

26CF673

CCSO CASE # 2026-00005326

AFFIDAVIT
FOR
WARRANT TO ARREST

STATE OF FLORIDA

IN THE COUNTY/CIRCUIT
OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN
AND FOR
CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA.

VS.

DESAI, MANOJKUMAR NAVGHANBHAI

H/M. DOB: 1

EYES: BRO: HAIR: BL

HGT: 5' 7" WGT: 200 LBS.

SSN: [REDACTED]

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CHARGE(S):

I. Grand Theft, (\$100,000 or more) in
violation of FSS. 812.014 (2)(A)(1).

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Circuit/County Court Judge Fritton, in and for Citrus County, Florida, received sworn affidavit from the affiant, Detective John Estep, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and says that on 05/21/2026, in the County and State aforesaid, **MANOJKUMAR NAVGHANBHAI DESAI** did then and there unlawfully:

I. Grand Theft, (\$100,000 or more) in violation of FSS. 812.014 (2)(A)(1).

1) **YOUR** Affiant, Detective John Estep, is a duly sworn law enforcement officer employed by the Citrus County Sheriff's Office since October 2022. Your Affiant has successfully completed Basic Law Enforcement Training at the College of Central Florida in Ocala, Marion County, Florida. Your Affiant has served as a Deputy Sheriff and has training in criminal investigations, traffic crashes, and evidence collection. Through his training and experience, Your Affiant has investigative knowledge of the crimes of this state. Your Affiant is currently assigned to the High Tech Crimes Unit as a Fraud Detective and has been assigned to investigate various criminal offenses to include, but not limited to: battery, traffic crashes, criminal mischief, thefts both retail and residential, and sexual offenses, financial crimes, and frauds.

Your Affiant has participated in this investigation as the investigating detective and has either personally interviewed those whose information is set forth herein or, has reviewed reports of interviews or other investigative information prepared by those persons. As a result of your Affiant's personal participation in this investigation and of reports, oral and written, made to your Affiant by other law enforcement agents, investigators, deputy sheriffs, and police officers, your Affiant is familiar with the circumstances of the offenses described in this Affidavit. On the basis of this direct participation, your Affiant states the facts contained in this Affidavit shows the following:

JUN 11'26 9:16AM

Probable Cause

Submitted By, Detective Estepp, John 1730 (2026-00005326)

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office responded [REDACTED] Citrus County, Florida, on 05/22/2026, where the victim, Ms. [REDACTED], reported she was in contact with someone she believed worked with the Department of Treasury. She [REDACTED] by this individual, who explained that her identity had been compromised and that they needed her help to capture the individuals. They directed her to send a \$150,000 wire transfer to Wearon Global Inc., which she did. Days later, she was advised to purchase 150 1-oz gold coins from Imperial Coin Exchange. She wire transferred \$691,500 to Imperial Coin Exchange and received the 150 gold coins at her residence. After she confirmed with the "treasury agent" that they had been delivered, she was directed to package them and meet at Publix 2601 N Forest Ridge Blvd, Citrus County, Florida, where she handed the package over.

On 05/28/2026, Your Affiant received an email from Lieutenant Ball regarding this case. Lieutenant Ball advised that he spoke with Detective Sills from the Friendswood Police Department, Friendswood, Texas. Lieutenant Ball provided all Email correspondence and the attached phone number for Detective Sills. Your Affiant contacted Detective Sills, who advised that he had worked a case in Texas regarding the same circumstances, in which they identified and arrested two involved parties. Detective Sills stated he had developed a confidential Informant (CI) and had received information from them regarding this case 2026-00005326. Detective Sills explained that the informant sent him photos of the victim, the victim's DL, and the vehicle with the license plate attached, along with photo [REDACTED] their information, and the phone number being used by the suspect to communicate with them [REDACTED]. Photographs of the gold coins packaged in duct tape were also provided by Detective Sills.

Detective Sills advised that the (CI) was connected to a larger group in India, where the funds in these types of cases are usually sent. However, the suspect did not send the group the \$691,000 in gold coins, so they provided the documents to enable the suspect arrest. Detective Sills advised he had been working with FBI agent Harry in the Texas headquarters. Your Affiant contacted Agent Harry and explained to him the circumstances of this case. Agent Harry explained that the subject who provided the information to Detective Sills has also provided four additional subjects' information in separate cases from Texas involving the same type of case.

Your Affiant reviewed the information provided, the name provided was listed as Manojkumar Navghanbhai Desai. Two videos were also attached. Your Affiant reviewed both videos; however, they do not show anyone's face. The first video depicts a blue Sketchers drawstring bag lying on the floor. Someone then lifts the bag and removes a large box wrapped in duct tape. When the box is unwrapped, observed is a red-and-white shoe box with the name Sketchers along the side. The box is opened, and a separate duct-taped item with packing paper on top is removed and set on the floor.

The package is then cut open with a knife, where individual plastic containers are set out, and then video number one ends. Video number two begins where the first video stops, with the plastic containers. All containers then have the duct tape removed, which shows a clear plastic container with a red top. The containers are then placed in front of the camera, where coins are observed [REDACTED], and then video number two ends. Further investigation determined the phone number [REDACTED] belongings to Manojkumar Navghanbhai Desai.

Detective Cutlip and Your Affiant contacted [REDACTED], who advised that she was at Regions Bank, 3719 North Lecanto Highway, Beverly Hills County, Florida. A photo array was completed by Detective Cutlip, while reviewing the photographs, [REDACTED] quickly ruled out photos numbered 1-4, but when she reviewed photo number 5, she paused and reviewed it for an extended time, then set it aside away from the photos numbered 1-4 and quickly ruled them out as well. She then finished reviewing photos numbered 6-8 and quickly ruled them out as well. [REDACTED] advised that she was not 100 percent sure photo number 5 was the person she met and provided the

packa uld be noted that photo number 5 is identified as Manojkumar Navghanbhai Desai. Your Affiant asked weather she had provided any photograph or personal information to anyone, to which she initially advised that she did not believe she had. allowed Detective Cutlip and Your Affiant to review her phone, and in the camera gallery numerous pl were located that she had taken photos of the gold, herself, and her vehicle.

 stated she was directed to take all photographs of the coins and to package them in a shoebox. She explained that she received the coins in plastic containers, where she wrapped them in duct tape, placed them with packing paper into a Sketchers shoebox, then wrapped the box with duct tape. She then placed the box into a blue Sketchers drawstring bag and photographed it.

The photographs of herself and her vehicle were taken so the "treasury agent" could identify her when they were going to meet for the exchange. She ed to meet with the "treasury agent" at Publix and hand over the box. Reviewing all photographs on ' s phone, Your Affiant confirmed they do match the (CI) photos provided by Detective Sills. These photographs had not been provided to the Sheriff's Office by when the original report was taken on 05/22/2026.

While Your Affiant was investigating this case, a call for service was generated at 1424 hours, in which the caller identified themselves as Vikram and stated they had information regarding this case. Your Affiant contacted the provided number, and a male answered and identified himself as Vikram. Vikram stated he was a professional hacker and had obtained information regarding this case. Your Affiant provided no information to Vikram about who the suspect or the victim was or how the incident took place. Vikram provided information identifying the victim as Ms. , the suspect as Manojumar Navghanbhi Desai, and explained how the exchange oins occurred and where it took place. Vikram advised that he had gained access to Manojumar's phone through Wi-Fi and found the information contained inside and wanted to report it.

Through further investigation, it was determined that Mr. Desai had a last known address : Stre tellas Park, Florida. This address was additionally listed as being Ms. r Affiant was able to locate a phone number for Ms. , where contact was made. Ms. stated that she and Mr. Desai had been married for a ne before separating; how ey still spoke and visited one another. When asked about any recent dealings with gold, Ms. became upset and advised that she knew something was wrong and went on to explain that Mr. Desai had her go pawn, gold collector coins last week, where she received \$12,000 transferred to a joint bank account they shared, which was then removed by Mr. Desai.

Ms. stated she was willing to fully cooperate and would provide all pawn transaction receipts from the awn. Your Affiant and Detective Cutlip conducted a sworn audio-recorded statement with Ms. and reviewed the provided pawn receipts. On 05/27/2026, Ms. pawned 3 1-oz Gold American Eagle coins and received a total of \$12,873.00. On 05/28/2026 p.m., she and Mr. Desai drove to Jacksonville, Florida, 9000 Southside Boulevard, Suite 101, where 10 American Eagle gold coins were sold for \$39,000. Ms. stated she met Mr. Desai at his apartment on 05/27/2026 in the parking lot, where he came out and removed the three coins from his pocket and directed her to go into the gold shop to see how much they were worth. Ms. advised that Mr. Desai kept asking to borrow her vehicle ick something up days before they for the jewelry store, but she did not allow him to. Ms. lvised Mr. Desai keeps additional coins in a pink brand-style bag which she noted was odd. Ms. confirmed that Mr. Desai does live at Petersburg, Florida.

At this time, Your Affiant has been able to establish sufficient probable cause for the defendant's arrest. Based on the above information, your Affiant has probable cause to believe, and does believe, and requests the issuance for the ARREST WARRANT for: Manojkumar Navghanbhai Desai, DOB: for the offense(s) of:

I. Grand Theft, (\$100,000 or more) in violation of FSS. 812.014 (2)(A)(1).

The offenses set forth in the foregoing Affidavit are contrary to the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED ELECTRONICALLY

This 5th day of June, 2026.

John Estep 1730
AFFIANT

Joshua F. Cutlip #721
WITNESS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ID #

After review of this Affidavit for Arrest Warrant, I, Honorable Judge Fritton, Judge of the Citrus County Court in and for said County, find Probable Cause for the issuance of an Arrest Warrant.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th, day of June, 2026.

[Signature]
COUNTY/CIRCUIT JUDGE