

JOHN W. HUBER, United States Attorney (#7226)  
J. DREW YEATES, Assistant United States Attorney (#9811)  
MICHAEL J. THORPE, Assistant United States Attorney (#11992)  
BRYAN N. REEVES, Assistant United States Attorney (#DC 994799)  
Office of the United States Attorney  
111 South Main Street, Suite 1800  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2176  
Telephone: (801)524-5682

---

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF UTAH**

---

<p>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiff,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>CHRISTOPHER ISIDRO ROJAS,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendant.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Case No. 2:20-cr-182 DBB</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNITED STATES' MOTION SEEKING DETENTION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Magistrate Judge Daphne A. Oberg District Judge David B. Barlow</p>
---	---

---

The United States moves for detention based on current information. The United States' positions in this preliminary pleading could change after reviewing the Pretrial Report or learning of additional evidence. The United States reserves the right to assert positions even if the boxes next to those positions are not checked below, raise additional arguments, and file additional pleadings in support of detention.

Part I addresses the statutory detention factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e) and (f). Part II specifically addresses the nature and circumstances of the offense charged and the weight of evidence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g).

**PART I – Statutory Application.**

- Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) because defendant is charged with:
- (a) a crime of violence (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3156(a)(4)), a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591 (sex trafficking of children), or an offense under § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed; **or**
  - (b) an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death; **or**
  - (c) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801-904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951-971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501-70508); **or**
  - (d) any felony if the defendant has been convicted of two or more offenses described in (a) through (c) above, or two or more State or local offenses that would have been offenses described in (a) through (c) above if a circumstance giving rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination of such offenses; **or**
  - (e) any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence but involves: (i) a minor victim; (ii) the possession or use of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921); (iii) any other dangerous weapon; or (iv) a failure to register under 18 U.S.C. § 2250;

**OR**

- Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2) because the case involves:
- (A) a serious risk the defendant will flee; **or**
  - (B) a serious risk the defendant will obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice, or threaten, injure, intimidate, attempt to threaten, injure or intimidate a prospective witness or juror.

**Procedure**

The defendant may seek a continuance of the detention hearing of up to five days, and the United States may seek a continuance of up to three days. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f). During any such continuance, the defendant shall be detained. *Id.* The rules concerning the admissibility of evidence do not apply at the detention hearing. *Id.* The United States has the burden of persuasion by clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community or by a preponderance of evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required. *Id.*; *United States v. Cisneros*,

328 F.3d 610, 616 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003).

### Rebuttable Presumption

- A rebuttable presumption applies and the defendant bears the burden to produce some credible evidence to rebut this presumption. The United States acknowledges that it retains the burden of persuasion. The statutory presumption applies:
- Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(2) (*previous violator*): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community because:
    - (A) the defendant has previously been convicted of a Federal offense that is described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or of a State or local offense that would have been such an offense if a circumstance giving rise to Federal jurisdiction had existed; *and*
    - (B) the defendant committed that offense while on release pending trial for a Federal, State, or local offense; *and*
    - (C) a period of not more than five years has elapsed since the date of conviction, or the release of the defendant from imprisonment, for that, whichever is later.
  - Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(3) (*narcotics, firearm, other offenses*): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community because there is probable cause to believe that the defendant committed one or more of the following offenses:
    - (A) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801-904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951-971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501-70508);
    - (B) an offense under 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c), 956(a), or 2332b;
    - (C) an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 or more is prescribed;
    - (D) an offense under Chapter 77 of Title 18, U.S.C. (18 U.S.C. §§ 1581-1597) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more is prescribed; *or*
    - (E) an offense involving a minor victim under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1201, 1591, 2241, 2242, 2244(a)(1), 2245, 2251, 2251A, 2252(a)(1), 2252(a)(2), 2252(a)(3), 2252A(a)(1), 2252A(a)(2), 2252A(a)(3), 2252A(a)(4), 2260, 2421, 2422, 2423, or 2425.

### Factors to Be Considered

The United States may present arguments, proffer evidence, or provide testimony at the scheduled detention hearing supporting the detention of the defendant including, but not limited to:

- The nature and circumstances of the offense charged, including whether the offense is a crime of violence, a violation of section 1591, a Federal crime of terrorism, or involves a minor victim or a controlled substance, firearm or destructive device. (18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(1)). **See Part II below.**
- The weight of evidence against the defendant. (18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(2)).
- The history and characteristics of the defendant including the defendant's character, physical and mental condition, family ties, employment, financial resources, length of residence in the community, community ties, past conduct, history relating to drug or alcohol abuse, criminal history and record concerning court proceedings. (18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(3)(A)).
- Whether, at time of the current offense or arrest, the defendant was on probation, parole, or other release pending trial, sentencing, appeal, or completion of sentence for an offense under Federal, State, or local law. (18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(3)(B)).
- The nature and seriousness of danger to any person or to the community that would be posed by the defendant's release. (18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(4)).
- The defendant's lack of legal status in the United States. The defendant's legal status is:
- How the defendant would be subject to removal or deportation after serving a period of incarceration.
- The defendant's significant family or other ties outside of the United States.
- The defendant's use of aliases or false documents.
- The defendant's prior attempts to evade law enforcement.
- How the defendant's proposed residence, employment, or proposed treatment programs have not been verified.
- The defendant's prior failures to appear for court proceedings.
- Other reasons including: As outlined in Part II below.

### **Victim Notification**

- The United States has notified any identified victim, or attempted to do so, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3771.

The position of the victim(s) on the detention of the defendant is: The Salt Lake City Police Department recommends Patton be detained pending trial.

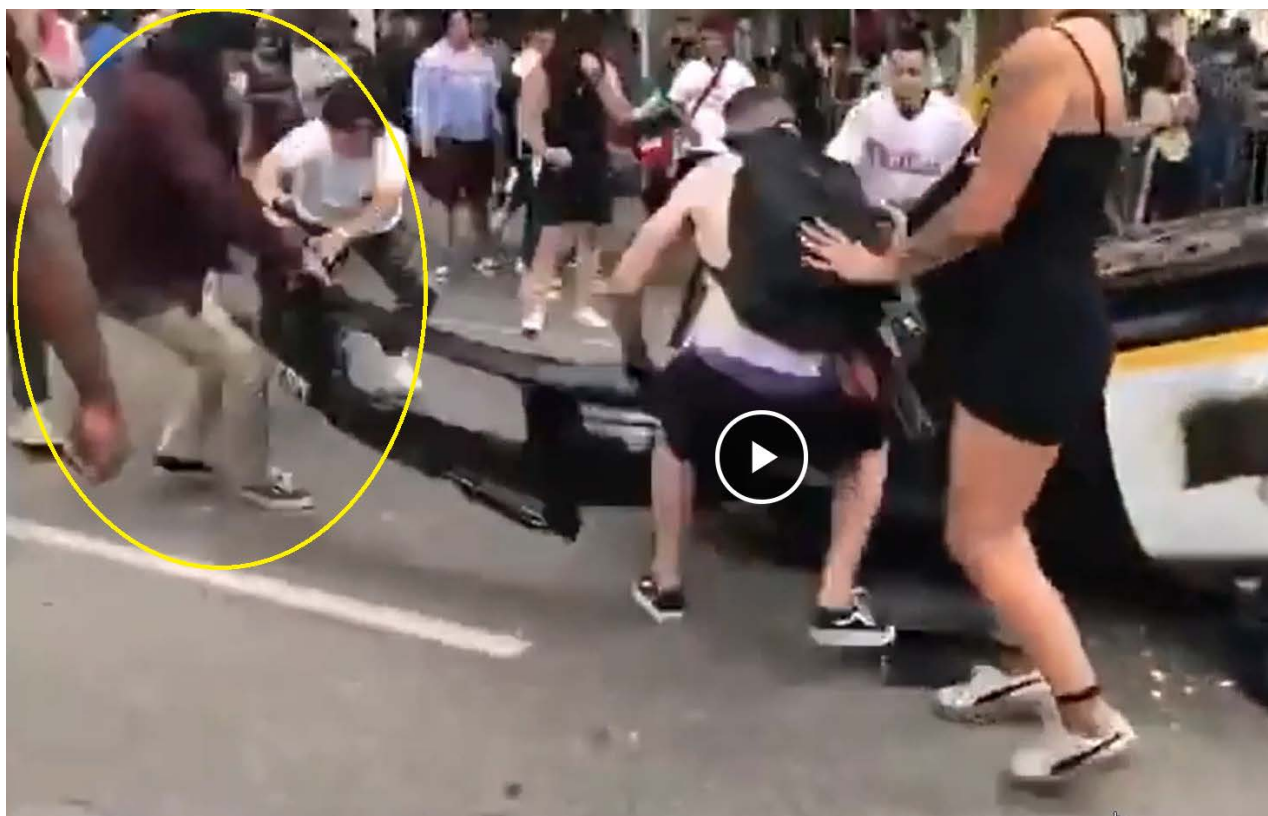
- The victim(s) in this matter seek(s) a no contact order.

This matter does not involve a victim requiring notification.

## **PART II – Nature and Circumstances of the Offense and Weight of Evidence**

The defendant committed an intentional arson of an overturned police patrol car on a major city thoroughfare and boasted about it on video. His dangerous and criminal behavior endangered protestors, rioters, reporters and first responders alike. By its very nature, arson involves a grave threat to life and property. The facts of the defendant's offense weigh in favor of detention.

The weight of the evidence also supports the defendant's continued detention. Video footage of the May 30, 2010 riot in downtown Salt Lake City depicts the defendant ripping the bumper off the overturned patrol car. See the photograph below:



Thereafter, defendant is observed using a cigarette lighter to start a piece of white



cloth on fire. See the two photographs below:



The defendant's unidentified co-conspirator then throws the burning cloth into the interior of the police car. See the two photographs below:



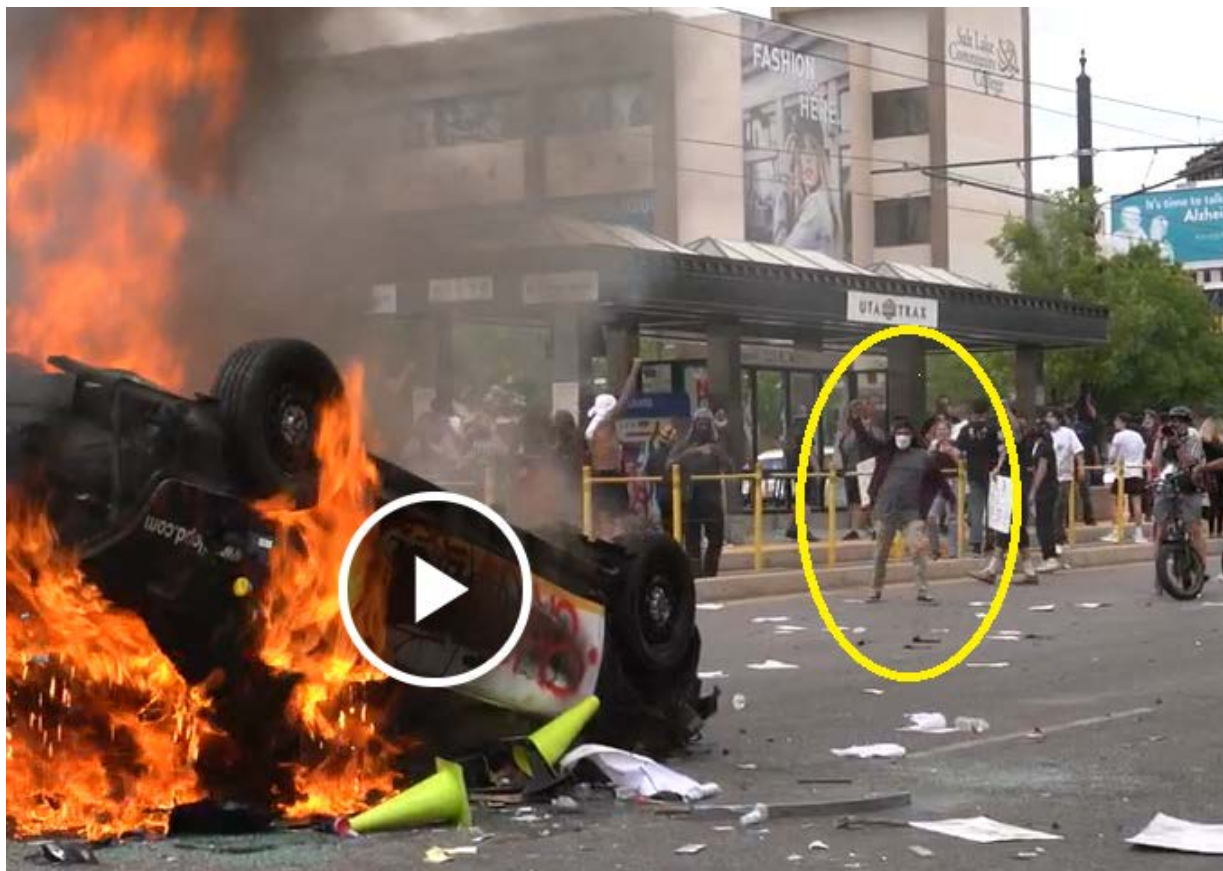


The flames envelop the patrol car which is consumed by the fire. See the two photographs below:





Shortly thereafter, the defendant appears to celebrate. See the photograph below:



Later that afternoon, the defendant is captured on video bragging about having “put the cop car on fire.” See the photograph below taken from the video of the defendant claiming credit for lighting the patrol car on fire:



The defendant's conduct at the riot placed members of our community in danger – including protestors, rioters, observers, media, and police. His disregard for the safety of others demonstrates that he constitutes a serious danger to the community.

Respectfully submitted this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020,

JOHN W. HUBER  
United States Attorney

*/s/ J. Drew Yeates*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. DREW YEATES  
MICHAEL J. THORPE  
BRYAN N. REEVES  
Assistant United States Attorneys