

NMT: \$100,000 Fine

Class C Felony

COUNT FOUR

18 U.S.C. § 1512(b)(3) (Obstruction of Justice)

NMT: 20 Years

NMT: 3 Years Supervised Release

NMT: \$100,000 Fine

Class C Felony

\$100 Mandatory Special Assessment for Each
Count

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges that:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. At all times relevant to this Indictment, the Independence Police Department was a law enforcement agency in the Western District of Missouri. Among other functions, the Independence Police Department investigated crimes committed in Independence, Missouri.

2. At all times relevant to this Indictment, employees of the Independence Police Department were responsible for conducting themselves in compliance with federal, state, and local laws, including the United States Constitution.

3. At all times relevant to this Indictment, defendant TIMOTHY RUNNELS was employed as a police officer at the Independence Police Department.

COUNT ONE

The Grand Jury further charges that:

1. Paragraphs one through three of the General Allegations are incorporated by reference in this count.

2. On or about September 14, 2014, in the Western District of Missouri, TIMOTHY RUNNELS, the defendant herein, while acting under color of the laws of the State of Missouri, willfully deprived B.M. of the right secured and protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States to be free from unreasonable seizure by one acting under color of law. Specifically, the defendant continuously deployed a Taser against B.M. while B.M. was on the ground and not posing a threat to the defendant or others. The offense involved the use of a dangerous weapon and resulted in bodily injury to B.M.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 242.

COUNT TWO

The Grand Jury further charges that:

1. Paragraphs one through three of the General Allegations are incorporated by reference in this count.

2. On or about September 14, 2014, in the Western District of Missouri, TIMOTHY RUNNELS, the defendant herein, while acting under color of the laws of the State of Missouri, willfully deprived B.M. of the right secured and protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States to be free from unreasonable seizure by one acting under color of law. Specifically,

the defendant deliberately dropped B.M. face first onto the ground while B.M. was restrained and not posing a threat to the defendant or others. The offense resulted in bodily injury to B.M.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 242.

COUNT THREE

The Grand Jury further charges that:

1. Paragraphs one through three of the General Allegations are incorporated by reference in this count.

2. On or about September 14, 2014, in the Western District of Missouri, TIMOTHY RUNNELS, the defendant herein, in relation to and in contemplation of a matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an agency of the United States, knowingly altered, concealed, covered up, falsified and made false entries in a document with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of the matter within federal jurisdiction. Specifically, the defendant authored and submitted a false and misleading official police report, which falsely described and omitted details concerning the force that he used against B.M. on September 14, 2014, and the circumstances that led to B.M.'s bodily injuries on that day, with the intent to obstruct any investigation into the deprivations of constitutional rights described in Counts One and Two of this Indictment.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1519.

COUNT FOUR

The Grand Jury further charges that:

1. Paragraphs one through three of the General Allegations are incorporated by reference in this count.

2. On or about September 16, 2014, in the Western District of Missouri, TIMOTHY RUNNELS, the defendant herein, did knowingly attempt to corruptly persuade and engage in misleading conduct toward investigators from the Independence Police Department, with the intent to hinder, delay, and prevent communication to a law enforcement officer of the United States of information relating to the commission or possible commission of a federal offense, namely, the deprivations of constitutional rights described in Counts One and Two of this Indictment. Specifically, the defendant knowingly made a false statement and intentionally omitted information from a statement, thereby causing a portion of the statement to be misleading, concerning the force that he used against B.M. on September 14, 2014, and the circumstances that led to B.M.'s bodily injuries on that day.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(b)(3).

A TRUE BILL.

3/26/15
DATE

/s/ Helen A. Chaffin
FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY

/s/ David Ketchmark
David Ketchmark
First Assistant United States Attorney

/s/ Shan Patel
Shan Patel
Trial Attorney
Civil Rights Division