

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

ALAN FISCHER III,
(also known as "AJ"),

Defendant.

Case No:

VIOLATIONS:

- 18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1) and (b), 2
(Assaulting, Resisting, or Impeding
Certain Officers Using a Dangerous
Weapon)
- 18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3)
(Civil Disorder)
- 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A)
(Entering and Remaining in a Restricted
Building or Grounds with a Deadly or
Dangerous Weapon)
- 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2) and (b)(1)(A)
(Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a
Restricted Building or Grounds with a
Deadly or Dangerous Weapon)
- 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(4) and (b)(1)(A)
(Physical Violence in a Restricted Building
or Grounds with a Deadly or Dangerous
Weapon)
- 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D)
(Violent entry or disorderly conduct)
- 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(F)
(Act of Physical Violence in the Capitol
Grounds or Building)

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF
AN APPLICATION FOR AN ARREST WARRANT**

I, Steven Thames, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. I make this affidavit in support of an application for an arrest warrant for ALAN FISCHER III, (also known as "AJ").

2. I am a Special Agent with the FBI and have been since approximately August 2016. I am currently assigned to the FBI's Tampa, Florida Field Office and work on the Domestic Terrorism squad as part of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. I obtained my master's degree in International Affairs/Security Studies from East Carolina University and my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. As an FBI Special Agent, I have participated in investigations involving the violations of various federal laws, including laws related to cybercrimes, terrorism, conspiracy, hate crimes, and other criminal activities. I have gained experience through training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, and through everyday work conducting investigations. I am a federal law enforcement officer who is engaged in enforcing criminal laws, including violations of Title 18 of the United States Code. In addition to my regular duties, I am tasked with investigating criminal activity in and around the U.S. Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021.

3. The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, my training and experience, and information obtained from other law enforcement officers and witnesses. This affidavit is intended to show merely that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant and does not set forth all of my knowledge about this matter.

4. The U.S. Capitol is secured 24 hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by U.S. Capitol Police. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the U.S. Capitol was also closed to members of the public.

5. On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the United States Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States

Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the United States Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on November 3, 2020. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

6. As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Mike Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

7. At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the U.S. Capitol Police attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, shortly after 2:00 p.m., individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of the U.S. Capitol Police, as others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts.

8. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m. members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, the joint session of the United States Congress was effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the sessions resumed.

9. During national news coverage of the aforementioned events, video footage which appeared to be captured on mobile devices of persons present on the scene depicted evidence of violations of local and federal law, including scores of individuals inside the U.S. Capitol building without authority to be there.

PROBABLE CAUSE

10. ALAN FISCHER, also known as “AJ,” (FISCHER) is a 27-year-old resident of Florida. According to records associated with his Florida driver’s license, FISCHER is 6’0.” As a part of this investigation, I have reviewed the image of FISCHER associated with his October 2018 Florida driver’s license which depicts FISCHER, who has slicked back brown hair and a brown beard.

11. According to records lawfully obtained from Verizon Wireless, a telephone number ending in 4811 (the “4811 Number”) is subscribed to an individual with the initials “SV” at an address on Hills Avenue in Tampa, Florida (the “Hills Avenue Address”).¹

12. According to records from Southwest Airlines, FISCHER flew from Tampa, Florida, to Baltimore/Washington International Airport, on January 4, 2021. The 4811 Number was the telephone number associated with FISCHER’s flight. Records from Hertz indicate that FISCHER rented a vehicle in Tysons Corner, Virginia on January 8, 2021, which he returned to a location in Tampa, Florida on January 9, 2021. The 4811 Number was the telephone number associated with FISCHER’s car rental. Venmo, USAA and JP Morgan Chase records obtained pursuant to subpoenas also link FISCHER to the 4811 Number.

¹ SV is believed to be FISCHER’s current or former girlfriend. Records from Southwest Airlines and Marriott link FISCHER to the Hills Avenue Address, although these records also include an apartment number that is not included in records from the PROVIDER. USAA records link both FISCHER and SV to the same apartment at the Hills Avenue Address and a common bank account.

13. On June 9, 2021, FISCHER was the driver in a car that was the subject of a car stop by the Tampa (Florida) Police Department. This car stop was recorded on the officer's body worn camera. I have reviewed this body worn camera, which depicts FISCHER, who has slicked back brown hair and has a brown beard.

14. In August 2021, the FBI interviewed an individual referred to herein as the Witness. The Witness knows FISCHER from Proud Boy events in the Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida area. The Witness was shown photographs of the individual identified herein as FISCHER. The Witness identified the individual depicted in these photographs as "AJ," which is FISCHER's nickname.²

Certain Proud Boys' Conduct at and Around the Capitol on January 6, 2021

15. The Proud Boys describes itself as a "pro-Western fraternal organization for men who refuse to apologize for creating the modern world; aka Western Chauvinists." Proud Boys members routinely attend rallies, protests, and other events, some of which have resulted in violence involving members of the group. There is an initiation process for new members of the Proud Boys, and members often wear black and yellow polo shirts or other apparel adorned with Proud Boys logos to public events.

16. On January 6, 2021, individuals that agents have identified as a group of people that hold themselves out as Proud Boys (the "Proud Boys Group") were observed on the east side of the U.S. Capitol. Also, on January 6, 2021, the Proud Boys Group was observed marching at the front of a group of individuals on Constitution Avenue, Northwest, in the area around First Street, Northwest. The Proud Boys Group was engaged in various chants and response calls, including "F*** Antifa!" and "Whose streets? Our streets!"

² Records from Apple indicate that both the 4811 Number and the Hills Avenue Address are linked to "AJ Fischer."

17. The Proud Boys Group then stopped at or around 12:15 p.m. near Second Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, near some food trucks, before making their way to the west side of the outer secure perimeter surrounding the Capitol grounds on First Street, NW.

The Defendant's Actions on January 6, 2021

18. On January 6, 2021, prior to the attack on the Capitol, various groups and individuals walked in the streets of Washington, D.C., around and to the area of the Capitol. Media and other third-parties documented some of these groups' and individuals' movements that day. Fischer marched with the Proud Boys Group. Image 1 (below) is taken from a video taken on January 6, 2021 with the U.S. Capitol building in the background. Fischer, who has slicked back brown hair and a brown beard, can be seen wearing dark sunglasses, a black zip-up Carhartt jacket, a grey hooded sweatshirt, grey pants and brown shoes.



Image 1

19. Image 2 below depicts Fischer when the Proud Boys Group briefly stopped at food trucks located near the Capitol.



Image 2

20. Fischer can later be seen on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. See Images 3A and 3B, which is a zoomed in portion of Image 3A.



Image 3A



Image 3B

21. After the crowd overran the line of officers protecting the west side of the Capitol, Fischer moved to the vicinity of the terrace on the west side of the Capitol building where a stage for the Presidential Inauguration was being constructed (the “Lower West Terrace”) and positioned himself close to the arched entrance to a passageway that connects the Lower West Terrace and the interior of the U.S. Capitol building (the “Archway” and the “Tunnel,” respectively). At approximately, 2:40 p.m., police officers entered the Tunnel and began to form a protective line with riot shields behind a set of glass inside of the Tunnel. Soon thereafter, numerous rioters entered the Tunnel.

22. At approximately 3:15 p.m., Fischer walked through the Archway and entered the Tunnel, as depicted below:



Image 4

23. After entering the tunnel, Fischer stopped abruptly, turned around and pulled on his mask and the hood of his hooded sweatshirt, before again facing the line of officers and the Capitol surveillance camera.

24. Between at least 3:16 p.m. and 3:18 p.m., rioters, including Fischer, collectively pushed against the officers – at times rocking together in a coordinated fashion – in an effort to breach the line of officers and gain entry to the interior of the Capitol building. During this time, several rioters took shields from the officers, which the rioters, including Fischer passed back out of the Tunnel. Fischer’s position within the crowd is depicted in Images 5 and 6 below. As depicted in Image 6, Fischer also encouraged other rioters, including by yelling “Push!” while in the Tunnel.



Image 5



Image 6

25. Between approximately 3:18 p.m. and 3:19 p.m., the line of officers pushed the rioters, including Fischer, out of the Tunnel.



Image 7

26. As seen in Image 8, outside of the Archway, Fischer displayed a hand gesture associated with the Proud Boys. Fischer also chanted in unison with the crowd of rioters and appeared to celebrate with multiple other rioters fist bumping and then embracing one man and fist bumping another.

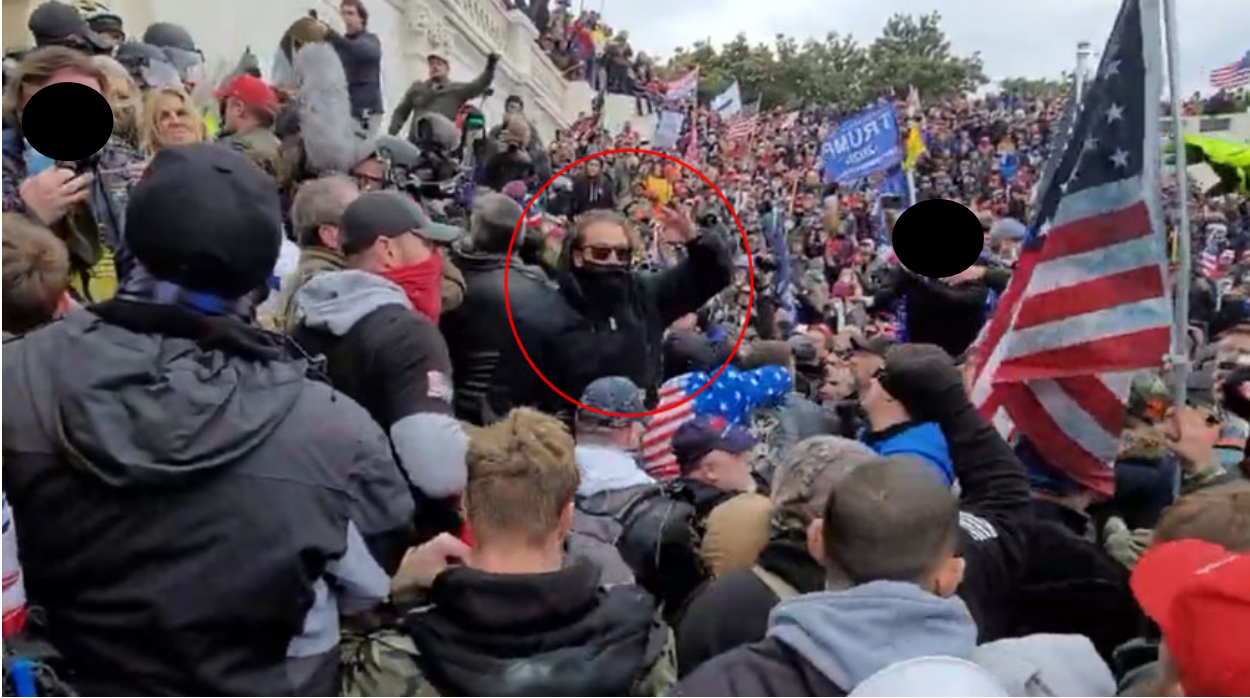


Image 8

27. Fischer also again joined a group of rioters who collectively pushed against the officers – at times rocking together in a coordinated fashion – in an effort to breach the line of officers and gain entry to the interior of the Capitol building, as depicted in Image 9.



Image 9

28. At several points while Fischer pushed against the line of officers, he turned back to the rioters behind him and yelled apparent encouragement, as depicted in Images 10 and 11. Fischer also at one point gestured – encouraging the other rioters to continue to push forward.



Image 10



Image 11

29. Fischer remained on the Lower West Terrace and continued to work with other rioters to push against the line of officers protecting the Capitol in the Archway and Tunnel for a period of over 45 minutes. Image 12, below, shows Fischer at the Archway at 4:02 pm as he continues to push with other rioters against the line of officers.



Image 12

30. Later, Fischer returned to the west front of the Capitol. Video depicts him holding an orange traffic cone in his right hand. He then picks up a chair and walks toward the north scaffolding where law enforcement officers are stationed. Seconds later, Fischer can be seen throwing an orange traffic cone and chair in the direction of the officers.



Image 13



Image 14



Image 15

31. Less than two minutes later, Fischer is observed walking back towards the north scaffolding on the west front of the Capitol with what appears to be a pole in his hand, which he can be observed throwing at the line of officers.

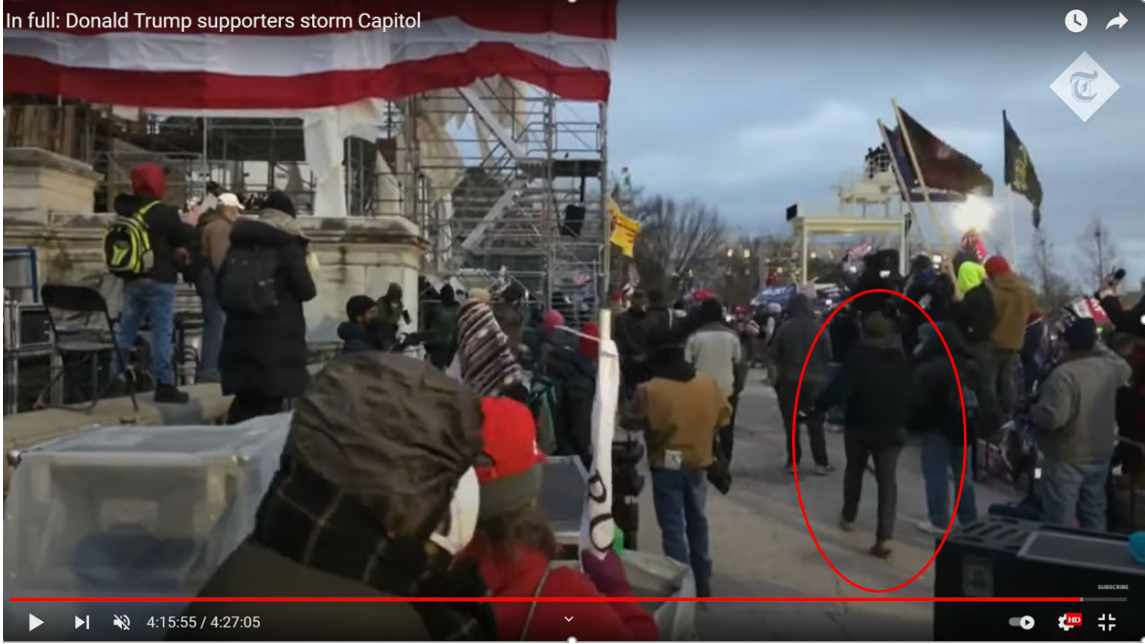


Image 16



Image 17

32. Fischer can then be observed walking away from the scaffolding before returning again less than one minute later with another chair, which he also throws toward the officers stationed at the scaffolding.



Image 18



Image 19



Image 20

33. Additional footage also depicts Fischer holding what appears to be a chair in his hands seconds before a chair is thrown at the line of officers in front of the north scaffolding on the west front of the Capitol.

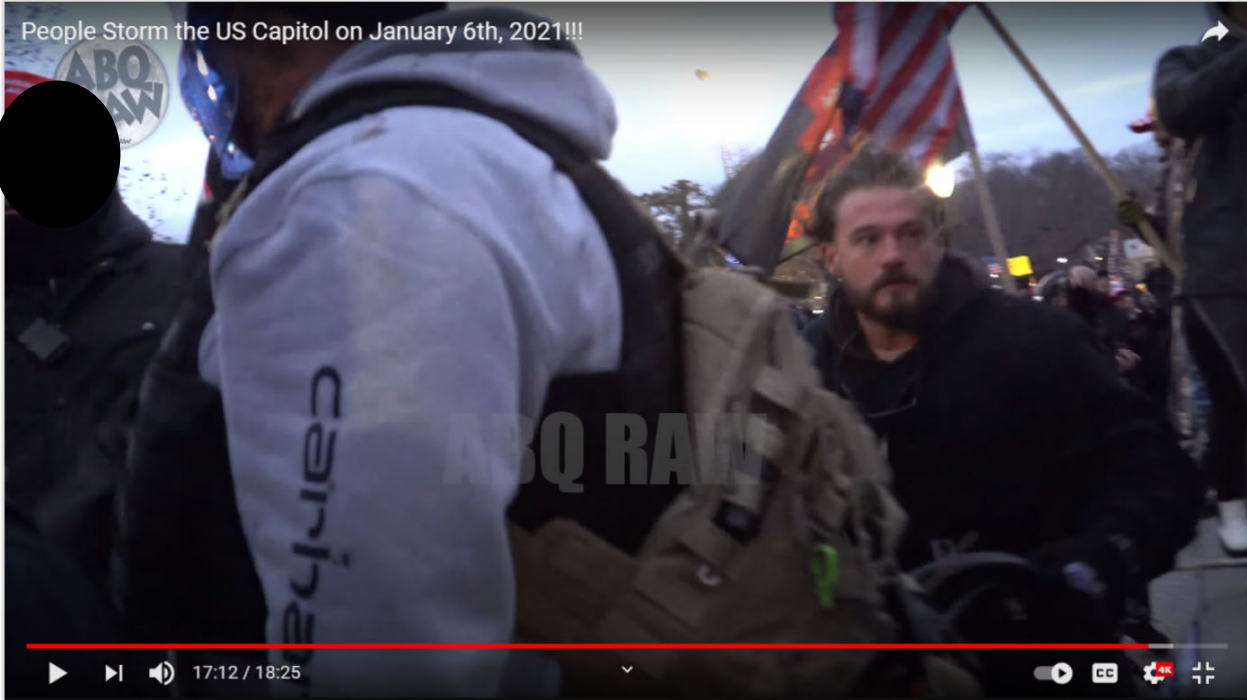


Image 21



Image 22

CONCLUSIONS OF AFFIANT

34. Based on the foregoing, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that FISCHER violated 18 U.S.C. 111(a)(1) and (b), which makes it a crime for anyone to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with a person designated in 18 U.S.C. § 1114 while engaged in or on account of the performance of official duties and using a deadly or dangerous weapon (including a weapon intended to cause death or danger but that fails to do so by reason of a defective component). Persons designated within Section 1114 include certain federal officers or employees or those assisting them.

35. There is also probable cause to believe that FISCHER violated 18 U.S.C. 231(a)(3), which makes it unlawful to commit or attempt to commit any act to obstruct, impede, or interfere with any fireman or law enforcement officer lawfully engaged in the lawful performance of his official duties incident to and during the commission of a civil disorder which in any way or degree obstructs, delays, or adversely affects commerce or the movement of any article or commodity in commerce or the conduct or performance of any federally protected function. For purposes of Section 231 of Title 18, a federally protected function means any function, operation, or action carried out, under the laws of the United States, by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or by an officer or employee thereof. This includes the Joint Session of Congress where the Senate and House count Electoral College votes.

36. Your affiant also submits that there is also probable cause to believe that FISCHER violated 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1), (2) and (4) and (b)(1)(A), which makes it a crime to (1) knowingly enter or remain in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do so; (2) knowingly, and with intent to impede or disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions, engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct in, or within such proximity to, any

restricted building or grounds when, or so that, such conduct, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions; and (4) knowingly engage in any act of physical violence against any person or property in any restricted building or grounds; or attempts or conspires to do so. For purposes of Section 1752 of Title 18, a “restricted building” includes a posted, cordoned off, or otherwise restricted area of a building or grounds where the President or other person protected by the Secret Service, including the Vice President, is or will be temporarily visiting; or any building or grounds so restricted in conjunction with an event designated as a special event of national significance.

37. Your affiant also submits that there is also probable cause to believe that FISCHER violated 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D), which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct, at any place in the Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress, or the orderly conduct in that building of a hearing before, or any deliberations of, a committee of Congress or either House of Congress.

38. Finally, your affiant submits that there is also probable cause to believe that FISCHER violated 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(F), which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly engage in an act of physical violence in the Grounds or any of the Capitol Buildings.



Special Agent Steven Thames
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 and 41(d)(3) on January 13, 2022.

G. MICHAEL HARVEY
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE