
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon. James B. Clark, III, U.S.M.J.
v. :
: Mag. No. 18-3001
: FRANKLIN A. GRULLON :
: **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, Todd Roth, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Task Force Officer with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B


Continued on the attached page and made a part hereof:



Task Force Officer Todd Roth
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,
February 13, 2018 in Newark, New Jersey

HONORABLE JAMES B. CLARK, III
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE



Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

On or about February 11, 2018, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

FRANKLIN A. GRULLON

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with others to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, contrary to Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

ATTACHMENT B

I, Todd Roth, am a Task Force Officer with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"). I am fully familiar with the facts set forth herein based on my own investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents, and items of evidence. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and part. Because this Complaint is being submitted for the sole purpose of establishing probable cause to support the issuance of a complaint, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

1. Law enforcement has been investigating a drug trafficking organization (the "DTO") operating in New Jersey, New York, and elsewhere.

2. During the course of the investigation, law enforcement learned that defendant Franklin Grullon ("GRULLON") was supposed to meet with an individual in or around the tristate area to collect a shipment of narcotics. As a result, law enforcement conducted physical and electronic surveillance of GRULLON.

3. On or about February 11, 2018 at approximately 5:30 p.m., law enforcement observed GRULLON driving a New York City taxi cab (the "Taxi") from the Bronx, New York, through the District of New Jersey. While in the District of New Jersey, law enforcement observed that GRULLON was the only occupant of the Taxi. Law enforcement continued physical surveillance of GRULLON, and watched as he drove the Taxi to a truck stop and gas station in Pennsylvania (the "Gas Station").

4. At approximately 8:00 p.m., law enforcement watched as GRULLON exited the Taxi and met with an individual ("Individual-1") at the Gas Station area in a fast food restaurant. A short time later, law enforcement observed GRULLON leave the restaurant and move the Taxi from the gas station area to a tractor trailer rest area where several tractor trailers were parked. After moving the Taxi, GRULLON rejoined Individual-1 at the restaurant. At approximately 8:30 p.m., law enforcement observed Individual-1 and GRULLON exit the restaurant and walk towards a tractor trailer located in the tractor trailer rest area.

5. Law enforcement observed Individual-1 enter a tractor trailer parked in the rest area (the "Tractor Trailer"). Minutes later, law enforcement observed GRULLON walk over to the Taxi and enter the Taxi. GRULLON then drove the Taxi close to the Tractor Trailer and stopped for approximately one minute. A short time later, law enforcement observed Individual-1 seated inside the Taxi with GRULLON. Individual-1 was seated in the front-passenger seat of the Taxi

and GRULLON was seated in the driver's seat. Law enforcement then observed GRULLON drive the Taxi to a location near the gas station area. Once there, Individual-1 exited the Taxi.

6. After Individual-1 exited the Taxi, law enforcement watched as GRULLON, who was the only occupant of the Taxi, left the Gas Station and drove back towards the District of New Jersey. However, because of poor driving conditions, and heavy fog, GRULLON aborted his trip and pulled the Taxi into a Hotel parking lot in White Haven, Pennsylvania (the "Hotel").

7. Law enforcement watched as GRULLON entered a hotel room at the Hotel. Law enforcement then set up surveillance on the Taxi, which was parked in the Hotel's parking lot. Law enforcement met with representatives of the Hotel and learned that GRULLON had paid for the hotel room in cash.

8. Shortly thereafter, law enforcement knocked on GRULLON's hotel room door, explained they were law enforcement, and asked to speak with GRULLON. GRULLON agreed to speak with law enforcement and told them that he had traveled to the area to drop a passenger off at a nearby mall. Law enforcement then asked GRULLON for consent to search the Taxi, and GRULLON provided written consent to search the Taxi. Law enforcement also called in a certified law enforcement canine to perform a walk around of the Taxi. The certified law enforcement canine alerted to the presence of narcotics in the truck area of the Taxi.

9. Based on GRULLON's written consent, law enforcement performed a search of the Taxi and located two bags in the trunk area of the Taxi. One of the bags contained approximately 11 kilograms of a substance that was packaged in a manner consistent with narcotics. The second bag contained approximately 13 kilograms of a substance that was package in a manner consistent with narcotics. After making this discovery, law enforcement arrested GRULLON.

10. Subsequent preliminary laboratory testing revealed that the two bags contained narcotics. More specifically, the substances tested positive for the presence of cocaine.