

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF GRANT
IN THE DISTRICT COURT

No. M-19-FR-2025-24

v.

Gomez, Alejandro Torres, Defendant
DOB: 11-09-1997, SSN: 649-12-9124
Race: White, Sex: Male
Eyes: Hazel, Hair: Brown
Height: 5'08", Weight: 220
ADR: 100 W Victoria Street, Silver City, New Mexico 88061

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT

The undersigned, being duly sworn, on his oath, states that he has reason to believe that on or about or between the dates of August 5, 2024, and August 16, 2024, in Luna County, State of New Mexico, the above-named defendant did commit the crime(s) of:

Crime 1: Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) (F3) (30-22-22(A)(1))
Crime 2: Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) (F3) (30-22-22(A)(1))
Crime 3: Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) (F3) (30-22-22(A)(1))
Crime 4: Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) (F3) (30-22-22(A)(1))
Crime 5: Extreme Cruelty to Animals (F4) (30-18-1(E))

contrary to law of the State of New Mexico.

The undersigned further states the following facts on oath to establish probable cause to believe that the above-named defendant committed the crime charged:

Affiant (I), Justin Blacklock, is a certified New Mexico Law Enforcement Officer and has been so since July 2012. I am an Agent with the New Mexico State Police, currently assigned to the Investigations Bureau in Las Cruces, New Mexico. In this capacity, I am charged with investigating violations of New Mexico State Law. I have received training and gained experience concerning the investigation of a variety of crimes from the Dona Ana County Law Enforcement Academy, the New Mexico State Police Academy, and the New Mexico State Police Basic Agent School. I have conducted numerous criminal investigations that have led to the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of person(s) who violated New Mexico State Laws. Affiant (I) shall hereinafter be referred to in the first person.

The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, training, experience, and information obtained from other Agents, Law Enforcement Officers, and witnesses. This affidavit is intended to show merely that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested Arrest Warrant and does not set forth all my knowledge about this matter.

Case Assignment and Background:

On Thursday, January 23, 2025, at approximately 2:45 pm, I was assigned as case agent for an investigation into multiple incidents involving multiple Grant County Sheriff's Deputies. The incidents occurred at different locations in the County of Grant, State of New Mexico.

On Thursday, January 23, 2025, the Grant County District Attorney's Office notified the New Mexico State Police that they had received information from Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Marcus Salas. Deputy Salas reported multiple different incidents that occurred on two different dates. These incidents involved Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Marcus Salas, Deputy Alejandro Gomez, Sergeant Brandon Reese and Corporal Cesar Torres.

The first incident occurred when Deputy Gomez took Deputy Salas's cellular phone. As Deputy Salas was trying to retrieve his phone from Deputy Gomez, Deputy Gomez displayed a taser at Deputy Salas. Later that same night, Deputy Gomez displayed his Grant County issued duty handgun at Deputy Salas. This incident was witnessed by Corporal Cesar Torres.

The second incident occurred when Deputy Salas, Deputy Gomez, Corporal Torres and Sergeant Reese were working a Stone Garden overtime operation. During this operation, Deputy Gomez needlessly killed a baby rabbit, threatened Deputy Salas with his taser, and displayed his firearm at Deputy Salas. These incidents were witnessed by Sergeant Reese and Corporal Torres who failed to intervene as required by New Mexico Statute. There was cellular video of the incident involving the rabbit which was recorded by one of the deputies.

The Grant County Sheriff's Office conducted an internal affairs investigation into the incident. The internal affairs investigation resulted in no or very little action being taken against the deputies/supervisors involved in the incidents detailed above.

On Monday, January 27, 2025, at approximately 9:52 am, I conducted an interview with Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Marcus Salas. The interview took place at the New Mexico State Police Office located at 2584 N Silver Street, Silver City, New Mexico. The following is an interview summary and is not verbatim. The interview was recorded via Axon Body 4 camera. The recording captures the actual words spoken. New Mexico State Police Agent Antonio Carrillo was present for the interview.

Interview, Deputy Marcus Salas:

Deputy Marcus Salas has been a law enforcement officer since approximately 2022. He is currently employed by Grant County as a Sheriff's Deputy. He had originally reported these incidents to commanders at the Sheriff's Office but is now reporting it to the New Mexico State Police because he felt the Sheriff's Office did not do enough to intervene in these incidents.

On approximately August 5, 2024, between the hours of 2:00 am and 4:00 am, Deputy Salas was at the Grant County Sheriff's Office located at 1400 Highway 180, Silver City, New Mexico in Grant County. He was on duty and was wearing his Grant County Sheriff's Department

uniform. Deputy Alejandro Gomez was also on duty and was wearing his Grant County Sheriff's Department uniform. Deputy Gomez wears an exterior Grant County Sheriff's Department vest with his taser holstered to his exterior vest.

Deputy Salas was working on his computer. He took out his phone to text a family member. Deputy Gomez came up from behind Deputy Salas and snatched the unlocked cell phone. Deputy Gomez then proceeded to run through the office with Deputy Salas's unlocked cellular device.

Deputy Salas did not want Deputy Gomez to have access to his personal data from his cellular device, so he ran after him. As Deputy Salas gave chase, Deputy Gomez suddenly turned around, unholstered his taser, and pointed it directly at Deputy Salas's body. Deputy Salas smacked the taser away and told Deputy Gomez to stop horseplaying.

Moments later, Deputy Salas saw Deputy Gomez had removed his exterior vest and his taser. As Deputy Salas walked by, he picked up Deputy Gomez's vest and told him that he was not so tough without his taser. Deputy Gomez unholstered his duty weapon and pointed it directly at Deputy Salas. Deputy Gomez told him that he was tough with the firearm. Deputy Salas was shocked and scared at the firearm deployment. During both these encounters, Deputy Salas said he was afraid of being tazed or shot. Deputy Salas explained he did not believe that Deputy Gomez would intentionally shoot/taze him but felt he could be shot/tazed by negligent discharge because of Deputy Gomez's reckless behavior.

Corporal Cesar Torres witnessed Deputy Gomez threatening Deputy Salas with the firearm and scolded them for it. Corporal Torres told Deputy Gomez to put his gun away. Deputy Salas was upset about these incidents and left the office. Later that night, Deputy Salas complained to Corporal Torres about Deputy Gomez's conduct and asked him to do something to correct the behavior, but nothing was done.

On August 16, 2024, at approximately 8:00 pm, Deputy Salas decided to work Stone Garden overtime. When he began his overtime shift, he learned that Deputy Gomez, Corporal Torres and Grant County Sheriff's Sergeant Brandon Reese were also going to work the overtime shift. All the deputies were on duty with their Grant County Sheriff's Office uniforms.

They began to drive to the area of their work. They were on a 2-track dirt road in three different patrol vehicles. Deputy Salas was leading in his patrol vehicle, Sergeant Reese and Corporal Torres were in a two-man unit, and Deputy Gomez was in his patrol vehicle in the back. Deputy Salas saw a baby rabbit on the roadway and stopped before running it over because the rabbit was not running off.

Deputy Gomez explained to me that he is an outdoor enthusiast and loves animals. He got out of his patrol vehicle and approached the baby rabbit to scare it off the roadway. The rabbit did not move because it was afraid. Deputy Salas was able to walk up the rabbit and pick it up in his hands. Deputy Salas was very excited about holding a wild baby rabbit, so he began taking photographs to send to his family. His intention was to move the animal away from the roadway and release it after he took photographs.

The other deputies stopped behind him and exited their patrol vehicles to see what was going on. The deputies hovered around him and began laughing loudly. They also took photographs/videos with their phones. Deputy Gomez began asking for the rabbit, but Deputy Salas told him no because he felt that Deputy Gomez would hurt the animal. Deputy Salas did not want to give the animal to Deputy Gomez but also knew that the animal would not run off if Deputy Gomez approached because of the state it was in. Deputy Salas believed that if he just set the animal loose, Deputy Gomez would be able to pick it up and hurt it.

Deputy Salas walked away from the roadway and as he began to set the animal down, Deputy Gomez drew his taser from his holster and pointed it at Deputy Salas. The taser was armed with the light/laser fixed on Deputy Salas's body. Deputy Salas believed that Deputy Gomez was upset because Deputy Salas would not hand him the rabbit. The tone of Deputy Gomez's voice and the way he drew his taser made Deputy Salas feel like Deputy Gomez would use the taser against him. Deputy Salas decided that the best way to deescalate the situation would be to hand him the rabbit.

Deputy Salas asked Deputy Gomez if he would hurt the animal, and Deputy Gomez told him he wouldn't. Deputy Salas handed Deputy Gomez the rabbit. Suddenly, Deputy Gomez turned and threw the rabbit into the side of Deputy Salas's patrol vehicle. Deputy Gomez threw the animal with such force that it fatally wounded the animal. Deputy Salas said he dispatched the animal as it lay on the ground dying so that it would not suffer. The incident involving the taser and the death of rabbit were recorded by Sergeant Brandon Reese's cellular device. This incident occurred in the County of Grant near Hachita, New Mexico.

Another incident occurred a few hours later at the location of their overtime shift. This incident was also near Hachita, New Mexico in the County of Grant. Present for this incident were Deputy Gomez, Deputy Salas, Sergeant Reese, and Corporal Torres. All the deputies had their Grant County Sheriff's Office uniforms on.

Deputy Salas, Deputy Gomez, Corporal Torres and Sergeant Reese had their patrol vehicles parked and were standing in a circle talking. Deputy Salas realized his flashlight was running out of battery. He decided to draw his duty handgun and see if his weapon mounted light had power. Deputy Salas aimed the weapon in the opposite direction of the other deputies and tested his weapon mounted light. Then he holstered his weapon and turned back toward the other deputies.

When he faced back toward the deputies, Deputy Gomez was pointing his duty handgun directly at Deputy Salas's face. Deputy Gomez was standing approximately three feet away from Deputy Salas and the barrel of Deputy Gomez's gun was only a few feet away from Deputy Salas. Deputy Salas was frightened and thought he could be shot in the face.

Deputy Salas jumped back and told Deputy Gomez to stop. Deputy Gomez told Deputy Salas that he was only testing his duty mounted light like Deputy Salas was. Deputy Salas told us that Deputy Gomez didn't have a weapon mounted light during this encounter so that explanation did not make sense.

Deputy Salas was upset about the incidents which took place during the overtime shift. He was even more upset about the fact that these incidents were witnessed by two supervisors, and they did nothing to intervene. Deputy Salas began packing his things and left the group. Deputy Salas drew a diagram of the layout of this scene for us. The diagram was later packaged as evidence and logged into the New Mexico State Police – Investigations Bureau evidence vault. Deputy Salas described Deputy Gomez's duty weapon as a black Smith and Wesson M&P 2.0 9mm handgun.

A few weeks passed and nothing was done about these incidents with Deputy Gomez. Deputy Salas decided to officially file a complaint so that an administrative investigation could be completed. Deputy Salas went above his chain of command and reported the incidents to Captain Stephen Gallegos. Deputy Salas made a complaint to Captain Gallegos on or about September 23, 2024, and an internal affairs investigation began. The investigation seemed to result in very little disciplinary action being taken. Deputy Gomez is back on patrol with the Grant County Sheriff's Office.

Cellular Video, IMG 8481:

I retrieved the video of the incident involving the rabbit from Deputy Salas's cellular device by consent via Axon Capture on January 27, 2025. The video was approximately 65 seconds long. It began with Deputy Gomez and Corporal Torres standing near the back of a Grant County Sheriff's vehicle. Corporal Torres was holding the rabbit and Deputy Gomez was standing to his right.

- At approximately 9 seconds, Sergeant Reese told them to let Deputy Gomez hold the rabbit.
- At approximately 13 seconds, Sergeant Reese told them to let Deputy Gomez hold the rabbit again. Deputy Salas took the rabbit from Corporal Torres and tells them "Don't throw it."
- At approximately 18 seconds, one of the supervisors (unclear) told Deputy Salas to let Deputy Gomez hold the rabbit.
- At approximately 24 seconds, Deputy Gomez asked Deputy Salas to let him pet the rabbit and Deputy Salas says, "No dude."
- At approximately 27 seconds, Sergeant Reese told Deputy Salas to let Deputy Gomez hold the rabbit.
- At approximately 28 seconds, Deputy Salas shouted "You're going to fucking kill it" to Deputy Gomez. Deputy Gomez responded with, "I won't throw it" and "I swear."
- At approximately 37 seconds, Corporal Torres exclaimed to "let it go" while laughing hysterically.

- At approximately 38 seconds, Deputy Salas began to walk away and off the roadway with the rabbit.
- At approximately 45 seconds, Deputy Gomez drew a yellow Taser from its holster and pointed it at Deputy Gomez. The light/laser was illuminated meaning the Taser was armed. The laser was pointed to Deputy Salas's side where there is little protection from his body armor. Deputy Gomez shouts "give it to me right now."
- At approximately 49 seconds, Sergeant Reese told Deputy Salas to "let him hold it" while laughing hysterically. Deputy Salas was hunching over and lowering the rabbit to the ground.
- At approximately 50 seconds, Deputy Salas approached Deputy Gomez and said, "Are you going to kill it?" Deputy Gomez said, "No I won't."
- At approximately 56 seconds, Deputy Salas told Deputy Gomez that he "better not" kill it and handed the rabbit to Deputy Gomez.
- At approximately 60 seconds, Deputy Gomez got the rabbit in his right hand and smiled toward his supervisors who were laughing hysterically.
- At approximately 61 seconds, Deputy Gomez suddenly threw the rabbit into the side of the parked Grant County Sheriff's vehicle. A loud "hud was heard as it struck the side of the patrol vehicle.
- At approximately 62 seconds, Deputy Salas can be heard exclaiming "damn" while Sergeant Reese and Corporal Torres continue to laugh.

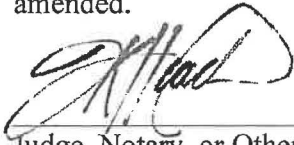
Observations from Video IMG_8481:

Deputy Salas was instructed by Sergeant Reese approximately 7 times to hand the rabbit to Deputy Gomez during the 65 second video. The supervisors took no action to intervene in the situation and hysterically laughed during the entire video. Just before killing the animal, Deputy Gomez looked toward the supervisors/the camera and smiled.

Attempted Interviews:

I attempted to interview Sergeant Brandon Reese, Corporal Cesar Torres and Deputy Alejandro Gomez and all declined to be interviewed without an attorney present. I collected Deputy Gomez's duty handgun and taser as evidence. Those items were packaged as evidence and logged into the New Mexico State Police – Zone 5 evidence vault.

Wherefore Affiant respectfully requests that an arrest warrant be issued for the above-named defendant for the crimes in violation of §30-22-22(A)(1) & 30-18-1(E) NMSA 1978 as amended.



Judge, Notary, or Other Officer
Authorized to Administer to Oaths

Subscribed and sworn to
before me in Luna County
of the State of New Mexico
this 13 day of February, 2025.

/s/ Justin Blacklock telephonically

Justin Blacklock
Agent, New Mexico State Police

Oath administered telephonically
February 13, 2025 8:36 AM.

NOTE: Article II, Section 10 of the New Mexico Constitution provides that an Arrest Warrant may issue on a sworn written statement of facts showing probable cause. This Affidavit is to be used only when the Complaint does not set forth sufficient facts to establish probable cause.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF GRANT
IN THE DISTRICT COURT

No. _____

v.

Gomez, Alejandro Torres, Defendant

DOB: 11-09-1997, SSN: 649-12-9124

Race: White, Sex: Male

Eyes: Hazel, Hair: Brown

Height: 5'08", Weight: 220

ADR: 100 W Victoria Street, Silver City, New Mexico 88061

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

CRIMES CHARGED:

Crime 1: Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) (F3) (30-22-22(A)(1))

Crime 2: Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) (F3) (30-22-22(A)(1))

Crime 3: Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) (F3) (30-22-22(A)(1))

Crime 4: Aggravated Assault upon a Peace Officer (Deadly Weapon) (F3) (30-22-22(A)(1))

Crime 5: Extreme Cruelty to Animals (F4) (30-18-1(E))

The undersigned, under penalty of perjury, complains and says that the above-named defendant did:

Crime 1: On or about or between ---, in Grant County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did assault or strike at Deputy Marcus Salas, knowing or having reason to know that Deputy Marcus Salas was a peace officer in the lawful performance of his duties and the defendant used a Taser, a deadly weapon or an instrument or object which, when used as a weapon, could cause death or very serious injury, a third-degree felony, contrary to §30-22-22(A)(1), NMSA 1978.

Crime 2: On or about or between ---, in Grant County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did assault or strike at Deputy Marcus Salas, knowing or having reason to know that Deputy Marcus Salas was a peace officer in the lawful performance of his duties and the defendant used a Smith and Wesson M&P 2.0 handgun, a deadly weapon or an instrument or object which, when used as a weapon, could cause death or very serious injury, a third-degree felony, contrary to §30-22-22(A)(1), NMSA 1978.

Crime 3: On or about or between ---, in Grant County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did assault or strike at Deputy Marcus Salas, knowing or having reason to know that Deputy Marcus Salas was a peace officer in the lawful performance of his duties and the defendant used a Taser, a deadly weapon or an instrument or object which, when used as a weapon, could cause death or very serious injury, a third-degree felony, contrary to §30-22-22(A)(1), NMSA 1978.

Crime 4: On or about or between ---, in Grant County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did assault or strike at Deputy Marcus Salas, knowing or having reason to know that Deputy

Marcus Salas was a peace officer in the lawful performance of his duties and the defendant used a Smith and Wesson M&P 2.0 handgun, a deadly weapon or an instrument or object which, when used as a weapon, could cause death or very serious injury, a third-degree felony, contrary to §30-22-22(A)(1), NMSA 1978.

Crime 5: On or about or between ---, in Grant County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did intentionally or maliciously kill, torture, mutilate, injure or poison an animal, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to §30-18-1(E), NMSA 1978.

I SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH ABOVE ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY INFORMATION AND BELIEF. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT.

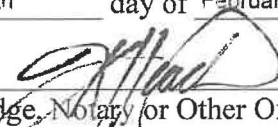
Justin T Blacklock
Complainant

Agent, New Mexico State Police
Title

/s/ Justin Blacklock telephonically
Signature

Approved by: As to Legal Sufficiency by Special Counsel Marco Serna of the Administrative Office of the District Attorneys by electronic mail on February 12, 2025 at 3:19 pm.

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the above-named County of the State of New Mexico this
13th day of February, 2025.



Judge, Notary or Other Officer
to Administrator Oaths

Jarod K Hofacket
District Court Judge

Oath administered telephonically
February 13, 2025 8:36 AM.

If Probable Cause Determination Required:

☒ Probable Cause Found

☐ Probable Cause Not Found, and Defendant Released from Custody

Judge: 

Jarod K. Hofacket
District Court Judge

Date: Feb 13, 2025

Time: 8:36 AM

[As amended, effective September 1, 1990; April 1, 1991; November 1, 1991; as amended by Supreme Court Order No.13-8300-020, effective for all cases pending or filed on or after December 31, 2013.]