
February 24, 2017

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Michael Little
Age: 32
City and State of Residence: Sioux Falls, SD
Criminal File Number: 16-265
Incident Date: July 30, 2016
Indictment Date: September 7, 2016
Charges: 1) Ingestion of Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance (F5)
2) Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (M2)
Arresting Officer: Officer Jon Feller – North Sioux City Police Department
Deputy Stephanie Ryan – Union County Sheriff Office
Defense Attorney: Tom Frieberg
Prosecutor: Jerry A. Miller & Alexis A. Tracy

Case Synopsis:

On July 30, 2016, Deputy Sheriff Stephanie Ryan stopped a vehicle that did not have any license plates on the vehicle and no in transit plates visible. Zachary KRANZ was the driver of the vehicle and he had two passengers with him by the name of PACE and LITTLE. KRANZ admitted that he did not have plates on the vehicle and suspected this was why he was stopped. KRANZ stated that the vehicle belonged to one of the passengers by the name of PACE. PACE stated that the vehicle was not registered and that she did not have insurance on the vehicle. KRANZ had alcohol on his breath that was detectible to the Deputy, however a DUI investigation resulted in a determination that KRANZ was not under the influence that would warrant a DUI arrest. KRANZ did admit to the use of marijuana two days prior to the stop and the use of methamphetamine about five days prior to the stop. A record search of all the occupants of the vehicle identified a known criminal record of drug use by each occupant in the KRANZ vehicle. PACE and LITTLE stated that they all live together and that each have used marijuana and LITTLE admitted to knowingly using methamphetamine recently. KRANZ provided a urine sample which tested positive for marijuana (THC) 581 ng/ml, Amphetamine at 1,635 ng/ml, and methamphetamine at 10,047 ng/ml.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On December 21, 2016, the Court addressed the class 5 felony charge in Count 1, for Ingestion of a Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance. The Court considered the arguments of the State and the Defense, and determined that LITTLE should be sentenced to a suspended 5-year sentence to the penitentiary with an order to complete a 5-year term of supervised probation.

LITTLE was further ordered to serve 60 days with 14-days credit for the days that he spent incarcerated prior to sentencing. The Court suspended the 46 remaining days on the term and condition that LITTLE obtain a chemical dependence evaluation within 30 days of his release for the Union County Jail. LITTLE was ordered to pay \$104 in Court Costs; \$10 in Prosecution Costs; \$45 dollars to the South Dakota Drug Control Fund; and \$469.20 to the county for his Court Appointed Attorney Fees.

Criminal History:

This is LITTLE's second career felony conviction. LITTLE's criminal history also includes a misdemeanor conviction for a OWI, assault, ingestion, distribution of alcohol to a minor, contributing to the abuse and neglect of a minor, and intentional damage to property, and simple assault domestic. LITTLE's criminal history also included a felony conviction for escape.