



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of New York*

PGS
F. #2026R00003

*610 Federal Plaza
Central Islip, New York 11722*

May 7, 2026

By Email and ECF

The Honorable Sanket J., Bulsara
United States District Judge
Eastern District of New York
100 Federal Plaza
Central Islip, New York 11722

The Honorable Anne Y. Shields
United States Magistrate Judge
Eastern District of New York
100 Federal Plaza
Central Islip, New York 11722

Re: United States v. Cedenno-Ferrer, et al.
Criminal Docket No.: 26-118 (SJB)

Dear Judge Bulsara and Judge Shields:

The government respectfully submits this letter requesting that the Court enter permanent orders of detention as to defendants Alan Christofer Cedenno-Ferrer, Michael Mejia-Nunez and Ennait Alexis Sirett-Padilla, all of whom were arrested this morning and are scheduled to be arraigned before Judge Shields this afternoon. As described below and in the above-referenced indictment, the defendants are charged with the January 3, 2026, armed hijacking of a delivery truck that was parked outside of the Apple Store at the Americana Manhasset mall, forcing the delivery workers to drive to a secluded location where they made off with more than \$1.2 million worth of Apple products. For the reasons stated below, the government respectfully submits that the defendants pose a significant danger to the community, are a flight risk and should be detained pending trial.

I. Background

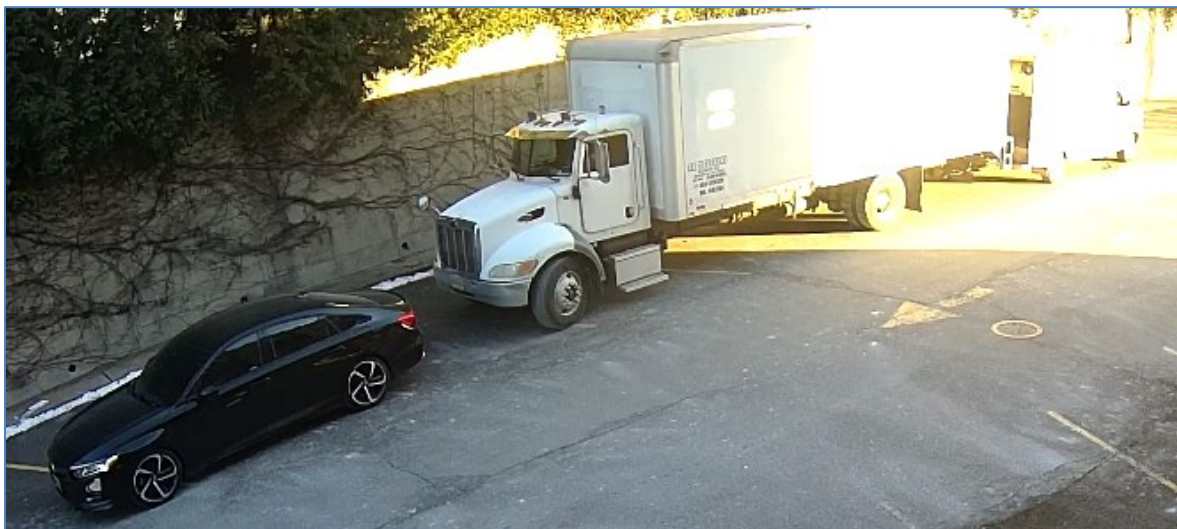
A. The Charged Conduct

On January 3, 2026, at approximately 8:00 a.m., a delivery truck at the Americana Mall in Manhasset, New York was hijacked at gunpoint as it was preparing to deliver Apple products to the Apple Store (the "Robbery"). The stolen goods included hundreds of devices and

other accessories, including MacBooks, iPhones, iPads and Apple Watches, the retail value of which exceeds \$1.2 million.

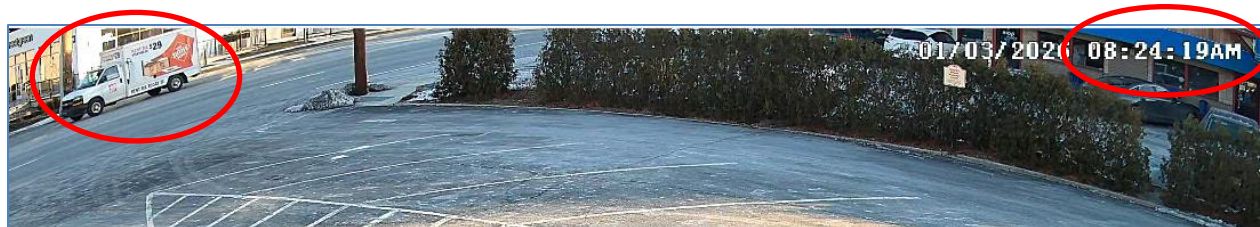
On the morning of the Robbery, two delivery workers (hereinafter, “Victim-1” and “Victim-2”, collectively, the “Victims”) were driving a truck that was loaded with Apple products with scheduled deliveries to the Americana Manhasset mall, the Roosevelt Field mall in Garden City, and the Walt Whitman mall in Huntington Station, in that order. They arrived at the Americana Manhasset, parked by the Apple Store and waited for the store to open. At approximately 8:00 a.m. the Victims were preparing to unload the merchandise when a black Honda Accord pulled up to the delivery truck. Three masked men, armed with handguns, got out of the Accord and approached the Victims. They forced Victim-1 into the back of the truck and zip-tied his hands. Victim-2 was ordered at gunpoint, into the driver’s seat to drive the truck. He was directed to a secluded parking area behind an office building less than a half mile away and then ordered into the back of the delivery truck with Victim-1, where his hands were also zip-tied.

The Accord and the delivery truck were followed to the location by a Home Depot box truck. As captured by surveillance cameras, the Home Depot truck backed up to the rear of the delivery truck, so the cargo sections were aligned:



The Apple merchandise was then moved from the delivery truck to the Home Depot truck. Once they finished, they closed the cargo door to the delivery truck with the victims inside and left the location. One of the victims was able to free himself and call 911. Officers from the Nassau County Police Department arrived within minutes and found the Victims.

The investigation also identified a white Honda CRV, registered to Mejia-Nunez, that was involved in the heist. A surveillance camera captured the CRV parked in an IHOP parking lot across the street from the building where the delivery truck was taken. The video also shows the driver, later identified as Mejia-Nunez, wearing a distinctive brown cap and black hoodie with large print on the back. As soon as the Home Depot truck and the Accord left the delivery truck and pulled westbound onto Northern Boulevard, the CRV followed immediately behind:



Thereafter, law enforcement was able to track the Home Depot truck and the CRV with GPS location data obtained for the Home Depot truck, license plate readers along major roads, expressways and bridges, and red-light cameras. The vehicles traveled through Nassau County, Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan, and into New Jersey, until they reached Paterson, New Jersey.

Just after 12:30 p.m., the CRV and the Home Depot truck pulled into a self-storage facility in Paterson. Mejia-Nunez, who was driving, and Sirett-Padilla, who was in the passenger seat, got out of the CRV and walked into the office. The two defendants went to the service counter and Sirett-Padilla rented a storage unit in his name and provided a Dominican Republic passport as identification. Below are still images from video surveillance that was obtained from the self-storage company, showing Mejia-Nunez and Sirett-Padilla walking towards and inside of the office.



Notably, the video shows Mejia-Nunez wearing the same brown cap and sweatshirt with large print on the back that he was seen wearing in the IHOP parking lot in Manhasset earlier that morning.

Once the storage unit was rented, the Home Depot truck was backed up to a loading area where the unit was located, with another vehicle and, later, a U-Haul truck and the CRV parked alongside:



The storage unit was used to facilitate transferring the stolen merchandise from the Home Depot truck to the U-Haul truck and the other vehicle, seen above on the far right of the picture.

At approximately 2:48 p.m., all four vehicles left the storage facility together. GPS data for the Home Depot truck tracked it to Hobart Street, in Passaic New Jersey, before being abandoned in the Bronx. On January 4, 2026, law enforcement went to Hobart Street and discovered a large pile of discarded boxes that had labels consistent with Apple products:



On January 5, 2026, law enforcement went to Sedgewick Avenue in the Bronx and located the Home Depot truck. Cedeno-Ferrer's fingerprints were found on a copy of the rental agreement that was recovered from inside the Home Depot truck. The truck was rented on December 28, 2025, by Cedeno-Ferrer using a fake Pennsylvania driver's license. Surveillance cameras recorded Cedeno-Ferrer renting the Home Depot truck and purchasing duct tape that was also recovered from the truck and used to cover identifying numbers on the truck:



Other Evidence Relevant to Detention

A review of records associated with Cedeno-Ferrer's iCloud account, which were obtained pursuant to a search warrant authorized by a magistrate judge in this district, revealed audio and text messages over WhatsApp in September 2025, between Cedeno-Ferrer and another individual (the "Seller") where Cedeno-Ferrer appears to be negotiating the purchase of one or more handguns.¹ During the chat, on September 20, 2025, at 9:03 a.m., the Seller sent Cedeno-Ferrer a photograph of handguns:

¹ The communications between Cedeno-Ferrer and the Seller are in Spanish. Agents have yet to review the audio messages. The text chats have been reviewed and translated using Google Translate.



The following day, on September 21, 2026, at 3:29 p.m., the Seller resent the picture of the guns with 3 of them circled and messaged Cedeno-Ferrer, “Those 3 remain”:



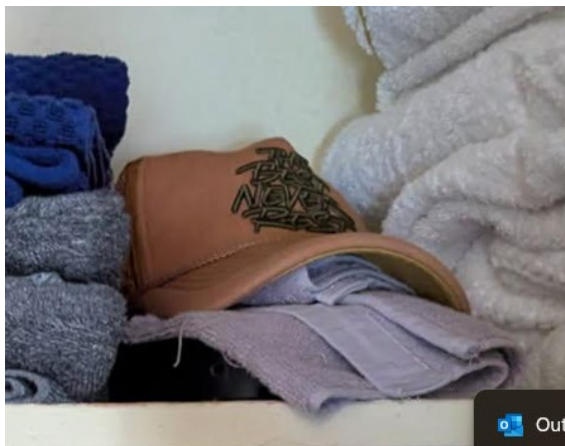
At 4:14 p.m., the Seller messaged, “Which one should I bring you?”. Cedeno-Ferrer responded at 4:14 p.m., “The little one”. The Seller then asked, “Just that one?”, and Cedeno-Ferrer responded “Yes, because I wasn’t sure about buying the other one. Cedeno-Ferrer then directed the Seller to bring the gun to 520 162 Street, New York, New York 10032 (the “162 Street Address”). The 162 Street Address has been linked to other conspirators in the Robbery, including Sirett-Padilla, who provided the 162 Street Address as his mailing address to immigration authorities in connection with his pending immigration proceedings, and Mejia-Nunez who registered the CRV at the 162 Street Address.

B. The Indictment and Arrest

On May 5, 2026, a grand jury sitting in the Eastern District of New York returned an indictment charging the defendants with violations of Title 18, United States Code,

Sections 1951 (Hobbs Act Robbery and Hobbs Act robbery conspiracy), 2314 (transportation of stolen goods) and Sections 2(a) and (b) (aiding and abetting or causing others to commit those offenses).

On May 7, 2026, the defendants were arrested in a joint takedown involving the FBI, the Nassau County Police Department and the New York City Police Department. During searches of the arrest locations, pursuant to a search warrant signed by a magistrate judge in the Southern District of New York, law enforcement recovered numerous items of evidence. The evidence included clothing that the defendants wore during the crime and other items used to facilitate the crime. For instance, below are pictures taken by law enforcement of the hoodie and brown cap Mejia-Nunez wore during the robbery that were recovered from his residence today:



Furthermore, in addition to recovering the clothing that Cedeno-Ferrer and Sirett-Padilla wore in connection with the Robbery, law enforcement also recovered the fake Pennsylvania driver's license that Cedeno-Ferrer used to rent the Home Depot truck.

II. Detention is Warranted

Under the Bail Reform Act, Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3141 *et seq.*, federal courts are empowered to order a defendant's detention pending trial upon a determination that the defendant is either a danger to the community or a risk of flight. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(1) ("no condition or combination of conditions would reasonably assure the

appearance of the person as required and the safety of any other person and the community”). The Bail Reform Act lists four factors to be considered in the detention analysis: (1) the nature and circumstances of the crimes charged; (2) the history and characteristics of the defendant; (3) the seriousness of the danger posed by the defendant’s release; and (4) the evidence of the defendant’s guilt. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g). These factors all warrant the defendant’s detention.

The serious nature and circumstances of the charged offense is self-evident. The defendants hijacked the delivery truck at gunpoint, in broad daylight in one of the most popular shopping centers on Long Island. The offense conduct was violent, extremely dangerous and showed a complete disregard for public safety. After being terrorized and abducted by masked gunmen, the Victims were left for dead, zip-tied and locked in a freezing truck, with temperatures in the 20s. Thankfully, one of the victims broke free from their restraints, preventing a tragedy. Additionally, this was a highly coordinated crime that was planned over an extended period. It was executed using numerous locations and vehicles across Long Island, New York City and New Jersey. The time and effort necessary to plan and carry out an armed robbery of this scope is an aggravating factor with respect to the first three factors of § 3142(g), because it makes the nature of the crimes and the defendant’s characteristics more serious, and it elevates the danger the defendants would pose to others if they were released. Indeed, the offense conduct demonstrates the defendants’ level of commitment and a deeply rooted criminal intent that makes them very dangerous individuals.

Additionally, the evidence from Cedeno-Ferrer’s iCloud account that he appears to have purchased a handgun in September 2025, is another aggravating factor that further elevates the danger he poses to the community. Moreover, the fact that Cedeno-Ferrer asked that the handgun he was seeking to purchase be delivered to the 162 Street Address, a location linked to both Sirett-Padilla and Mejia-Nunez, is further evidence of the collective dangerousness of all three defendants.

Furthermore, each of the defendants are a significant flight risk. All three defendants were born and raised in the Dominican Republic, came to the United States illegally, and have significant ties to their native country. If they were released on bond, there is a strong likelihood that the defendants would attempt to evade prosecution by fleeing to the Dominican Republic. Additionally, the defendants each face an expected sentencing Guidelines range in excess of 10 years in prison, given the offense conduct and the various aggravating factors present in this case, which further elevates their risk of flight. Furthermore, this is an ongoing investigation and the defendants may face additional charges, including firearms offenses that would significantly increase the potential penalties.

Still further, the government’s evidence against the defendants is overwhelming and includes, without limitation: (1) video surveillance; (2) cell phone location data from January 3, 2026, that shows Mejia-Nunez and Sirett-Padilla’s cell phones traveling from New Jersey to the Manhasset area on Long Island between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and traveling back to Paterson, New Jersey between approximately 8:20 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; (3) rental records; (4) DMV records; (5) fingerprint evidence linking Cedeno-Ferrer to the Home Depot truck; (6) records from Apple Inc. showing that Cedeno-Ferrer activated two Apple Watches

on January 4 and January 7, 2026, both of which were part of the shipment that was stolen; (7) Cedeno-Ferrer's iCloud account; and (8) victim testimony.

Based on the foregoing and in light of the strength of the evidence in this case, the defendants are highly incentivized to flee rather than be convicted of these crimes. As noted, the risk is even greater given the defendant's foreign ties.

III. Conclusion

Based on the factors set forth in Sections 3142(e) and (g), the government respectfully submits that the defendants present both a danger to the community and a risk of flight. Thus, the government respectfully requests that the Court enter a permanent order of detention for Cedeno-Ferrer, Mejia-Nunez and Sirett-Padilla.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH NOCELLA, JR.
United States Attorney

By: /s/
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Assistant U.S. Attorney
(631) 715-7836

cc: Clerk of the Court (By ECF)