

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Northern District of California

United States of America
v.
Robert Cordova,
a/k/a "Robert Cordona,"
Defendant(s)

Case No. CR 25-70041-MAG

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of November 22, 2024 in the county of Santa Clara in the Northern District of California, the defendant(s) violated:

Table with 2 columns: Code Section, Offense Description. Row 1: 18 U.S.C. § 2114(a), Robbery of a United States Mail Carrier. Row 2: 18 U.S.C. §§ 111(a) and (b), Assaulting a Federal Employee.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

Please see the affidavit of U.S. Postal Inspector Thang Bui.

Continued on the attached sheet.

/s/ Thang Bui w/permission by VKD

Complainant's signature

Thang Bui, U.S. Postal Inspector

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me by telephone.

Date: 01/15/2025

Virginia K. DeMarchi
Judge's signature

City and state: San Jose, California

Virginia K. DeMarchi, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT

I, Thang Bui, a US Postal Inspector with the US Postal Inspection Service, being duly sworn, hereby depose and state the following:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. This affidavit is submitted in support of a request for the issuance of a criminal complaint against ROBERT CORDOVA, also known as “Robert Cordona.” (Robert Cordova will be referred to as CORDOVA throughout this affidavit.) As described in this affidavit, there is probable cause to believe that CORDOVA was involved in the attempted robbery and assault of a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier on November 22, 2024, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2114(a) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 111(a) and (b). Because this affidavit is submitted for the purpose of obtaining an arrest warrant, I have not included each and every fact known to me in this case. Rather, I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to support probable cause for the issuance of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant for Robert CORDOVA. For the reasons set forth below, I believe there is probable cause that Robert CORDOVA has committed the foregoing violation of federal law.

2. I am a Postal Inspector with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and I have been employed with the USPIS since August 2006. I am currently assigned to the External Crimes & Mail Theft Team in San Jose, CA which investigates violent crimes directed at US Postal Service employees, such as robberies, and the theft of United States Mail and property. My team’s current area of responsibility includes the Counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and San Mateo.

3. I have received training and investigated cases involving violent crimes, financial crimes, mail theft, computer and communications-related crimes, identity theft, and narcotics. I

have undergone twelve weeks of Postal Inspector Basic Training in Potomac, MD. This training involved the investigation of violent crimes, mail theft, identity theft, drug trafficking, and fraud. I have received formal instruction from United States Postal Inspectors and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agents who have done extensive work in investigating robberies, identity theft, mail fraud, mail theft, and burglaries.

4. During my employment as a federal law enforcement officer, I have gained experience by functioning as the case agent in numerous criminal investigations involving robberies, identity theft, theft of U.S. Mail, financial investigations, post office burglaries, assaults and threats, and postal money orders. I have participated in numerous interviews of suspects, witnesses, and victims. I have authored numerous search warrants in furtherance of mail theft and identity theft investigations.

5. I am an investigator and law enforcement officer of the United States. I am empowered by law to conduct investigations, to execute search warrants, and to make arrests for offenses of Federal law, including robberies, assaults, theft of mail, identity theft, and burglaries. I am familiar with the facts as set forth herein from my personal observations, interviews with victims, observations by other investigators and law enforcement officers as related to me in conversation and in written reports, and from documents and other evidence obtained as a result of this investigation.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

6. On November 22, 2024, the San Jose Police Department (SJPD), informed me that a U.S. Postal Service (USPS) letter carrier had been robbed and assaulted by a suspect. The suspect was arrested and in custody. The incident occurred near the intersection of Taylor Street and 13th Street in San Jose, California.

7. I arrived at the vicinity of Taylor Street and 13th Street at approximately 12:15 p.m. on 11/22/24. I observed a parked postal delivery truck and mail scattered on the ground next to the right side of the truck. I was informed the suspect's name was Robert CORDOVA. SJPD officers had found CORDOVA in the backyard of a house close to where the robbery occurred. CORDOVA had apparently fled from officers by climbing the fences around the residential properties adjacent to the assault. After CORDOVA was arrested, the victim positively identified CORDOVA as their assailant based on an in-person field identification. The victim stated that they recognized CORDOVA by his bald head and face.

8. I reviewed surveillance footage of the robbery and assault gathered from a surveillance camera which had been operating in the vicinity of the assault. The camera operated on motion detection recording at approximately 15 second intervals; as a result, it did not capture the whole incident continuously, but recorded video footage in increments. I confirmed with the camera's owner that the time shown on the surveillance videos was accurate.

9. The first surveillance video depicted an individual wearing a white sweatshirt and black pants walking in a northbound direction on the sidewalk on N. 13th Street. While walking, the individual was carrying an item in his right hand. The individual walked up to the open window of the right side of the parked postal delivery truck and inserted his whole upper body into the truck through the window. This video segment ended at 11:22:53 a.m., with the individual's body still inside of the truck. The video did not depict any mail on the ground near the truck.

10. In the next video, which started at 11:23:09 a.m., I observed the same individual on top of someone and punching that person several times. The individual's white sweatshirt was

riding up during the assault and exposed a red shirt underneath. This video ended at 11:23:23 a.m. with the assault still ongoing. The video showed mail scattered around the truck.

11. The last video, which started at 11:23:44 a.m., showed the individual holding a white sweatshirt in his hands and wearing a red shirt. The individual kicked the person on the ground. The person on the ground was wearing a light blue shirt and dark pants. After kicking the person on the ground, the individual went to the postal truck and retrieved an item from inside of the mail truck, and then began to cross the street. The video shows that the individual had on dark pants and the pants had a white/light vertical stripe going down the leg. This video ended at 11:23:58 a.m.

12. I subsequently interviewed the victim letter carrier at the hospital emergency room where they had been taken for treatment of their injuries. The victim's face was visibly bruised and contused and they had a large swollen black eye on the left side of their face. The victim was diagnosed with a broken nose and a fractured left orbital socket. There were blood stains on the victim's shirt, pants, and light blue sweatshirt.

13. The victim letter carrier told me that at about 11 a.m., they had parked their postal delivery truck near 689 N. 13th Street and were standing at the back door sorting parcels for delivery. The front passenger window was open, and they had stored some mail in letter trays on the table next to the driver's seat for imminent delivery. While standing at the back of the truck, they felt the truck wiggle.

14. After more wiggling of the truck, they looked around the right rear corner of the truck and saw a man leaning in the window of the truck, with his whole upper torso in the truck. The victim walked up to the man and touched his shoulder and asked him what he was doing. The man immediately got out of the truck, turned, and punched the victim letter carrier in the

face. The man then took the victim to the ground and punched the victim in the face and head repeatedly. The man also attempted to gouge the victim's eyes with his hands.

15. The victim letter carrier told me that they feared for their life during the encounter because the man was on top of them and punching them in the face, and the man was physically larger than them. In addition, the victim letter carrier stated that the man told them that he had a gun and lifted his shirt to expose his waist area, though the victim letter carrier did not see a gun. The victim stated that the man was wearing a mask. The mask was dark in color and covered the suspect's mouth. The victim stated that at some point the mask was removed and they could see the man's face. The victim also remembered seeing clothing on the man that was both white and red.

16. Eventually the man got off the victim and began to walk away. The victim yelled to nearby people to call 911. The victim told me that they were not holding any mail or a mail satchel when the man confronted them. The victim said the mail and the satchel on the ground came from the inside the truck and was scattered due to the commotion from the fighting.

17. Following CORDOVA's arrest, I saw that CORDOVA was wearing a white hooded sweatshirt and black pants with a white vertical line going down the leg consistent with the appearance of the assailant in the surveillance videos, though he was not wearing a red shirt.

CONCLUSION

18. Based upon the above-summarized facts, there is probable cause to believe that Robert CORDOVA violated 18 U.S.C. § 2114(a) and 18 U.S.C. § 111(a) and (b) and caused bodily injury to a U.S. Postal Service letter carrier. Accordingly, I respectfully request the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of Robert CORDOVA.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thang Bui w/permission by VKD

Thang Bui
U.S. Postal Inspector
United States Postal Inspection Service

Sworn to before me over the telephone and signed by me pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 and 4(d) on this 15 day of January, 2025.


HON. VIRGINIA K. DEMARCHI
United States Magistrate Judge

DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT

BY: [X] COMPLAINT [] INFORMATION [] INDICTMENT [] SUPERSEDING

OFFENSE CHARGED

- 18 U.S.C. § 2114(a)—Robbery of a United States Mail Carrier
18 U.S.C. §§ 111(a) and (b) – Assaulting a Federal Employee
[] Petty
[] Minor
[] Misdemeanor
[X] Felony

PENALTY: 18 U.S.C. § 2114(a) maximum penalties: 25 years of imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, 5 years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEFENDANT - U.S.

Robert Cordova

DISTRICT COURT NUMBER

CR 25-70041-MAG

PROCEEDING

Name of Complainant Agency, or Person (& Title, if any)

United States Postal Inspection Service

[X] person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court, give name of court

Santa Clara County Court

[] this person/proceeding is transferred from another district per (circle one) FRCrp 20, 21, or 40. Show District

[] this is a reprosecution of charges previously dismissed which were dismissed on motion of:

[] U.S. ATTORNEY [] DEFENSE

SHOW DOCKET NO.

[] this prosecution relates to a pending case involving this same defendant

MAGISTRATE CASE NO.

[] prior proceedings or appearance(s) before U.S. Magistrate regarding this defendant were recorded under

Name and Office of Person

Furnishing Information on this form Ismail J. Ramsey

[X] U.S. Attorney [] Other U.S. Agency

Name of Assistant U.S.

Attorney (if assigned) Neal C. Hong

DEFENDANT

IS NOT IN CUSTODY

Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.

- 1) [] If not detained give date any prior summons was served on above charges
2) [] Is a Fugitive
3) [] Is on Bail or Release from (show District)

IS IN CUSTODY

- 4) [] On this charge
5) [] On another conviction [] Federal [] State
6) [X] Awaiting trial on other charges

If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution Santa Clara County Court

Has detainer been filed? [] Yes [X] No

If "Yes" give date filed

DATE OF ARREST 11/22/24

Or... if Arresting Agency & Warrant were not

DATE TRANSFERRED TO U.S. CUSTODY

[] This report amends AO 257 previously submitted

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS

PROCESS:

[] SUMMONS [] NO PROCESS* [X] WARRANT

Bail Amount:

If Summons, complete following:

[] Arraignment [] Initial Appearance

Defendant Address:

* Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment

Date/Time: Before Judge:

Comments: