

FILED
2026 JAN 09
KING COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

CASE #: 26-1-00304-8 SEA

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,)
)
) Plaintiff,)
) v.) No. 26-1-00304-8 SEA
)
) BEN TSAI,) INFORMATION
)
) Defendant.)
)

I, Leesa Manion, Prosecuting Attorney for King County in the name and by the authority of the State of Washington, do accuse BEN TSAI of the following crime[s]: **Voyeurism in the First Degree**, committed as follows:

Count 1 Voyeurism in the First Degree

That the defendant BEN TSAI in King County, Washington, on or about October 3, 2025, (a) for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any person, knowingly filmed, photographed and viewed Starbucks patrons, without their knowledge and consent, and while they was in a place where they would have a reasonable expectation of privacy; and (b) for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any person, knowingly filmed, photographed and viewed the intimate areas of Starbucks patrons, without their knowledge and consent, and under circumstances where they had a reasonable expectation of privacy, whether in a public or private place;

Contrary to RCW 9A.44.115(2), and against the peace and dignity of the State of Washington.

LEESA MANION (she/her)
Prosecuting Attorney

By: 
Bella Holroyd, WSBA #53971
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

CAUSE NO. 26-1-00304-8 SEA

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CASE SUMMARY AND REQUEST FOR BAIL AND/OR
CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

The State incorporates by reference the Certification for Determination of Probable Cause prepared by Detective Allan O'Neill of the Kirkland Police Department for case number 25-38090.

The State respectfully requests that the Court maintain bail in the amount of \$50,000, as set at first appearance. The State further requests that the Court order the defendant have no contact with Starbucks located at 13325 100th Ave NW, Kirkland, WA. Additionally, the State requests that the court order Defendant not to possess SD cards or similar digital storage media, not to possess cameras and devices capable of taking photos and/or videos, and engage in no criminal activity. No less restrictive alternative to incarceration nor lesser bail amount can mitigate the risks that the defendant poses to members of the community.

In this case, the defendant's non-consensual recordings of members of the community, including Starbucks patrons, colleagues, and his own family, are an invasion on their privacy, autonomy and sense of safety. By the defendant's own admission, he has been engaging in this surreptitious, voyeuristic recording of his victim's private, intimate actions since 2017. While forensic examination of the suspect's devices is still pending at the time of this filing, the defendant has admitted to putting cameras in public bathrooms at Starbucks and Safeway, at his workplace to target transgender colleagues, and in his own residence. During the execution of the search warrant on the defendant's home, law enforcement seized six "spy cameras," similar to the one found in the Starbucks bathroom, and several other remote activated cameras. The State

1
2 has cause for concern that there are additional venues where the defendant has illegally placed
3 cameras.

4 Although the defendant has no known criminal history, the State is concerned about the
5 likelihood of the defendant committing additional sexual offenses. The defendant's ongoing
6 pattern of voyeuristic conduct, extending over a period of about 9 years, combined with his
7 willingness to target specific marginalized groups and his own children, demonstrates that he is
8 an ongoing safety threat to the community. No less restrictive alternatives exist to keep the
9 community safe from the sexual violence the defendant is likely to inflict.

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11 Signed and dated by me this 9th day of January, 2026.

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15 Bella Holroyd, WSBA #53971
16 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
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KIRKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigation Division

CAUSE NO.

CERTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE

That Allan O'Neill is a Detective with the City of Kirkland Police Department and has reviewed the investigation conducted in Kirkland Police Department Case Number: **25-38090**. There is probable cause to believe that **Ben Tsai, DOB 07/11/1981** committed the crime(s) of:

- **RCW 9A.44.115 Voyeurism 1st Degree**

This belief is predicated on the following facts and circumstances:

On 10/04/2025, at approximately 0837 hours, Kirkland Officer Eckelkamp-Wood was dispatched to the Juanita Starbucks, located at 13325 100th AVE NE, Kirkland, WA, to a report of a recording device found in one of the unisex bathrooms by the Manager, Jamie M. Cook.

On scene, Cook greeted Officer Eckelkamp-Wood and provided him with the recording device that she had found and placed into a Starbucks sandwich bag. Cook told Officer Eckelkamp-Wood that she discovered the device while using the restroom. Cook explained that the camera was sticking out from the cover of the drainpipe under the sink. The camera was positioned in a way that it would record/view the toilet area.

Cook stated that she had checked the other restroom as well and found nothing else in either of the store's bathrooms. Cook said she had no idea how long it had been there, but it could have been a couple of months because she is the only person who would have been cleaning that area of the bathroom, and it had been at least a couple of months since she last did so.

Officer Eckelkamp-Wood returned to the Kirkland Police Department and took photographs of the device, which had a small camera lens and a battery pack that had been disconnected before he received it. The camera also had an antenna and a main circuit board with an SD/Memory card inserted. Officer Eckelkamp-Wood stated that Officers did not manipulate the SD/Memory card or camera components beyond transportation and evidence packaging. The device was wrapped in black material, so a serial number or make/model name were not visible.

From my training and experience and conducting research on the internet, this type of camera can be viewed from another location and or from a cell phone. This type of camera can store the video recordings on the inserted SD/Memory card or remotely saved to a cloud storage often controlled by a mobile app.



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There is probable cause to believe that digital devices were used and/or are being used in furtherance of the listed crime(s), and likely contain evidence of the listed crimes, for at least the following reasons: The small camera with SD/Memory card and apparent remote capabilities was placed in a hidden location in the Starbucks bathroom that faced the toilet. A bathroom is a place where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Based on all the foregoing information, I drafted a search warrant application to search the contents of the SD card. On 10/09/2025 at 1400 hours, the search warrant was electronically approved by King County Superior Court Judge David Whedbee and assigned number **25-0-63479-8**. Utilizing forensic tools I viewed the SD card. The card had two file folders on it, **19700101** and **20251003**. **19700101** has one subfolder titled **00**. When I opened **00** it showed a recording of the inside of the Starbucks bathroom pointed at the wall. The recording was dated 01/01/1970 and listed a time of 00:00. From training and research, this is a standard starting point for timekeeping in many computer systems to include those in cameras. The shadow of an arm is visible in the footage. Folder **20251003** contained eight subfolders titled **08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14**. The first subfolder **08** contained footage of the suspect continuing to adjust the camera. The camera's footage was now displaying a date of 10/03/2025 and a time of 08:50:16. It appeared that it had been paired to the suspect's phone and or store's Wi-Fi. The camera is being adjusted to point toward the toilet in the restroom. You can see parts of a hand and then a light-colored sleeve of a shirt or jacket. According to the time on the camera footage the suspect is last seen and heard in the bathroom at 08:55. I reviewed the other folders, and they contained recordings of numerous people using the bathroom. The first victim to be recorded in the bathroom was time stamped at 09:29. In subfolder **13** there is recorded footage showing a Starbucks employee cleaning the toilet. That footage is time stamped at 13:50:35. The last recorded footage on the SD card was in subfolder **14** and ended at 15:46:26. It appeared that the battery on the device had died.

I contacted Cook and informed her about the camera capturing an employee cleaning the restroom on 10/03/2025 at 13:50 hours. She indicated that the time was pretty accurate to when they cleaned the restroom on 10/03/2025. I requested the footage from the Starbucks security cameras for 10/03/2025 from 0700-1600 hours. On 10/29/2025, I received the camera footage from Starbucks. I was able to locate the suspect and the first victim that lined up with the times on the suspect's camera that was hidden. The Starbucks camera footage shows a male suspect enter the Starbucks at 0845 hours and immediately enter the first unisex restroom in the Starbucks. The male exits the restroom at 0855 hours. The male is wearing a light-colored zip up long sleeve jacket or sweatshirt that has a logo on the right front side and a logo on the left sleeve, a baseball hat, that has a logo on the front and lettering on the back, dark pants and dark shoes.



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After the suspect exited the restroom he purchased a coffee using a credit card. While he waited for his coffee he sat in the Starbucks store, positioning himself to face the bathroom that the hidden camera was placed in. He was then looking at his phone and the bathroom.

On 10/30/2025, I contacted Starbucks Regional Security Manager Joe Elliott. Elliott informed me that he was not able to obtain any clearer video footage of the suspect. He located the suspect's transaction from the store but required a search warrant to provide me with any account information. Elliott informed me that transaction occurred on 10/03/2025 at 08:56:07 hours, from store number 13461, transaction number 7362 on register 1. The total amount on the purchase was \$7.89.

Based on all the foregoing information, I drafted a search warrant application to search Starbucks for any and all account information for transaction #7362 that was completed on 10/03/2025 at 8:56:07 am, via register #1 at Starbucks store #13461 (13325 100th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98034). On 11/10/2025 at 1401 hours, the search warrant was electronically approved by King County Superior Court Judge Suzanne Parisen and assigned number **25-0-63858-1**. I served the search warrant to Starbucks via their email.

On 11/26/2025, I received a response back from Starbucks Sr. Risk & Fraud Management Analyst, Todd. Todd informed me that there was no associated registration data for the transaction (i.e., Starbucks rewards card). He provided me with the following partial credit card number that was used to make the purchase: **410039*****7507**. Todd informed me that Starbucks does not retain the full 16-digit credit card numbers. They retain only the first 6 and last 4 digits (6+4) and full credit card numbers are not within Starbucks custody or control. Todd stated that historically, the typical success path for law enforcement has been to subpoena the issuing bank for their cardholder data. He informed me that the date, time, amount, store number and the 6+4 credit card numbers should be more than sufficient information for the issuing bank to locate the specific account of interest.

I used a publicly available bank identification number tool to search the first six numbers of the credit card and the check showed that the card was a Visa, issued by **Citibank, N.A.** and was associated with Costco.

Based on all the foregoing information, I drafted a search warrant application to search Citibank for the records of credit card account, partial number **410039*****7507** that was used to make a \$7.89 purchase on 10/03/2025 at 8:56:07 am, via register #1 at Starbucks store #13461 (13325 100th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98034) transaction number #7362.



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On 12/09/2025 at 1338 hours, the warrant was electronically approved by King County Superior Court Judge Kent Liu and assigned number 25-0-64140-9. I served the warrant to Citibank via their email.

On 12/18/2025, Citibank provided me with the subscriber's information for the above credit card that included the subscriber's account number, card member name, SSN, date of birth, address and phone numbers. The information is listed below (minus the SSN):

Account Number:	4100390152217507
Card Member Name:	Ben Tsai
Date of Birth:	07/11/1981
Address:	15604 111TH AVE NE BOTHELL WA
Home Phone Number:	(206)290-3677
Work Phone Number:	(206)290-3677
Cell Phone Number:	(206)290-3677

I conducted a police records check on Tsai, and his physical descriptions, matched the male that entered the restroom at Starbucks. His listed residence is **15604 111th Ave NE Bothell, WA**. Also listed at his residence was Cynthy Ka Van Lam, DOB 12/07/1985. Cynthy has a 2003 silver Toyota Corolla, WA License AAM5174 registered to her. This is the same type of vehicle that Tsai was seen getting out of at Starbucks the day the camera was placed in the restroom. Using the publicly viewed King County Department of Assessments, it showed that Tsai and Cynthy were the owners of the residence at 15604 111th Ave NE Bothell, WA. I drove by his residence, and the Toyota Corolla was parked in the driveway.

Based on all the foregoing information, I drafted a search warrant application to search **Ben Tsai, DOB 07/11/1981** and his residence, **15604 111th Ave NE Bothell, WA**. On 12/30/2025 at 1457 hours, the search warrant was electronically approved by King County Superior Court Judge David Whedbee and assigned number **25-0-64302-9**.

On 01/07/2026 at about 0710 hours, the search warrant was executed at Tsai's residence, **15604 111th Ave NE Bothell, WA**. I knocked on the door and identified us as the Kirkland Police. Cynthy, her two children and Tsai were at the residence. I informed them that we had a warrant, and I entered the residence and contacted Tsai in his bedroom. Tsai was escorted to a detective vehicle and was interviewed by me and Detective Mades. Post Miranda, Ben admitted to placing the hidden camera in the bathroom at the Starbucks. Tsai also admitted to placing a hidden camera at the Juanita Safeway bathroom back in 2017 (Kirkland case 17-27924).

Tsai stated that the camera he hid at the Starbucks bathroom had remote capability, but with limited range. He said he did not monitor the cameras at home, due to the limited



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range and the camera footage was saved to the SD card in the camera. He used an App called "Look Cam" to sync and view the camera. He knew the battery life on the cameras were short and he would collect them a day or two after he planted them. He could not remember when he went back to Starbucks, but he discovered that the camera was gone. Tsai stated that he had owned three cameras; the one that was taken from Safeway, the one from Starbucks and the third one was in his backpack inside the residence. This is the backpack he takes to work, that contains his work laptop. When asked Tsai stated that he has hidden cameras no more than fifty times. Tsai claimed that he only remembered putting them at Safeway and Starbucks. He stated that he does not sell or trade the video footage and only keeps them for his personal use, because he was "curious." He indicated that he was mainly curious about transgender people and was not attracted to children, men or women. He told us that he had placed a camera in his workplace bathroom. I asked him if there were any transgender people that work in his office and he said yes. Tsai told us that he does not delete the videos, because it would take too long and all of the footage was stored on a hard drive in his room. Tsai showed us where the drive was and also where the third camera was located. He stated that after he collects the hidden cameras, he removes the SD card, transfers the footage to his laptop and then moves the footage to the hard drive. Tsai stated that he had practiced using the cameras at his residence and there might be footage of his wife and children. Again, he stated he did not delete anything.

During the search, detectives located six spy cameras similar to the one hidden at Starbucks in the garage of Tsai's residence and they were plugged in. Tsai stated that the cameras did not work and he was only charging the batteries. Detectives later located several more cameras in the residence to include some that were just purchased. They also located remotes that are used to activate the cameras. Tsai stated that the cameras and remotes were for his drones. I informed him that the cameras were similar to the one he put in the bathroom at Starbucks, not ones for drones. He then told me that he buys the cameras in bulk and sells them on eBay. Several electronic devices including the hard drive that Tsai stated he stored the footage on were seized to be forensically examined.

Tsai was placed under arrest and booked into the King County Jail.

This document was submitted to the Prosecutor through the Prosecutor by Karpel External View Portal system under GR30 and LGR 30.

Under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, I certify that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Signed and dated by me Wednesday, January 07, 2026, at Kirkland, Washington.

Detective Allan O'Neill #337

AGENCY: Kirkland Police Department	CASE NUMBER 25-38090	FILE NUMBER	PCN NUMBER	SUPERFORM
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ARREST INFORMATION		
DATE & TIME OF VIOLATION 10/3/2025 1:08:00 PM	CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CITATION ATTACHED? ☐ YES ☐ NO	ACCOMPLICES
DATE OF ARREST/TIME 1/7/2026 7:17:00 AM	ARREST LOCATION 13325 100TH AVE NE KIRKLAND, WA 98034	

SUSPECT INFORMATION			
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE/JR, SR, 1st, 2nd) TSAI, BEN		DOB 7/11/1981	ALIAS, NICKNAMES BEN TSAI, BEN TSAI
ARMED/DANGEROUS ☐ YES ☐ NO	IDENTITY IN DOUBT? ☐ YES ☐ NO	CITIZENSHIP	

PHYSICAL DETAILS							
SEX M	HEIGHT 5'11	WEIGHT 175	SKIN TONE	RACE A	EYE BRO	HAIR BLK	SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS, DEFORMITIES

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS							
UCN 11993136	PRIOR BA #	AFIS #	FBI #	STATE ID # WA31273263	DRIVERS LICENSE #	STATE	SSN

RESIDENCE				EMPLOYMENT / SCHOOL			
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS 15604 111TH AVE NE BOTHELL, WA 98011				EMPLOYER, SCHOOL (ADDRESS, SHOP/UNION NUMBER)			

RESIDENCE PHONE (206) 290-3677				BUSINESS PHONE		OCCUPATION	
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EMERGENCY CONTACT							
PERSON TO BE CONTACTED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY			RELATIONSHIP		ADDRESS		PHONE

CHARGE INFORMATION				
OFFENSE ☐ DV ☐ FUGITIVE Voyeurism		RCW / ORD#	COURT / CAUSE #	CITATION #
OFFENSE ☐ DV ☐ FUGITIVE		RCW / ORD#	COURT / CAUSE #	CITATION #

WARRANT / OTHER				
WARRANT DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	OFFENSE	AMOUNT OF BAIL \$50,000.00	WARRANT TYPE
ORIGINATING POLICY AGENCY		ISSUING AGENCY	WARRANT RELEASED TO: (SERIAL # / UNIT / DATE / TIME)	

PROPERTY INFORMATION		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY LEFT FOR ARRESTEE AT JAIL		
LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE (SIMPLE DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFYING MARKS, SERIAL #)		
LIST ITEMS ENTERED INTO SAFEKEEPING		
TOTAL CASH OF ARRESTEE \$0.00	WAS CASH TAKEN INTO EVIDENCE? ☐ YES ☐ NO AMOUNT: \$0.00	SIGNATURE OF JAIL STAFF RECEIVING ITEMS / SERIAL #

OFFICER INFORMATION		
ARRESTING OFFICER / SERIAL # O'Neill, Allan 337	TRANSPORTING OFFICER / SERIAL #	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / SERIAL #
SUPERFORM COMPLETED BY (SIGNATURE/SERIAL #)		CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NAME / SERIAL # / PHONE)

COURT FILE		
SUPERIOR COURT FILING INFO ☐ IN CUSTODY ☐ AT LARGE ☐ OUT ON BOND	COURT CAUSE (STAMP OR WRITE)	
COURT/DIST. CT.NO.	DIST. CT. BONDS\$	SUP. CT. DATE

EXTRADITE					
PERSON APPROVING EXTRADITION		SEAKING-LOCAL ONLY WACIC-STATE WIDE ☐	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM ID & OR ONLY ☐	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM OR, ID, MT, WY, CA, NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM, HI, AK ☐	NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE FROM ALL 50 STATES ☐
E N T R Y	UCN 11993136	DOE _____	C L E A R A N C E	DOC _____	
	WAC _____	TOE _____		TOC _____	
	NCIC _____	OP _____		OP _____	