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* JANUARY 21, 2026 *
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EMR:RAB
F. #2025R00360

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

INDICTMENT

- against -

JIMMY FRANCOIS,
also known as "Bentley Bugz,"

Defendant.

Cr. No. 26-CR-11
(T. 18, U.S.C., §§ 1591(a)(1), 1591(a)(2),
1591(b)(1), 1591(b)(2), 1594(c),
1594(d), 2251(a), 2251(e), 2253(a),
2253(b), 2422(a), 2422(b), 2428(a), 2
and 3551 et seq.; T. 21, U.S.C., § 853(p))

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Judge Dora Lizette Irizarry
Magistrate Judge Robert M. Levy

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT ONE

(Sex Trafficking of a Minor by Force, Fraud and Coercion)

1. In or about and between June 2024 and August 2024, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant JIMMY FRANCOIS, also known as "Bentley Bugz," together with others, did knowingly and intentionally recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, obtain and maintain by any means a person, to wit: Jane Doe, an individual whose identity is known to the Grand Jury, in and affecting interstate commerce, and did benefit, financially and by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture which engaged in such acts, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that (1) means of force, threats of force, fraud and coercion, as described in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1591(e)(2), and a combination of such means would be used to cause Jane Doe to engage in one or more commercial sex acts, and (2) Jane Doe had not attained the age of 18 years and would be caused to engage in one or more commercial sex acts, having

had a reasonable opportunity to observe Jane Doe, and which offense was effected by means of force, threats of force, fraud and coercion, and a combination of such means.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1591(a)(1), 1591(a)(2), 1591(b)(1), 1591(b)(2), 2 and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT TWO
(Sex Trafficking Conspiracy)

2. In or about and between June 2024 and August 2024, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant JIMMY FRANCOIS, also known as “Bentley Bugz,” together with others, did knowingly and intentionally conspire to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, obtain and maintain by any means one or more persons, in and affecting interstate commerce, and to benefit, financially and by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that engaged in such acts, knowing, and in reckless disregard of the fact that (1) means of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion, as described in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1591(e)(2), and a combination of such means would be used to cause such persons to engage in one or more commercial sex acts, and (2) one or more such persons had not attained the age of 18 years and would be caused to engage in one or more commercial sex acts, which offense was to be effected by force, fraud, coercion and a combination of such means, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1591(a)(1) and 1591(a)(2).

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1594(c) and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT THREE
(Coercion and Enticement of a Minor)

3. In or about and between June 2024 and August 2024, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant

JIMMY FRANCOIS, also known as “Bentley Bugz,” using one or more facilities and means of interstate and foreign commerce, to wit: a mobile telephone, the Internet and mobile Internet applications, did knowingly and intentionally persuade, induce, entice and coerce an individual who had not yet attained the age of 18, to wit: Jane Doe, to engage in sexual activity for which a person can be charged with one or more criminal offenses, to wit: sex trafficking of a child, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1591(a)(1), 1591(a)(2) and 1591(b)(2).

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2422(b) and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT FOUR
(Sexual Exploitation of a Child)

4. On or about June 27, 2024, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant JIMMY FRANCOIS, also known as “Bentley Bugz,” did employ, use, persuade, induce, entice and coerce a minor, to wit: Jane Doe, to engage in sexually explicit conduct, and knowingly and intentionally attempt to do so, for the purpose of producing one or more visual depictions of such conduct, knowing and having reason to know that such visual depictions would be transported and transmitted using one or more means and facilities of interstate and foreign commerce and which would be in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, which visual depictions were produced and transmitted using materials that had been mailed, shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and which visual depictions were actually transported and transmitted using one or more means and facilities of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251(a), 2251(e) and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT FIVE
(Sexual Exploitation of a Child)

5. On or about July 4, 2024, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant JIMMY FRANCOIS, also known as “Bentley Bugz,” did employ, use, persuade, induce, entice and coerce a minor, to wit: Jane Doe, to engage in sexually explicit conduct, and knowingly and intentionally attempt to do so, for the purpose of producing one or more visual depictions of such conduct, knowing and having reason to know that such visual depictions would be transported and transmitted using one or more means and facilities of interstate and foreign commerce and which would be in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, which visual depictions were produced and transmitted using materials that had been mailed, shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and which visual depictions were actually transported and transmitted using one or more means and facilities of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251(a), 2251(e) and 3551 et seq.)

COUNT SIX
(Interstate Prostitution)

6. In or about and between June 2024 and August 2024, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant JIMMY FRANCOIS, also known as “Bentley Bugz,” did knowingly and intentionally persuade, induce, entice and coerce one or more individuals to travel in interstate commerce to engage in prostitution.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2422(a) and 3551 et seq.)

CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATION
AS TO COUNTS ONE AND TWO

7. The United States hereby gives notice to the defendant that, upon his conviction of either of the offenses charged in Counts One and Two, the government will seek forfeiture in accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 1594(d), of: (a) any property, real or personal, that was involved in, used, or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate the commission of such offenses, and any property traceable to such property; and (b) any property, real or personal, constituting or derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of such offenses, or any property traceable to such property.

8. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided

without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in this forfeiture allegation.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1594(d); Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p))

CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATION
AS TO COUNTS THREE AND SIX

9. The United States hereby gives notice to the defendant that, upon his conviction of either of the offenses charged in Counts Three and Six, the government will seek forfeiture in accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 2428(a), which requires the forfeiture of: (a) any property, real or personal, that was used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate the commission of such offenses; and (b) any property, real or personal, constituting or derived from any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of such offenses.

10. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided

without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in this forfeiture allegation.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 2428(a); Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p))

**CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATION
AS TO COUNTS FOUR AND FIVE**

11. The United States hereby gives notice to the defendant that, upon his conviction of either of the offenses charged in Counts Four and Five, the government will seek forfeiture in accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 2253(a), which requires the forfeiture of: (a) any visual depiction described in Sections 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, or 2260 of Title 18 of the United States Code, or any book, magazine, periodical, film, videotape, or other matter which contains any such visual depiction, which was produced, transported, mailed, shipped or received in violation of such sections; (b) any property, real or personal, constituting, or traceable to, gross profits or other proceeds obtained from such offenses; and (c) any property, real or personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of such offenses or any property traceable to such property.

12. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided

without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 2253(b), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in this forfeiture allegation.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2253(a) and 2253(b); Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p))

AA A TRUE BILL
s/
FOREPERSON

by Alexandra Smith, Assistant United States Attorney

JOSEPH NOCELLA, JR.
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK