

SIM GILL, Bar No. 6389
District Attorney for Salt Lake County
JENNIFER ZELENY, Bar No. 15044
Deputy District Attorney
35 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
(385) 468-7600
Jzeleny@saltlakecounty.gov

IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT, SALT LAKE DEPARTMENT
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALT LAKE, STATE OF UTAH

THE STATE OF UTAH

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN RILEY HARPER
DOB: 08/25/1979
714 S 400 E
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
OTN#: 68310085
SO#: 252216
SID#/BCI#: 529900
Booking#: 25031156

Defendant.

Screened by: JENNIFER ZELENY
Assigned to: TO BE ASSIGNED

INFORMATION

DAO # 25.013623

BAIL: NO BAIL WARRANT

WARRANT/RELEASE: **IN JAIL PRD**
07/03/2025

Case No.

The undersigned Law Enforcement Officer JADAH B BROWN - Salt Lake City Police Department, Agency Case No. 25-138815, upon a written declaration states on information and belief that the defendant, JOHN RILEY HARPER, committed the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1

RAPE, 76-5-402, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about June 18, 2025 through June 19, 2025 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did have sexual intercourse with another person without the victim's consent. To Wit: L.L.

COUNT 2

SURREPTITIOUS ADMINISTERING OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCE - CS OR PRESCRIPTION DRUG, 76-5-113(2)+(3B), a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about June 18, 2025 through June 19, 2025 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did surreptitiously or by means of fraud, deception, or misrepresentation, causes an individual to unknowingly consume or receive the administration of:

a controlled substance or a prescription drug. To Wit: L.L. - MDMA

COUNT 3

SURREPTITIOUS ADMINISTERING OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCE - CS OR PRESCRIPTION DRUG, 76-5-113(2)+(3B), a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about June 18, 2025 through June 19, 2025 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did surreptitiously or by means of fraud, deception, or misrepresentation, causes an individual to unknowingly consume or receive the administration of:

a controlled substance or a prescription drug. To Wit: L.L.- Cocaine

COUNT 4

POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE SCHEDULE I/II/ANALOG, 58-37-8(2)(B)(II), a Class A Misdemeanor, as follows: That on or about June 18, 2025 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did knowingly and intentionally possess or use a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II or a controlled substance analog. To Wit: Cocaine

COUNT 5

FORCIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE, 76-5-404(2)+(3A), a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about March 26, 2025 through March 27, 2025 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did , under circumstances not amounting to rape, object rape, forcible sodomy, or attempted rape or forcible sodomy, the actor touches the anus, buttocks, pubic area, or any part of the genitals of another, or touches the breast of a female, or otherwise takes indecent liberties with another, with intent to cause substantial emotional or bodily pain to any individual or with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any individual, without the consent of the other, regardless of the sex of any participant. To Wit: K.W.

COUNT 6

FORCIBLE SEXUAL ABUSE, 76-5-404(2)+(3A), a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about July 21, 2022 through July 22, 2022 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did , under circumstances not amounting to rape, object rape, forcible sodomy, or attempted rape or forcible sodomy, the actor touches the anus, buttocks, pubic area, or any part of the genitals of another, or touches the breast of a female, or otherwise takes indecent liberties with another, with intent to cause substantial emotional or bodily pain to any individual or with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any individual, without the consent of the other, regardless of the sex of any participant. To Wit: K.T.

COUNT 7

RAPE, 76-5-402, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did have sexual intercourse with another person without the victim's consent. To Wit: E.H.

COUNT 8

FORCIBLE SODOMY, 76-5-403, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did engage in any sexual act with an individual who is 14 years old or older involving the genitals of one individual and the mouth or anus of another individual, without the other individual's consent, no matter how slight any touching may be. To Wit: E.H.

COUNT 9

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, 76-5-103(2)+(3A), a Third Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did attempt, with unlawful force or violence, to do bodily injury to another;

(ii) make a threat, accompanied by a show of immediate force or violence, to do bodily injury to another; or

(iii) commit an act, committed with unlawful force or violence, that causes bodily injury to another or creates a substantial risk of bodily injury to another; and

includes in the actor's conduct under Subsection (2)(a) the use of:

(i) (a) a dangerous weapon; or

(b) a motor vehicle;

(ii) any act that impedes the breathing or the circulation of blood of another individual by the actor's use of unlawful force or violence by:

(a) applying pressure to the neck or throat of an individual; or

(b) obstructing the nose, mouth, or airway of an individual; or

(iii) other means or force likely to produce death or serious bodily injury. To Wit: E.H.

COUNT 10

RAPE, 76-5-402, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did have sexual intercourse with another person without the victim's consent. To Wit: H.B.

COUNT 11

RAPE, 76-5-402, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did have sexual intercourse with another person without the victim's consent. To Wit: E.A.

COUNT 12

FORCIBLE SODOMY, 76-5-403, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 in Salt Lake County, the defendant did engage in any sexual act with an individual who is 14 years old or older involving the genitals of one individual and the mouth or anus of another individual, without the other individual's consent, no matter how slight any touching may be. To Wit: E.A.

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES:

Katherine Belcher, CHRISTOPHER M NIELSEN, JONATHAN R NORMAN, BRETT TAIT, JOEL MORGAN, CHAUNCEY D LESLEY, JOSE G MUNOZ, DAN A DUNN, MARIKA D ASCARTE, STETSON SARTOR, JADAH B BROWN, BRAD EHRINGER, CALEB JOFFS, L.L., E.H., K.W., E.A., K.T., and H.B.

DECLARATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your Declarant bases the Information upon the following:

The statement of Detective Brown of the Salt Lake City Police Department that she investigated a report of sexual assault. L.L. reported that on June 18, 2025, she made plans to hang out with her friend, Alonzo Riley, later identified as defendant JOHN HARPER. L.L. said HARPER picked her up in his pedicab, and they went to a nearby park. L.L. said following the park, they went to his residence in Salt Lake County, where he served her three glasses of wine throughout the evening, which she did not observe him pour. L.L. explained that after consuming wine, she had no memory of what happened and stated she did not drink enough alcohol to make her black out. L.L. said she woke up between 8:00 and 9:00 the next morning, still in HARPER's residence. L.L. said she was fully nude, and HARPER was fully naked next to her. L.L. reported her vaginal area and hips were sore, and she observed a condom on the floor. L.L. said she had been friends with HARPER for a long time, was never sexually attracted to him, and would never want to have sex with him. L.L. said HARPER told her they had sex, and he recorded it despite her having no memory of the encounter. L.L. said she received lab results following her exam that showed she had cocaine and ecstasy in her system and stated she never voluntarily took either of those drugs and had no memory of consuming either.

K.T. reported that on July 21, 2022, documented in SLCPD CRN 2022-139334, she had gotten off work and saw HARPER with his pedicab. K.T. said she asked for a ride home, and during the ride home, HARPER gave her a bottle of water, which she consumed. K.T. said she did not remember anything until after she woke up the next morning, around 9:00 AM. K.T. said when she woke up, she was sore. K.T. said she posted a video of herself and HARPER on Snapchat, and based on that video, HARPER had taken her to a second unknown location but had no memory of that and said she didn't have enough alcohol after work to explain her memory loss or how her body felt. Toxicology reports showed that K.T. had cocaine in her system, which she denied taking. K.T. said she was dropped off at her friend's residence at approximately 3:00 AM and had no recollection of what occurred between 11 PM when she saw HARPER and 3 AM when she was dropped off, except that HARPER tried to kiss her. K.T. reported she also had vaginal soreness.

K.W. reported that on or about March 26, 2025, she had been out with her friends and got into an argument with them, which prompted her to walk away. K.W. said she saw HARPER, which she had known for years, and began talking to him. K.W. said HARPER offered her some water, which she drank. She reported that after that, she had no recollection of what happened, but she woke up in HARPER's trailer and was fully nude. K.W. said HARPER was also fully naked, asleep next to her.

K.W. said she did not consume enough alcohol to experience a blacked-out state. K.W. said when she woke up, she felt groggy, and her body felt sore, and she believed HARPER drugged her.

E.A. reported she and HARPER dated for approximately three months in 2019, and he “raped her multiple times during the course of that relationship.” E.A. recalled the first time he sexually assaulted her was at her residence in Davis County, and when he arrived, he “essentially started to rape her right away.” E.A. told HARPER that she was in pain and he was being aggressive, but he did not listen or stop until he was finished. E.A. clarified that HARPER inserted his penis into her vagina. E.A. then described an incident that occurred in Southern Utah and stated she had woken up with HARPER on top of her and his penis inside of her vagina. HARPER had told E.A. that “they had been having sex for hours, and she had been awake the whole time,” however, E.A. said she had been in and out of consciousness, and HARPER continued raping her vaginally. E.A. noted the next day, she and HARPER went on a hike, and during the hike, HARPER “raped her in some bushes” and clarified that he penetrated her vagina without consent. E.A. recalled that she had been drinking from a water bottle that she had been sharing with HARPER, although she had drunk most of it.

E.A. continued and stated when HARPER was living in Salt Lake County, they were in his bedroom when he began having sex with her without her consent. E.A. said he was aggressive in the way he penetrated her vagina with his penis, and at one point, he flipped her on her back so that her head and neck were upside down. E.A. described that HARPER then held her head so she could not move it, then “shoved” his penis inside her throat and said she felt like he was “choking on his penis.” E.A. said HARPER continued to “rape her vaginally.”

H.B. recalled that in October 2020, she was friends with HARPER and had seen him on the street outside when she was exiting a bar, and he invited her to his apartment. H.B. recalled that HARPER poured her a shot, which she took. H.B. said she didn’t remember “the next several hours.” H.B. said despite going to HARPER’s home to hang out and have a drink, she woke up the next morning next to HARPER, and they were both naked. H.B. said she was confused and felt groggy, and while trying to figure out what happened, HARPER began to have sex with her. H.B. described that “she felt something being forced inside of her vagina and believed it was (HARPER’S) penis. H.B. said she was able to become aware enough to stop the sexual assault and said that the penetration was brief. H.B. said she never wanted to date HARPER and recalled a time when he attempted to kiss her; she told him “No” and made it clear to him that they had a platonic relationship and she was not interested.

E.H. reported that around the beginning of 2022, she had plans with HARPER to attend “Box Car” and met him at his residence in Salt Lake County. E.H. recalled it was cold and snowy outside, and when she arrived at HARPER’s residence, he offered her vodka out of a canteen. E.H. said that once she consumed the vodka, she “began to feel limp, began to giggle, cry, see things, and felt that she had been drugged.” E.H. said the next thing she knew, her clothes were off, and she was crying, saying, “Get off of me.” E.H. described the situation as intense, and HARPER “was not nice about it.” E.H. said the next thing she knew, she was naked, and HARPER was on top of her. E.H. said HARPER “manhandled” her, picked her up, and threw her around. HARPER then grabbed her and flipped her around. E.H. said HARPER then strangled her, and she “blacked out three or four times throughout this assault.” E.H. said HARPER then put his penis in her vagina and her mouth.

E.H. described that when he put his penis in her mouth, it was “aggressive to the point that she was choking on it.” E.H. said that she was most frightened when HARPER put his penis in her mouth.

During a search of HARPER’s residence, Officers located a one-dollar bill with powdery residue, a five-dollar bill with white powder, and a dime bag with a white powder substance. The substance in the five-dollar bill was field tested and reacted positive for cocaine.

MOTION FOR PRETRIAL DETENTION:

The defendant is charged with a felony and there is substantial evidence supporting the charge and clear and convincing evidence that the defendant would constitute a substantial danger to any other individual or to the community, or is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court, if released on bail;

The defendant, in this matter, is an extreme danger to the women within this community and used his job position as a pedicab driver to prey upon women. Multiple women reported using the defendant’s pedicab services and being offered water, which put them in a blackout state. It was reported that the defendant would often sit outside of bars and wait until intoxicated women walked out, then offer them a ride. A male reported that he was with his girlfriend, and the defendant provided her water but told him he couldn’t have any, despite multiple bottles of water being in plain view. That male reported drinking the water provided by his girlfriend, which put him in a blackout state and in and out of consciousness.

The victims who did recall their sexual assaults described the defendant as aggressive and violent. The victims who did not recall their sexual assaults reported being provided drinks by the defendant that they did not pour themselves and believed the defendant had drugged them. It was reported by every victim his body type grossed them out, he was ugly, and they would never agree to have consensual sex with him. He was also described as creepy, weird, manipulative, and gave off bad vibes.

It was reported to law enforcement that the defendant had been sexually assaulting women for at least the last fifteen years, in the Salt Lake County area and surrounding counties. This case is still under investigation and could result in additional charges. The defendant is charged with multiple felonies in this matter, including six first-degree felonies and based on the serious nature of the allegations and the defendant's status within the community, the State requests the defendant be held in custody without bail.

Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated § 78B-18a-106 (2018) I declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

Executed on: 3rd day of July, 2025

/s/ JADAH B BROWN
Declarant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of July, 2025

Authorized for presentment and filing:

SIM GILL, District Attorney

/s/ Jennifer Zeleny
Deputy District Attorney
3rd day of July, 2025
JZ / AW / DAO # 25.013623

OTHER PENDING CASES FOR THE DEFENDANT

Court	Court Case #	Trial Judge	DAO #	Charge
Third District Court, SALT LAKE DEPARTMENT			24.014827	No active charges