

AB:EHS
F. #2021R00494

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- against -

MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON,

Defendant.

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EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, SS:

JENNIFER CARDILLO, being duly sworn, deposes and states that she is a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and Explosives (“ATF”), duly appointed according to law and acting as such.

Count One: Hobbs Act Robbery

On or about April 7, 2021, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON did knowingly and intentionally obstruct, delay and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, to wit: the robbery of a market located on Corona Avenue in Queens, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

Count Two: Hobbs Act Robbery

On or about April 10, 2021, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON did knowingly and intentionally

TO BE FILED UNDER SEAL

COMPLAINT AND AFFIDAVIT
IN SUPPORT OF
APPLICATION FOR AN
ARREST WARRANT

(18 U.S.C. §§ 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

Case No. 21-MJ-603

obstruct, delay and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, to wit: the robbery of a bodega on 74th Street in Queens, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

Count Three: Hobbs Act Robbery

On or about April 12, 2021, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON did knowingly and intentionally obstruct, delay and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, to wit: the robbery of a bodega on Astoria Boulevard in Queens, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

Count Four: Hobbs Act Robbery

On or about April 16, 2021, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON did knowingly and intentionally obstruct, delay and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, to wit: the robbery of a grocery store on Roosevelt Avenue in Queens, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

Count Five: Hobbs Act Robbery

On or about April 19, 2021, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON did knowingly and intentionally obstruct, delay and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, to wit: the robbery of a bodega on Hampton Street in Queens, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

Count Six: Hobbs Act Robbery

On or about April 25, 2021, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON did knowingly and intentionally obstruct, delay and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, to wit: the robbery of a laundromat on 81st Street in Queens, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

Count Seven: Hobbs Act Robbery

On or about April 26, 2021, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON did knowingly and intentionally obstruct, delay and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, to wit: the robbery of a laundromat on Elmhurst Avenue in Queens, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

Count Eight: Hobbs Act Robbery

On or about April 27, 2021, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON did knowingly and intentionally obstruct, delay and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, to wit: the robbery of a shop on 37th Avenue in Queens, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951(a) and 3551 et seq.)

The source of your deponent's information and the grounds for his belief are as follows:¹

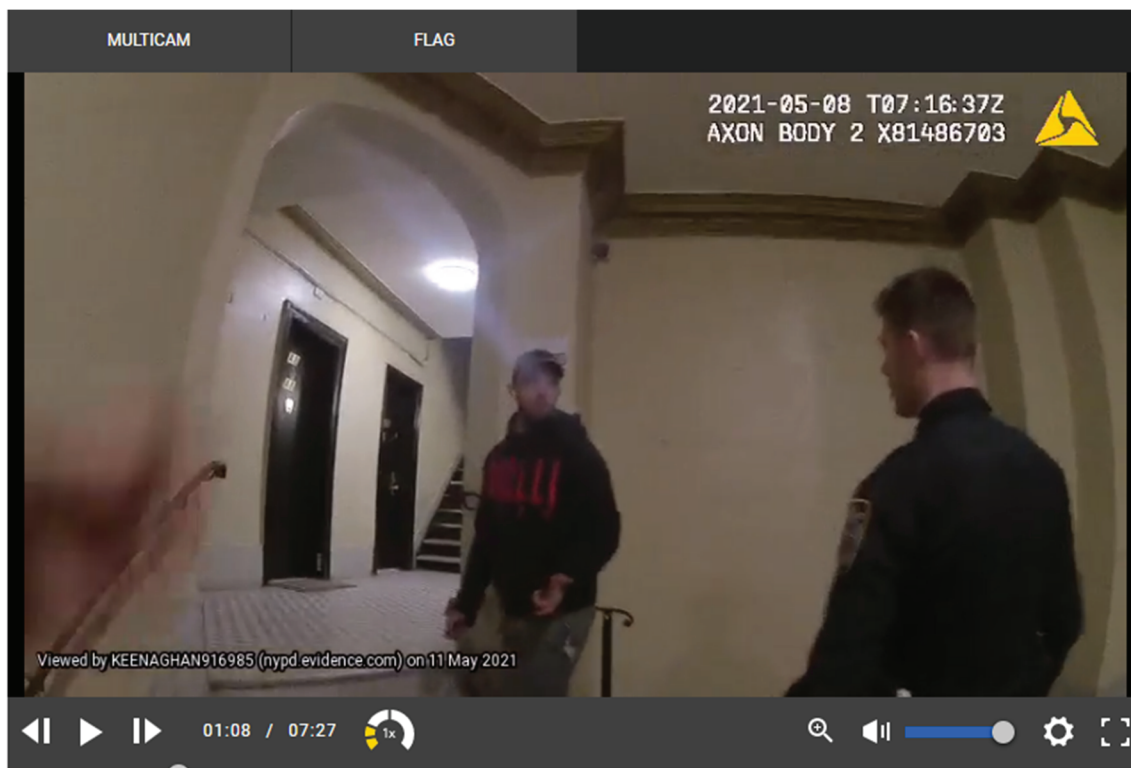
1. I am a Special Agent with the ATF and have been involved in the investigation of numerous cases involving robberies. I am currently assigned to the ATF Joint Robbery Task Force, where I have served for over five years. During my career with the ATF, I have participated in investigations of, among other things, Hobbs Act robberies and other crimes involving firearms and other weapons. In my training and experience, I have conducted physical surveillance, executed search warrants, and reviewed electronic records, including records regarding cell phone location information. I am familiar with the facts and circumstances set forth below from my participation in the investigation; my review of the investigative file and surveillance camera videos; and from reports of other law enforcement officers involved in the investigation.

Overview

2. Between on or about April 7, 2021 and April 27, 2021, there were eight robberies committed by a suspect wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt, with indicia that it was made by the company Hollister. On or about May 8, 2021, New York City Police Department ("NYPD") Officers stopped and questioned MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON because he matched the description of the suspect and was wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt with the word "Hollister" written on the front. MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON also wore a baseball cap, like the baseball cap worn by the suspect in some of the

¹ Because the purpose of this Complaint is to set forth only those facts necessary to establish probable cause to arrest, I have not described all the relevant facts and circumstances of which I am aware.

eight robberies. The NYPD Officers followed MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON into the lobby of a residential building located at 94-05 35th Avenue Queens, New York (the “GUZMAN BRETON Residence”). After questioning, NYPD officers observed MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON approach apartment A8 with a set of keys and use the keys to enter the apartment.² I have reviewed the body-worn camera footage of the NYPD’s questioning of MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON. An image taken from the body-worn camera footage is pictured below.



The April 7 Robbery

3. On or about April 7, 2021, at approximately 9:30 p.m., an individual entered a market located at 91-24 Corona Avenue, Queens, New York 11373. The perpetrator went

² Law enforcement data bases indicate that the tenant of the apartment is Freddy Cordero. Freddy Cordero’s name is also listed on the door of the apartment. Public source records indicate that Manuel Guzman Breton is associated with 94-05 35th Avenue, Queens, though not specifically with Apartment A8.

behind the cash register, displayed a boxcutter, and demanded money from a store employee. The perpetrator fled on foot with approximately \$1,000. The perpetrator wore a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front and a white tag or patch on the back.

4. Images taken from the surveillance videos depicting the perpetrator are below.



5. I have reviewed surveillance video from the GUZMAN BRETON Residence on or about April 7, 2021. The GUZMAN BRETON Residence is approximately one mile, about a 20-minute walk, from 91-24 Corona Avenue. At approximately 11:15 p.m.³ on or about April 7, 2021, video surveillance of the lobby in the GUZMAN BRETON Residence captures an individual whom I believe to be MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON entering the building wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt, with “Hollister” written on the front. The size and build match the perpetrator from the surveillance video of the April 7 robbery. I believe that MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON turned the hooded sweatshirt inside out to commit the robbery. An image taken from the surveillance video from the GUZMAN

³ I understand from speaking with building management that the timestamps on the surveillance footage from the Defendant’s Residence are approximately 18 minutes behind real time.

BRETON Residence is below.



The April 10 Robbery

6. On or about April 10, 2021, at approximately 10:10 p.m., an individual entered a bodega located at 41-70 74th Street, Queens, New York 11373. The perpetrator went behind the counter, displayed a boxcutter-style knife, and demanded money from a store employee. The perpetrator removed approximately \$500 from the register and approximately \$767 from the store employee and fled on foot. The perpetrator wore a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front and a white tag or patch on the back.

7. Images taken from the surveillance videos depicting the perpetrator are below.



8. I have reviewed surveillance of the GUZMAN BRETON Residence from on or about April 10, 2021. The GUZMAN BRETON Residence is approximately 1.3 miles, about a thirty-minute walk, from the bodega located at 41-70 74th Street. At approximately 10:48 p.m. on or about April 10, 2021, video surveillance of the lobby in the GUZMAN BRETON Residence captures an individual whom I believe to be MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON entering the building wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt, with “Hollister” written on the front. I believe that MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON turned the hooded sweatshirt inside out to commit the robbery. The size and build match the perpetrator from the surveillance video of the April 10 robbery. An image taken from the surveillance video from the GUZMAN BRETON Residence is below.



The April 12 Robbery

9. On or about April 12, 2021, at approximately 9:15 p.m., an individual entered a bodega located at 103-01 Astoria Boulevard, Queens, New York 11369. The perpetrator went behind the counter, displayed a knife, and demanded money from a store employee. The perpetrator removed approximately \$1,200 from the register and fled on foot. The perpetrator wore a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front and a white tag

or patch on the back.

10. I have reviewed surveillance videos that depict these events, images from which are below.



11. I have reviewed surveillance of the GUZMAN BRETON Residence from on or about April 12, 2021. The GUZMAN BRETON Residence is approximately nine-tenths of a mile, about a twenty-minute walk, from the bodega located at 103-01 Astoria Boulevard. At approximately 9:57 p.m. on or about April 12, 2021, video surveillance of the lobby in the GUZMAN BRETON Residence captures an individual whom I believe to be MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON entering the building wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt, with "Hollister" written on the front. I believe that MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON turned the hooded sweatshirt inside out to commit the robbery. The size and build match the perpetrator from the surveillance video of the April 12 robbery. An image taken from the surveillance video from the GUZMAN BRETON Residence is below.



The April 16 Robbery

12. On or about April 16, 2021, at approximately 12:05 a.m., an individual entered a grocery store located at 68-10 Roosevelt Avenue, Queens, New York 11377. The perpetrator went behind the counter, displayed a boxcutter, and demanded money from a store employee. The perpetrator swung the boxcutter, causing injuries to the employee's hands, and a struggle ensued. The perpetrator removed approximately \$640 from the register and fled on foot. Although the robbery was not captured by surveillance cameras in the grocery store, nearby surveillance cameras captured the perpetrator near the location of the robbery approximately 20 minutes before the robbery. The perpetrator is wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front and a baseball cap.

13. I have reviewed surveillance videos that depict these events, images

from which are below.



14. I have reviewed surveillance of the GUZMAN BRETON Residence from on or about April 16, 2021. The GUZMAN BRETON Residence is approximately 1.5 miles, about a 30-minute walk from the grocery store located at 68-10 Roosevelt Avenue. At approximately 1:09 a.m. on or about the early morning of April 17, 2021, video surveillance of the lobby in the GUZMAN BRETON Residence captures an individual whom I believe to be MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON entering the building wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt, with “Hollister” written on the front and a baseball cap. I believe that MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON turned the hooded sweatshirt inside out to commit the robbery. The size and build match the perpetrator from the surveillance video of the April 16 robbery. An image taken from the surveillance video from the GUZMAN

BRETON Residence is below.



The April 19 Robbery

15. On or about April 19, 2021, at approximately 12:15 a.m., an individual entered a bodega located at 40-12 Hampton Street, Queens, New York, 11373. The perpetrator went behind the cash register, displayed a knife, and demanded money from a store employee. The perpetrator removed approximately \$1,300 from the register and fled on foot. The perpetrator wore a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front and ripped jeans. In addition, less than one hour before the robbery, nearby surveillance cameras captured the perpetrator on a bench near the robbery location. The perpetrator's face is visible in the surveillance footage. The perpetrator is wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front and ripped jeans.

16. I have reviewed surveillance videos that depict these events, images

from which are below.



17. I have reviewed surveillance of the GUZMAN BRETON Residence from on or about April 19, 2021. The GUZMAN BRETON Residence is approximately eight tenths of a mile, about a 17-minute walk, from the bodega located at 40-12 Hampton Street. At approximately 1:49 a.m. on or about April 19, 2021, video surveillance of the lobby in the GUZMAN BRETON Residence captures an individual whom I believe to be MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON entering the building wearing ripped jeans. The size and build match the perpetrator from the surveillance video of the April 19 robbery. An image

taken from the surveillance video from the GUZMAN BRETON Residence is below.



The April 25 Robbery

18. On or about April 25, 2021, at approximately 10:29 p.m., an individual entered a laundromat located at 42-64 81st Street, Queens, New York 11373. The perpetrator went behind the cash register, displayed a knife, and demanded money from a store employee. The perpetrator removed approximately \$420 from the register and fled on foot. The perpetrator wore a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front. In addition, less than one hour before the robbery, nearby surveillance cameras captured the perpetrator near the location of the robbery. The perpetrator is wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front.

19. I have reviewed surveillance videos that depict these events, images

from which are below.



20. I have reviewed surveillance of the GUZMAN BRETON Residence from on or about April 25, 2021. The GUZMAN BRETON Residence is approximately 1.1 miles, about a 23-minute walk, from the laundromat located at 42-64 81st Street. At approximately 1:21 a.m. on or about April 25, 2021, video surveillance of the lobby in the GUZMAN BRETON Residence captures an individual whom I believe to be MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON entering the building wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front. The size and build match the perpetrator from the surveillance video of the April 25 robbery. An image taken from the surveillance video from the GUZMAN

BRETON Residence is below.



The April 26 Robbery

21. On or about April 26, 2021, at approximately 10:30 p.m., an individual entered a laundromat located at 84-11 Elmhurst Avenue, Queens, New York, 11373. The perpetrator went behind the cash register, displayed a boxcutter-style knife, and demanded money from a store employee. The store employee attempted to take the knife from the perpetrator and a struggle ensued, causing cuts to the employee's hands. The perpetrator removed approximately \$400 from the register and fled on foot. The perpetrator wore a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt bearing the word "Hollister" in red lettering on the front and a green baseball cap.

22. I have reviewed surveillance videos that depict these events, images

from which are below.



The April 27 Robbery

23. On or about April 27, 2021, at approximately 12:55 a.m., an individual entered a shop located at 89-19 37th Avenue, Queens, New York 11372. The perpetrator went behind the cash register, displayed a knife, and demanded money from a store employee. The store employee attempted to stop the perpetrator and a struggle ensued, causing a laceration to the employee's hand. The perpetrator removed approximately \$500-\$1,000 from the register and approximately \$100 from the employee's wallet and fled on foot. The perpetrator wore a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front. In addition, less than one hour before the robbery, nearby surveillance cameras captured the perpetrator near the location of the robbery. The perpetrator's face is visible in the surveillance footage. The perpetrator is wearing a dark-colored, hooded sweatshirt with lettering on the front and a baseball cap.

24. I have reviewed surveillance videos that depict these events, images from which are below.



25. I have reviewed surveillance of the GUZMAN BRETON Residence from on or about April 27, 2021. The GUZMAN BRETON Residence is approximately four tenths of a mile, about an 8-minute walk, from the shop located at 89-19 37th Avenue. At approximately 1:03 a.m. on or about April 27, 2021, video surveillance of the lobby in the GUZMAN BRETON Residence captures an individual whom I believe to be MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON entering the building wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt and baseball cap. I believe that MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON turned the hooded sweatshirt inside out to commit the April 27 robbery. The size and build match the perpetrator from the surveillance video of the April 26 and 27 robberies, which occurred approximately an hour and a half apart on the same night. An image taken from the surveillance video from the GUZMAN BRETON Residence is below.



26. Based on the foregoing facts, I submit that there is probable cause to believe that MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON was the perpetrator of the April 7, 10, 12, 16, 19, 25, 26, and 27 robberies.

WHEREFORE, your deponent respectfully requests an arrest warrant for the defendant MANUEL GUZMAN BRETON so that he may be dealt with according to law.

Sealing Request

I request that the Court issue an order sealing, until further order of the Court, all papers submitted in support of this application, including the affidavit and arrest warrant. Based upon my training and experience, premature disclosure of the contents of this affidavit and related documents will seriously jeopardize the investigation, including by giving the defendant an opportunity to flee from prosecution, destroy or tamper with evidence and change patterns of behavior.

**JENNIFER
CARDILLO** Digitally signed by
JENNIFER CARDILLO
Date: 2021.05.18
09:46:20 -04'00'

JENNIFER CARDILLO
Special Agent
ATF

Sworn to before me by telephone this
18th day of May, 2021

Ramon E. Reyes, Jr.

THE HONORABLE RAMON E. REYES, JR.
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK