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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

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**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Honorable James B. Clark, III  
v. : Mag. No. 20-12408  
CEDRIC LEWIS : **Filed Under Seal**

I, Michael Meawad, the undersigned complainant 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 Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol,  
Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and that this complaint is based on the  
following facts:

**SEE ATTACHMENT B**

*Michael Meawad*

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Special Agent Michael Meawad  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

Special Agent Meawad attested  
to this Complaint by telephone  
pursuant to FRCP 4.1(b)(2)(A) on  
October 20, 2020 in the  
District of New Jersey

*James B. Clark, III*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Honorable James B. Clark, III  
United States Magistrate Judge

**ATTACHMENT A**

**COUNT ONE**

(Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a Convicted Felon)

On or about September 20, 2020, in Essex County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

**CEDRIC LEWIS,**

knowing that he had previously been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex County, did knowingly possess in and affecting commerce a firearm and ammunition—namely, one .300 caliber AM-15 rifle, bearing serial number 16039039, and thirty (30) rounds of .300 caliber ammunition.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

**COUNT TWO**

(Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances)

On or about September 20, 2020, in Essex County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

**CEDRIC LEWIS,**

did knowingly and intentionally possess with the intent to distribute a quantity of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of heroin, a Schedule I controlled substance, and a quantity of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine base, a Schedule II controlled substance.

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C).

**COUNT THREE**

(Possession of Firearms by a Convicted Felon)

On or about September 25, 2020, in Essex County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

**CEDRIC LEWIS,**

knowing that he had previously been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex County, did knowingly possess in and affecting commerce firearms and ammunition—namely, one 9mm Glock pistol, bearing serial number SLX467; and one .40 caliber Smith and Wesson pistol, bearing serial number ZAY342.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

**COUNT FOUR**

(Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances)

On or about September 25, 2020, in Essex County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

**CEDRIC LEWIS,**

did knowingly and intentionally possess with the intent to distribute a quantity of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of heroin, a Schedule I controlled substance, and a quantity of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine base, a Schedule II controlled substance.

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C).

## **COUNT FIVE**

(Possession of Firearms in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime)

On or about September 25, 2020, in Essex County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

**CEDRIC LEWIS,**

in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime for which the defendant may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, specifically, the possession with intent to distribute controlled substances charged in Count Four of this Complaint, did knowingly possess two firearms—namely, one 9mm Glock pistol, bearing serial number SLX467; and one .40 caliber Smith and Wesson pistol, bearing serial number ZAY342.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(i).

## **ATTACHMENT B**

I, Michael Meawad, am a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms ("ATF"). I have knowledge of the following facts based upon both my investigation and discussions with other law enforcement personnel and others. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the sole purpose of establishing probable cause to support the issuance of a complaint, I have not included each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where statements of others are set forth herein, these statements are related in substance and in part. 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.

### **Surveillance of Cedric Lewis**

1. During the week of September 6, 2020, law enforcement set up stationary surveillance in the area of Frelinghuysen Avenue and Van Vechten Street in Newark, New Jersey in response to numerous complaints of open-air drug transactions and an increase in violent crimes involving gang members.

2. During that week, law enforcement recognized that one of the men in the area of Frelinghuysen Avenue and Van Vechten Street was Cedric Lewis, a/k/a "Smack," a/k/a "Smash" ("LEWIS"). Officers observed LEWIS approach several men who had engaged in hand-to-hand narcotics transactions and converse with them. Thereafter, LEWIS and a few of the men walked away from a larger group, at which time LEWIS removed an unknown item from his waistband area and handed each man an item in exchange for currency. Based on these observations, law enforcement believed that LEWIS had just supplied several street-level narcotics dealers with controlled dangerous substances in exchange for currency.

3. Based on these observations and the resulting belief that LEWIS supplied street-level narcotics dealers with narcotics, law enforcement initiated an investigation of LEWIS. Thereafter, law enforcement located LEWIS's residence on Lackawanna Plaza in Bloomfield, New Jersey (the "Bloomfield Residence").

4. Law enforcement reviewed surveillance footage from the Bloomfield Residence's parking garage and entrance from several dates in September 2020 and the video surveillance footage depicted LEWIS as he entered the Bloomfield Residence numerous times in the late evening and depart from the Bloomfield Residence numerous times during the morning hours, which confirmed that LEWIS resided at the Bloomfield Residence.

5. Further, law enforcement surveilled the Bloomfield Residence area, with a focus on the Bloomfield Residence's garage. During the course of law

enforcement's surveillance, law enforcement observed LEWIS in the garage area as LEWIS swiped/allowed different cars to drive into the Bloomfield Residence's garage. Law enforcement obtained registration information for several of these vehicles through the Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV"), which revealed that the searched cars were rental vehicles. Utilization of rental cars is a common means by which to avoid detection, which is common among participants of narcotics schemes.

### **The September 20, 2020 Incident**

6. On or about September 20, 2020, at approximately 11:28 p.m., law enforcement received information that a grey Jeep with tinted windows (the "grey Jeep") was in the area of Durant Street and Newark Avenue in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and that three men were inside of the grey Jeep carrying guns. Law enforcement received specific information that an individual known as "Smash" possessed a rifle.

7. Law enforcement responded to this call and located the grey Jeep. Three men exited the grey Jeep, after which a law enforcement officer approached them and frisked them for weapons with negative results.

8. After the frisks, a law enforcement officer approached the grey Jeep, used a hand-held flashlight to illuminate the grey Jeep's interior, and observed what appeared to be a short-barreled rifle in plain view on the passenger's side floorboard. After this observation, the Jeep's occupants fled on foot.

9. Subsequently viewed body worn camera ("BWC") footage from the September 20th Incident revealed that one of the men who exited the Jeep was LEWIS. This video footage revealed that LEWIS was wearing a green hooded sweatshirt, dark-colored pants, and a black baseball hat.

10. Subsequently viewed surveillance footage from the Bloomfield Residence revealed that on September 20, 2020, at approximately 10:27 p.m., LEWIS left the area wearing a green hooded sweatshirt, dark-colored pants, and a black baseball hat, and he carried a Louis Vuitton shoulder bag. In addition, this video revealed that, as LEWIS walked, he appeared to be concealing a large item in the thigh area of his pants. Further, this video revealed that LEWIS and several other individuals entered a green Jeep Cherokee, bearing temporary New Jersey registration V700245 (the "green Jeep").

11. Subsequently viewed surveillance footage from the area of Van Vechten Street and Hanford Street revealed that on September 20, 2020, at approximately 10:51 p.m., LEWIS exited the green Jeep—still wearing a green hooded sweatshirt, dark-colored pants, and a black baseball hat, and still carrying a Louis Vuitton shoulder bag—and entered the front passenger seat of the grey Jeep. As LEWIS walked between the vehicles, he continued to conceal



a large item in the thigh area of his pants.

12. On September 22, 2020, law enforcement lawfully searched the grey Jeep and recovered, among other items, the following items: an Anderson AM-15 assault rifle (“Firearm-1”); one 30-round magazine (“the Ammunition”); approximately 118 green jugs containing suspected crack cocaine, which were recovered inside a Louis Vuitton shoulder bag; approximately 15 glassine envelopes of suspected heroin; \$754.20 in United States currency; 30 rounds of .300 caliber ammunition; and three cellular phones.

13. Additional video surveillance footage from the Bloomfield Residence revealed that on September 21, 2020, at approximately 1:03 a.m., LEWIS returned to the Bloomfield Residence while he again wore the same clothing. However, LEWIS no longer carried the Louis Vuitton shoulder bag and LEWIS no longer appeared to be concealing anything in the thigh area of his pants.

#### **The September 25, 2020 Search of the Bloomfield Residence**

14. On September 25, 2020, law enforcement lawfully searched the Bloomfield Residence and recovered the following, among other items: one 9 millimeter pistol with an extended magazine (“Firearm-2”) and one .40 caliber pistol with an extended magazine (“Firearm-3”); drug paraphernalia and a scale; a green hooded sweatshirt, black sweatpants, and a black baseball hat; \$800.00 in United States currency; one clear plastic bag containing a distribution quantity of suspected crack cocaine; several bundles of distribution quantities of suspected heroin; 9 suspected Xanax pills; and several items and documents containing LEWIS’s personal information.

15. Firearm-1, Firearm-2, and Firearm-3 (collectively “the Firearms”), and the Ammunition were manufactured outside of the State of New Jersey, and thus traveled in interstate commerce prior to LEWIS’s possession of those items in New Jersey on September 20, 2020 and on September 25, 2020.

16. The Firearms were tested and found to be operable—that is, they were each deemed capable of, and designed to, expel a projectile.

17. On or about October 19, 2018, LEWIS was convicted of the following crimes in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex County: Unlawful Possession of a Handgun, a second degree crime, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b), a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year; Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance on or near School Property, a third degree crime, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7A, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year. For these offenses, LEWIS was sentenced to three years’ imprisonment.