

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Special Agent Eric D. Poalino, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) and have been since June 2021. I am currently assigned to the Boston Field Office, North Shore Gang Task Force (“FBI Task Force” or “NSGTF”). The primary mission of the FBI Task Force is to identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle violent criminal organizations operating in cities north of Boston. My responsibilities include the investigation of possible violations of federal law, including illegal possession/transfer of firearms, firearms trafficking, narcotics trafficking, and violent crimes involving firearms and narcotics trafficking. I have received training and experience in various aspects of criminal law and procedure, including electronic and physical surveillance, interrogations, stops, searches, seizures, and arrests for a variety of criminal offenses. Through my training, knowledge, and experience, I have become familiar with the habits, methods, routines, practices, and procedures commonly employed by persons engaged in the use and trafficking of illegal firearms and narcotics, including persons involved in criminal organizations. My investigations have included the use of surveillance techniques and the execution of search, seizure, and arrest warrants.

2. I have written and/or participated in the execution of numerous search warrants resulting in the seizure of controlled substances and paraphernalia involved in the manufacture and distribution of controlled substances; United States currency, records of narcotics and monetary transactions, drug customer lists and other documents relating to the manufacturing, transportation, ordering, purchasing and distribution of controlled substances, as well as the collection, expenditure, accounting, transportation, and laundering of drug proceeds. I have participated in the debriefing of numerous defendants, informants and witnesses who had personal knowledge

regarding large-scale narcotics trafficking organizations. I have participated in all aspects of drug investigations including conducting surveillance, executing searches pursuant to court-ordered search warrants, executing arrests, and participating in court-authorized Title III wiretaps of cellular phones. I have received extensive specialized training in the field of controlled substance identification, investigation and enforcement. Based on my training and experience, I am familiar with narcotics traffickers' methods of operation, including methods used by them to distribute, store and transport narcotics and to collect, expend, account for, transport, and launder drug proceeds.

3. The facts in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge, and on information developed during this investigation, including information I have received from other law enforcement personnel, and other investigative efforts such as searches of cellular phones and social media, review of reports and records, review of physical and digital evidence, review of surveillance video, physical surveillance, debriefing of sources and witnesses, and from persons and law enforcement officers with knowledge regarding relevant facts.

4. All dates, times and amounts are approximate. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing the requested search warrants, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation.

I. PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT

5. I make this affidavit in support of a criminal complaint charging ARIS ARVELO GONZALEZ (GONZALEZ) (dob: xx/xx/1988) with Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute or Possess with Intent to Manufacture or Distribute Controlled Substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846.

II. PROBABLE CAUSE

6. The FBI North Shore Gang Task Force, DEA Tactical Diversion Squad, Massachusetts State Police, and their constituent state and local agencies, which include New England HIDTA, Massachusetts DOC, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, Andover PD, Burlington PD, Carlisle PD, Chelsea PD, Littleton PD, Medford PD, Quincy PD, Revere PD, Westford PD, and Wilmington PD, are currently investigating ARIS ARVELO GONZALEZ and his coconspirators, including JOSE VASQUEZ LANTIGUA, MANUEL SANTANA-SOTO, and others, and their organization -- the "La Culebra Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO))" (the "TARGETS"). Based upon the investigation to date, I believe that the TARGETS are engaged in a multimillion-dollar drug distribution conspiracy that manufactures wholesale quantities of counterfeit pharmaceutical pills made from fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other controlled substances. These drugs are then sold in the thousands to other subordinate drug dealers and gang members throughout the North Shore of Massachusetts and beyond.

7. A cooperating witness and an undercover officer have made multiple controlled purchases from GONZALEZ over the past four months. Additionally, multiple confidential informants have provided information to investigators concerning the operations of the La Culebra DTO. Over the past four months, investigators have conducted multiple recorded controlled purchases from GONZALEZ and seized more than 20 kilograms of suspected fentanyl and methamphetamine from the La Culebra DTO.

A. ARIS ARVELO GONZALEZ

8. I am familiar with Aris Arvelo GONZALEZ who has a date of birth xx/xx/1988. GONZALEZ appears to have dual citizenship in the United States and Dominican Republic. He has a limited criminal history and is not a felon. GONZALEZ was arrested in New Hampshire for drug offenses on January 14, 2025, and released from Salem District Court in New Hampshire.

9. A photograph of GONZALEZ follows:



B. JANUARY 14, 2025, ARREST AND SEIZURE OF FENTANYL AND METHAMPHETAMINE FROM GONZALEZ

10. I have reviewed Salem NH Police Department Arrest Report 25-47-AR concerning the 1/14/25 incident. The narrative of Salem NH PD Officer Evan Mullen follows:

On 1/14/2025 at approximately 0934 hours, while working a uniformed patrol shift, I was patrolling the area of the Walmart parking lot (326 North Broadway) when I observed a black Honda Accord bearing MA registration [REDACTED] pass me in the lot. I observed this vehicle drive towards the rear east side of the building into a raised parking lot by an old softball field. In this lot, a male by the name of [J.S], resides in a trailer. The aforementioned vehicle pulled up next to the trailer and parked. Approximately 30 seconds later, a male exited the trailer and entered the passenger seat of the vehicle. The vehicle then reversed and headed back in my general direction towards a stop sign exiting the Walmart parking lot. The vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign and pulled into the Wendy's parking lot (316 North Broadway).

I followed the vehicle into the parking lot, exited my cruiser, and approached from the passengers side. I observed one male operator, and I introduced myself and explained the reason for the encounter. The male became slightly argumentative about the reason for the stop, but eventually became cooperative. I asked the male for his drivers license and registration. The male stated to me that he did not have his wallet on his person and that he left it at home. The male was able to provide me with the registration, but stated that his name was ARIS ARVELO GONZALEZ (DOB: [xx/xx/1988]). I asked the male if his license was out of Massachusetts, and he responded that his license is out of New Jersey. The male continued to explain that he was here on vacation and that he is visiting his cousin. The male stated that the vehicle was his cousin's vehicle. I asked the male for his social security number and he provided me with [xxx-xx-5733].

I asked dispatch to run the provided information to validate the information provided to me by the male. Dispatch responded stating that they did not have a license on file out of New Jersey with the information provided. Dispatch also stated that the male had an ID only out of Massachusetts, with no image available, which did not allow me to confirm the information provided was truthful at the time. I asked the male whose vehicle it was, to confirm his previous statement, and the male stated that it was his friends contradicting his previous explanation of it being his cousins vehicle. I asked the male why he drove to the back of the Walmart parking lot. The male responded by stating he was there to pickup his friend John, who was coming out of Wendys. I asked the male for his name and date of birth, which he provided with and confirmed that it was Sweet and not a John. I developed the suspicion that due to the inconsistencies in their stories, the male operator was attempting to lie to me. I know third party vehicles to be used in commission of certain crimes such as transportation/sales of narcotics as a method to commit these crimes undetected. Based on my training and experience as a police officer, I know individuals to use third party vehicles and pickup/ride around with individuals whom they do not know to be possibly evident of a buyer/seller relationship in relation to narcotics sales. It was at this point that dispatch confirmed that the male had an identification out of Massachusetts, which I found odd due to him stating he was from New Jersey and visiting on vacation. Because I was unable to properly identify the male operator, I asked if he would shut the vehicle off and step out and speak with me further, which he willingly did.

I ran [J.S.'s] information over the radio and they informed me that he was the subject of a well being check that was unfounded yesterday, 1/13/2025. I asked [J.S.] if he was okay and if he needed any services. [J.S.] became agitated and frustrated with me, and then asked if he could wait inside the vestibule, due to the weather being low temperatures. I informed him that this was okay but to stay in eye sight. I know individuals who became argumentative and in a hurry to separate themselves from criminal activity to hinder detection from law enforcement, mostly consistent in my experience with drug interdiction related motor vehicle stops.

The male operator exited the vehicle and I asked if he had any weapons on him. The male responded no. I asked if he would mind if I checked and he said he did not mind. While pat frisking the male, I felt what I thought to be cash in his pocket. I asked the male if he had any cash on his person, and he stated he did. I asked the male how much, which he responded approximately \$400.00. I asked why he had so much cash on him. The male responded by stating that he goes to the gym and that he came to Walmart to purchase gym supplements. I knew this not to be true because the male drove to the opposite side of the building, past all the entrances, to an area where there was no way into the building, and picked up another male and immediately left the Walmart parking lot.

I explained to the male that what he was saying made no sense. The male explained that he came from New Jersey last week. I asked if he came here with no wallet,

and he responded that he did and that it was down at his house in Massachusetts. This contradicts his previous statement of leaving it at home in New Jersey, further raising my suspicions of this males involvement in criminal activity. I explained my suspicions to the male, and he appeared to stutter and become nervous, consistent with individuals who are caught in a lie. I asked the male to keep his hands out of his pockets for officer safety. The male removed his hands from his pockets and began to rub and massage his hands and arms. Based on my training and experience as a police officer, I know individuals who exhibit this type of behavior are attempting to soothe and comfort themselves while they're nervous. I asked the male if there was anything that he was concerned of anything inside of the vehicle. The male responded no. Another officer arrived on scene at this time to assist me with the motor vehicle stop.

When another officer arrived on scene, the male then began to continue reaching into his pockets after it was explained to him not to do so. Because of this I explained to him that I was going to search his pockets to confirm he did not have any weapons. In the male's pockets were numerous sets of keys and four different key fobs. Based on my training and experience as a police officer, I know individuals who are involved in the trafficking of narcotics to have control and possession of numerous car fobs so they are able to pickup and drop off multiple vehicles at various locations. I then asked the male again what he was doing with [J.S.] and how he knows him. The male responded stating that his friend knows [J.S.] and that he works at the gym so he wanted to bring him to the gym as well, further contradicting his original reason for being with [J.S.] and at Walmart. It should be noted that [J.S.] appeared to look drowsy, was wearing pajama pants, and flip flops, and went inside to get a coffee. This attire was not consistent with someone who would be going to work or going to the gym. The male operator stated he went to get coffee because people drink coffee in the morning.

Based on the inconsistencies in the male stories, the false information provided to me by his reasoning for being at Walmart, the false information about [J.S.'s] and this males relationship, the inconsistencies in the males story about his residence in Massachusetts, the amount of cash on the males person, the nervous behavior when pointing out these inconsistencies to the male, the possession of numerous key fobs, the inconsistency in the itinerary and purpose of the males trip, I developed the suspicion that the male was about to complete a sale of controlled drugs that was interrupted by my motor vehicle stop.

A detective from the narcotics unit arrived on scene and began to speak with the male. I then removed my consent to search a motor vehicle card and read it verbatim to the male. I asked the male for consent to search the vehicle. The male and the narcotics detective engaged in a brief conversation, and then he granted me consent to search the vehicle. While executing the consent search inside of the vehicle, I noticed that there was little to no gap between the middle console and inside area of the driver and passenger seats. In normal vehicles, there is a gap in this area which normally people's belongings inside of their pockets will fall down

there when they sit down. I observed there to be no structure in this area, and that it appeared as if the middle console was wider than what a normal middle console would be. Shortly after during the consent search, another officer observed there to be a small piece of cloth covered a metal plate inside of the middle console. The officer noticed the cloth not to cover the entire bottom of the middle console and that it appeared it was attached with an after market structure. Based on the officers training and experience, he identified this to be a "hide", an after market car attachment in which individuals use to conceal evidence of various crimes, most consistent with the crimes of possession/sales of a controlled drug.

The narcotics detective on scene called my name amidst the consent search. The detective then showed me a small tied off baggie with orange pills with the imprint "AD" on them, that was handed to him by the male operator. Based on my training and experience as a police officer, I know these pills to be consistent in appearance with the controlled drug Adderall, and the packaging to be consistent with that of controlled substances used for sales. At this point, the male operator was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled drug and operating without a valid license. I secured him in handcuffs that were double-locked and checked for proper fit. I then placed him in the transport area of my cruiser and requested RGA Towing to tow the vehicle back to the Salem Police Department pending the application of a search warrant. Another officer stayed on scene while I transported the male. The pills were seized and submitted into evidence.

Upon arrival in the booking room, I verified the name and date of birth provided to me by the male operator. I then asked for his address in New Jersey and his parents names. I then contacted another detective on a HSI Task Force, who was able to confirm the information provided by the male was accurate and that he was indeed Gonzalez. Gonzalez was processed without incident and requested the services of Bail Commissioner John Sytek. Gonzalez was released on personal recognizance pending his arraignment at the Salem District Court on 2/24/2025 at 0800 hours.

The pills were taken to the TruNarc machine, a handheld narcotics analyzer, to test for the substance of the pills. A singular pill was crushed up and placed in a bag next to the machine. The TruNarc revealed that the consistency of the pills was the controlled drug methamphetamine, and that they were pressed pills manufactured to replicate Adderalls. A picture of this reading was added to this report.

Supplemental narratives will be added regarding the application of the search warrant. My BWC was active for this incident.

Supplement to Follow.

11. The report continues with the narrative of Salem NH PD Detective Jefry Cabrera which follows:

On 01/14/2025, I assisted Officer Mullen with a motor vehicle stop at 326 N. Broadway. Upon arrival, I learned from Officer Mullen that the operator of the vehicle, later identified as Aris Arvelo Gonzalez, DOB: [xx/xx/1988], appeared to be engaged in drug activity. I had a conversation with Aris, and his stories about where he came from, who he was meeting, and where he was going did not make sense. He told me that he was meeting a male at Walmart who was friend with Aris' friend, who was in the Dominican Republic.

Upon further conversation, Officer Mullen obtained consent from Aris to search his vehicle. While Officer Mullen was conducting the search, I continued talking with Aris. During our conversation, I asked Aris if he could show me what was inside his pockets, and he agreed. Aris reached into his left front pocket and pulled out a necklace and a clear plastic baggy with orange pills. He quickly put the necklace and pills back into his pocket. I asked him to hand me the pill, and he did. Based on my training and experience, I recognized these pills as counterfeit Adderall. I asked Aris what kind of pills they were, and he said Adderall. He also told me that he was going to sell them for \$100.00. I then notified Officer Mullen about the pills and gave them to him. Officer Mullen then took Aris into custody.

12. The report concludes with a final entry from Officer Mullen which follows:

On 1/14/2025 at 1420 hours, I applied for a search warrant on the black Honda Accord bearing MA registration [REDACTED]. ON 1/14/2025 at approximately 1521 hours, I received the signed and approved search warrant from Hon. Lisa M. English of the Rockingham Superior Court. Due to the possible location of the evidence believed to be in the vehicle, I chose to wait to have a narcotics K9 to assist in the execution of the warrant.

On 1/15/2025 at approximately 1304 hours, Ofc. Benoit #110, K9 Dash, and myself executed the search warrant in the sally port of the Salem Police Department. All of the items were removed from inside of the vehicle and K9 Dash was sent in to do an interior search of the vehicle. K9 Dash indicated the presence of narcotics in the area of the middle console. K9 Dash was removed from the vehicle and I entered the vehicle, and pried open the cloth and plastic covering to the bottom of the middle console. When I opened this, I observed a large space with after market wiring and a black shopping bag. I closed the middle console, and K9 Dash was sent into the vehicle a second time and indicated the presence of narcotics in the middle console area, consistent with the first indication.

I went into the middle console and removed the black shopping bag. I removed a large saran wrapped bag of a large amount of blue pills with the imprint "M30" on them. Based on my training and experience as a police officer, I know blue pills with this imprint to be oxycodone pills, and for many times these pills to be pressed with other controlled substances such as methamphetamine and fentanyl. I also located \$148.00 of US Currency inside of the middle console. Based on the location of which the suspected pressed pills were located, as well as the packaging and

amount, I believe that the pills were concealed in this hide to be distributed at a later date by Gonzalez. The packaging was cut open and the pills were counted. There was approximately 5,000 pills (612 Grams) inside. A TruNarc scan was conducted but was unable to determine the contents of the pills. Based on the appearance, imprint, size, and color of the pills, I believed these pills to be pressed oxycodone pills. The readings, the pills, and the currency were photographed and attached to this report. The pills and cash were submitted into evidence. As a result, Gonzalez was subsequently charged with Sales of a Controlled Drug and additional charge of Possession of a controlled drug.

The return was submitted back to the court on 1/16/2025. A scanned copy of the search warrant and the return was attached to this file. A copy of the warrant and the inventory seized was left with the vehicle. The entirety of the search warrant was recorded on the sally port cameras. Photographs of the vehicle and contraband seized have been added to this report.

13. GONZALEZ was charged with two counts of possessing/concealing the counterfeit Adderall/Percocet, operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, and distributing/selling a controlled substance in the State of New Hampshire. The seized Adderall pills that field tested positive for methamphetamine weighed one gram according the report. The seized Percocet pills which field tested inconclusively weighed 612 grams. The drugs were eventually tested by the NH state drug laboratory which confirmed the Adderall pills contained methamphetamine, and the counterfeit Percocet contained fentanyl.

C. JULY 14, 2025, CONTROLLED PURCHASE OF FENTANYL FROM GONZALEZ

14. On July 14, 2025, the DEA, with assistance from the Andover Police Department, conducted a controlled purchase of approximately 1,000 counterfeit M30 pills containing suspected fentanyl in exchange for \$1,500 in Lawrence, MA utilizing an individual I will refer to as CI-13.¹ The transaction was audio video recorded and surveilled by investigators. CI-13 was

¹ The identity of CI-13 is known to the DEA who have had a working relationship with them for approximately 12 years. CI-13 has received financial compensation from the DEA. CI-13 has one immigration related charge in their criminal history and currently has a legal immigration status. CI-13

searched for contraband prior to the transaction with negative results and provided with a set amount of official government currency to make the transaction. CI-13 brokered the deal through a third party that eventually put CI-13 in touch with JOSE VASQUEZ LANTIGUA. CI-13 communicated with VASQUEZ LANTIGUA on VASQUEZ LANTIGUA's phone number ending in 2926. While coordinating the buy, CI-13 spoke with VASQUEZ LANTIGUA and VASQUEZ LANTIGUA indicated that he was working and that his people were also working.

15. At approximately 4:19 PM, a red Equinox arrived at the agreed upon meeting place and CI-13 entered the vehicle with an unidentified older Hispanic male operator. The vehicle operator informed CI-13 that he was not there to conduct the transaction, but to confirm that CI-13 had arrived and was ready to purchase the drugs.

16. CI-13 exited the red Equinox and approximately 10 minutes later a blue Honda CRV arrived in the area. CI-13 entered the light blue Honda CRV that had just arrived. This vehicle was registered to JOSE VASQUEZ LANTIGUA but was being operated by ARIS GONZALEZ.

17. GONZALEZ drove a short distance around the initial meeting area where he provided CI-13 with the 1,000 pills in exchange for the cash before dropping off CI-13. While in the vehicle, GONZALEZ gave CI-13 his phone number ending in 9847 instructed CI-13 to call him if he needed more drugs. During the transaction, GONZALEZ's face is not clearly captured on the recording, but his voice is clearly captured. I am familiar with GONZALEZ's voice from

has provided extensive assistance to the DEA across at least three different field offices around the country. The DEA reports that CI-13 is in good standing and they have reviewed audio and video recordings made by CI-13 which corroborates their reporting. As such, investigators believe the information provided by CI-13 to be reliable, credible, and trustworthy.

interactions with him captured on other recordings. Additionally, GONZALEZ identifies himself during the controlled buy in providing CI-13 with the 9847 number.²

18. The drugs were sent to and analyzed by the DEA laboratory which confirmed that the pills contained fentanyl and weighed approximately 128.4 grams.

D. AUGUST 21, 2025, CONTROLLED PURCHASE OF FENTANYL FROM GONZALEZ

19. On August 21, 2025, the DEA, with assistance from the Andover Police Department, conducted a second controlled purchase of approximately 3,000 counterfeit M30 pills containing suspected fentanyl and a sample of 10 counterfeit Adderall pills containing methamphetamine in exchange for \$4,500 in Andover, MA. The transaction was audio video recorded and surveilled by investigators. Prior to the transaction, CI-13 was searched for contraband prior to the transaction with negative results and provided with a set amount of official government currency to make the transaction. CI-13 coordinated the purchase from GONZALEZ using GONZALEZ's 9847 number.

20. GONZALEZ agreed to meet CI-13 in a parking lot in Andover, MA. Around 3:15 PM, investigators observed a grey 2016 Lincoln MKZ sedan (hereinafter the "2016 LINCOLN" or "TARGET VEHICLE 1"), which is registered to GONZALEZ, pull into the lot and park by CI-13. GONZALEZ exited TARGET VEHICLE 1 and got into CI-13's vehicle. GONZALEZ and CI-13 exchanged the 3,000 blue pills and a sample of 10 orange pills for the \$4,500. At

² GONZALEZ was arrested by Methuen Police on November 12, 2025, for an outstanding warrant related to his New Hampshire drug case. GONZALEZ was released on recognizance on November 14, 2025. During the arrest, GONZALEZ provided the 9847 number as his primary mobile number. I also know from analysis of phone records that the 9847 number used by GONZALEZ has contact with the 2926 number used by VASQUEZ LANTIGUA.

approximately 3:28 PM, surveillance saw GONZALEZ exit CI-13's vehicle and reenter TARGET VEHICLE 1.

21. I have reviewed the video from the buy and recognize GONZALEZ as the person who provided CI-13 with pills. A still image from the recording of the controlled purchase depicting GONZALEZ follows:



22. The drugs were sent to and analyzed by the DEA Laboratory which reported that the mixture contained fentanyl and the drug weight was 368.9 grams. The sample of counterfeit Adderall pills containing suspected methamphetamine was not tested.

E. THE AUGUST 28, 2025, SEARCH OF 18 CARLETON STREET

23. On August 28, 2025, the FBI North Shore Gang Task Force (NSGTF) executed federal search warrants at 18 Carleton Street, Methuen, Massachusetts ("18 Carleton Street"). Those search warrants resulted in the arrests of MANUEL SANTANA-SOTO and JOSE VASQUEZ LANTIGUA, who were encountered in the second-floor apartment after fleeing from the third-floor apartment and breaking into the second floor.

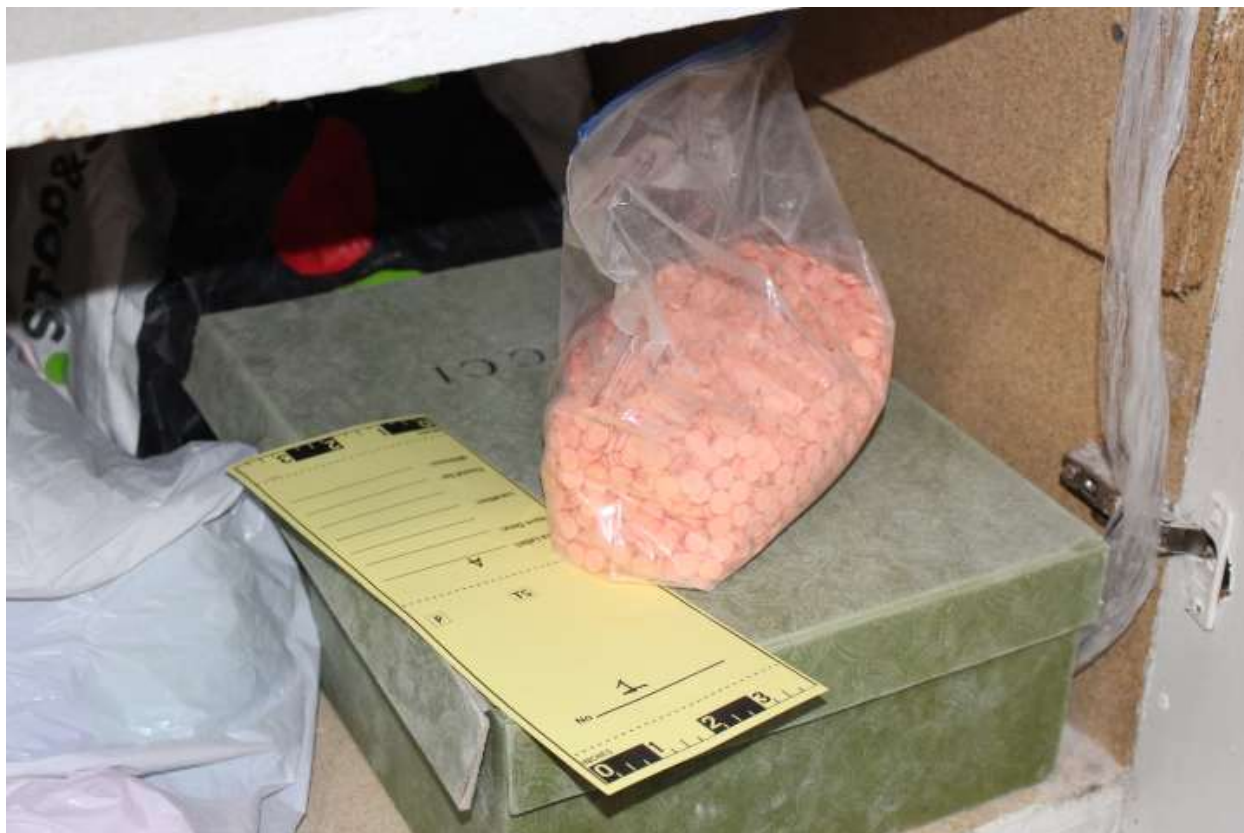
24. During the execution of the search warrants, controlled substances, including suspected fentanyl and methamphetamine, and paraphernalia related to the manufacture and distribution of controlled substances, were found in the kitchen, bedroom, and living room of the third-floor apartment. In total, over 18,000 grams of suspected controlled substances were recovered, which are pending analysis at the DEA lab.

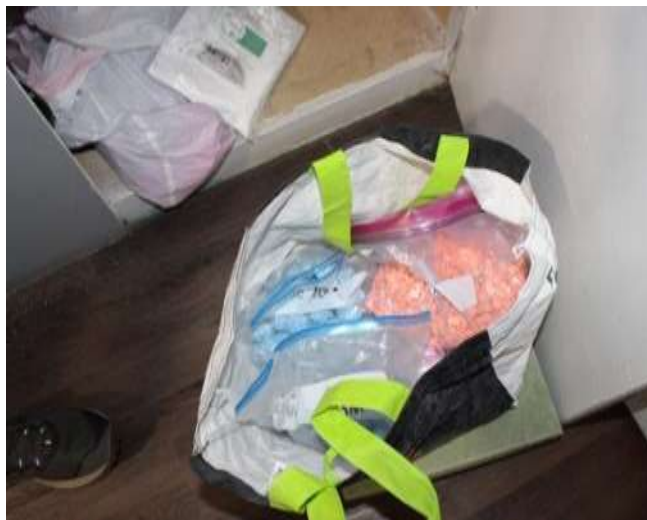
25. The bedroom containing the pill press had a bed, dresser, closet with clothing, and a closet containing the pill press. Investigators also found a bag with approximately eight respirator masks, which I know to be used in the manufacture of controlled substances. The large number of masks suggests numerous people are engaged in the pill press operation as the masks are reusable with disposable filters.

26. The kitchen appeared to be primarily occupied with drugs, cutting agents, and mixing equipment. Investigators observed multiple bowls containing powders, multiple blenders, scales, sifters, and bags containing powders consistent with those used in the manufacture and distribution of controlled substances. In the cabinets, investigators located cutting agents, dyes, and completed pills in plastic bags. Photographs of the kitchen area and some of the items recovered follow:













27. The third-floor apartment had one bedroom. Underneath the bed, investigators located a plastic bowl containing thousands of blue counterfeit Percocet pills believed to contain fentanyl.





28. The third-floor apartment bedroom closet contained an electric pill press that was bolted to a piece of furniture. Near the pill press was an air compressor and blue bowl with powder and a Vevor brand voltage converter. The pill press and air compressor were being powered by the voltage converter. I believe this voltage converter was being utilized to ensure that the use of the pill press did not cause any short circuits, overloads or otherwise affect the electric service at the property. Within the pill press closet was a box containing numerous tools, and pill molds. In front of a closet across from the pill press closet, investigators located a piece of luggage that contained numerous respirators, tools and other implements used in the repair and maintenance of a pill press. Photographs of some of the items found in the bedroom are depicted below.











29. In the living room of the third-floor apartment, investigators found numerous counterfeit pills, a quarter-kilogram press (used to form quarter-kilogram bricks), a large bag of powders used in pill manufacturing, a toolbox, and other paraphernalia used in the manufacturing process. In one corner of the living room, investigators located a cardboard box that contained pressed pills. Inside of that box, investigators located a second box that also contained pressed pills. Photographs of these items are depicted below.





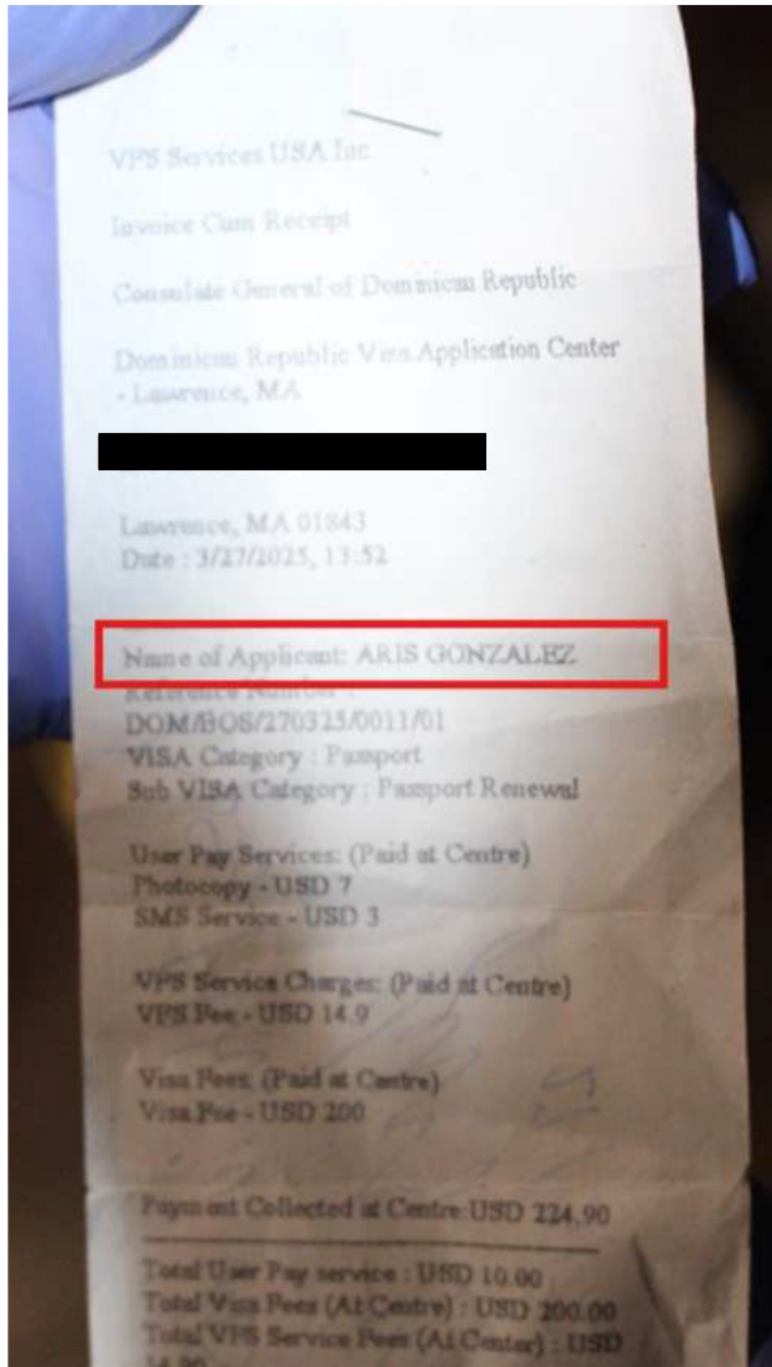


30. In the corner behind the spiral staircase, investigators located a large box that contained pressed pills. These pills appeared to be counterfeit Adderall pills containing methamphetamine. Photographs of these items are depicted below.



31. In addition to the large amounts of drugs, investigators also found a passport renewal receipt in the third-floor apartment from the Consulate General of Dominican Republic

located at 290 Merrimack Street, Suite 243, Lawrence, MA. The passport renewal receipt is dated March 27, 2025, and is for a passport renewal for ARIS GONZALEZ. I believe that the presence of the receipt demonstrates GONZALEZ's use and access to [REDACTED]. The seizure of this large an amount of counterfeit Percocet and Adderall pills, as well as the manufacturing equipment, is also consistent with the circumstances of GONZALEZ's January 2025 arrest and the controlled buys from GONZALEZ. A photo of the passport renewal receipt is depicted below.



32. Full analysis of the items seized during the arrest and search warrant is ongoing. To date, the DEA lab has completed analysis of at least two evidence items. One item was a large quantity of blue pills that the DEA lab reported as 19,886 tablets, weighing 2,275.2 grams, and the mixture tested positive for fentanyl. The second item was a large quantity of orange pills that the

DEA lab reported contained approximately 12,247 tablets, weighing 2,977.3 grams, and the mixture test positive for methamphetamine. Numerous items were also sent to the FBI Laboratory for DNA and fingerprint analysis which is pending. In summary, investigators seized over approximately 18 kilograms of suspected fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other cutting agents. Based on my experience I estimate that approximately 100,000 pills were seized. Photographs of some of the items recovered during the search are depicted below.



F. OCTOBER 9, 2025, CONTROLLED PURCHASE OF FENTANYL FROM GONZALEZ

33. On October 9, 2025, the DEA, with assistance from the Andover Police Department and FBI, conducted a third controlled purchase of approximately 5,000 counterfeit M30 pills containing suspected fentanyl in exchange for \$7,500 in Andover, MA. The transaction was audio

video recorded and surveilled by investigators. I have reviewed the recording and it captures the transaction.

34. The controlled purchase was conducted by a DEA Undercover officer (“UC”) but was coordinated by CI-13 and GONZALEZ over the phone. CI-13 and GONZALEZ organized the transaction through GONZALEZ’s new number ending in 3612. I believe GONZALEZ was no longer using the 9847 number following the execution of search warrants at 18 Carleton Street. I know from training and experience that when criminals believe that they are under investigation, they will frequently change numbers to prevent law enforcement from employing various investigative techniques that exploit phones and associated data and records.

35. At approximately 11:47 AM, GONZALEZ parked TARGET VEHICLE 1 at the meeting location, exited, and then entered the UC’s vehicle. GONZALEZ asked the UC to drive around the area in order to conduct counter surveillance, but the UC refused. After discussing the proposed counter-surveillance, GONZALEZ produced two tightly wrapped plastic packages containing blue pills. GONZALEZ handed the drugs to the UC and advised the UC that he had provided an extra 300 pills at no extra cost. The UC then gave GONZALEZ \$7,500 and they agreed to set up future transactions through CI-13. GONZALEZ exited the UC vehicle and reentered TARGET VEHICLE 1. A still image of GONZALEZ during the transaction follows (with the UC redacted by a blue box):



36. The seized pills were submitted to the DEA Laboratory which reported the net weight as 682.9 grams and that the pills contained fentanyl.

G. OCTOBER 28, 2025, CONTROLLED PURCHASE OF METHAMPHETAMINE FROM GONZALEZ

37. On October 28, 2025, the DEA, with assistance from the Andover Police Department and FBI, conducted a purchase of approximately 1,000 counterfeit Adderall pills containing suspected methamphetamine in exchange for \$2,000 in Andover, MA. The transaction was audio video recorded and surveilled by investigators. I have reviewed the recording and it captures the transaction. The controlled buy was conducted by a DEA Undercover officer (UC) but was coordinated by CI-13 and GONZALEZ over the phone.

38. Surveillance agents saw GONZALEZ arrive at the meeting location in TARGET VEHICLE 1 and then enter the UC's vehicle. GONZALEZ handed the UC several tightly wrapped plastic packages containing orange pills and advised the UC that he had provided an extra 200 pills at no extra cost. GONZALEZ stated that he does not typically make or sell the pressed methamphetamine pills, but had "made them special" for the transaction. The UC then gave

GONZALEZ \$2,000. Surveillance agents saw GONZALEZ exit the UC vehicle and reenter TARGET VEHICLE 1 and drive away. I have reviewed the audio video tape. On the tape, you can see GONZALEZ enter the vehicle and discuss the transaction. A still image of GONZALEZ captured during the transaction follows.



39. The seized pills were sent to and analyzed by the DEA Laboratory which reported the net weight as 380 grams and that the pills contained fentanyl.

CONCLUSION

40. Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe that ARIS ARVELO GONZALEZ violated 21 U.S.C. § 846 by conspiring to manufacture, distribute and possess with intent to distribute, a controlled substance.

Sworn to and attested under the penalties of perjury,

Special Agent Eric D. Poalino
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to by telephone in accordance with Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 4.1 on
November_____, 2025.

Hon. Paul G. Levenson
United States Magistrate Judge
District of Massachusetts