

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

\_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_

United States of America

v.

)  
)  
)  
)  
)  
)

Case No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Defendant*

ARREST WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

**YOU ARE COMMANDED** to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay  
(*name of person to be arrested*) \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

- ☐ Indictment      ☐ Superseding Indictment      ☐ Information      ☐ Superseding Information      ☐ Complaint  
☐ Probation Violation Petition      ☐ Supervised Release Violation Petition      ☐ Violation Notice      ☐ Order of the Court

This offense is briefly described as follows:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Issuing officer's signature*

City and state: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

Return

This warrant was received on (*date*) \_\_\_\_\_ , and the person was arrested on (*date*) \_\_\_\_\_  
at (*city and state*) \_\_\_\_\_ .

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Arresting officer's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

**This second page contains personal identifiers provided for law-enforcement use only  
and therefore should not be filed in court with the executed warrant unless under seal.**

*(Not for Public Disclosure)*

Name of defendant/offender: \_\_\_\_\_

Known aliases: \_\_\_\_\_

Last known residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior addresses to which defendant/offender may still have ties: \_\_\_\_\_

Last known employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Last known telephone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security number: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Hair: \_\_\_\_\_ Eyes: \_\_\_\_\_

Scars, tattoos, other distinguishing marks: \_\_\_\_\_

History of violence, weapons, drug use: \_\_\_\_\_

Known family, friends, and other associates (*name, relation, address, phone number*): \_\_\_\_\_

FBI number: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete description of auto: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigative agency and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and telephone numbers (office and cell) of pretrial services or probation officer (*if applicable*): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last contact with pretrial services or probation officer (*if applicable*): \_\_\_\_\_

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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\_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_

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Case No.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
*Defendant(s)*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ in the

\_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_, the defendant(s) violated:

*Code Section*

*Offense Description*

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

☐ Continued on the attached sheet.



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Complainant's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Judge's signature*

City and state: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

1. This affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint charging Luis Angel Ruiz, with committing violations of 18 U.S.C. § 922 (q)(3)(a) Discharging a Firearm in a School Zone and 18 U.S.C. § 922(k) Possession of a Firearm with a Removed, Obliterated, or Altered Serial Number.
2. I am a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Task Force Officer (TFO) currently assigned to the FBI Safe Streets Gang Task Force (SSGTF). I have been an FBI TFO since September 2023. In that capacity, I assist with federal investigations of criminal organizations, violent repeat offenders, and other federal drug and firearm related crimes. Additionally, I am assigned to the Las Cruces Police Department (LCPD) Street Crimes Unit. I have been an LCPD Officer since February 2015. As an FBI TFO, I am authorized to investigate crimes involving violations of the Firearms Act.
3. I am familiar with the facts and circumstances of the investigation of Luis Angel Ruiz. The information set forth in this affidavit has been derived from my own investigation or communicated to me by other sworn law enforcement officers or reliable sources. Since this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing an arrest warrant, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that Luis Angel Ruiz has committed acts in violation of United States Code 18 U.S.C. § 922(q)(3)(a) Discharging a Firearm in a School Zone that occurred on or about September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and United States Code 18 U.S.C. § 922(k) Possession of a Firearm with a Removed, Obliterated, or Altered Serial Number that occurred on or about September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
4. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at approximately 2039 hours, officers with the Las Cruces Police Department (LCPD) were dispatched to the address of 1905 Nevada Ave in Las Cruces, New Mexico at Young Park in reference to a call for shots being fired. No injuries were reported. During this investigation, a witness

stated a male with the moniker “Artist” was possibly involved. Numerous shell casings were recovered from the scene, which was located in the middle of the parking lot of the park.

5. A short time after the call for the gunshots, a separate call came in near Hermosa Heights Elementary School for two males walking through the neighborhood holding a rifle. An LCPD sergeant made contact with the males, identified as John Anthony Orta and Steven Mendoza. The LCPD sergeant could observe at least one firearm in their possession upon his initial contact. Orta had a black in color Glock 22 handgun chambered in .40 caliber with serial number FPH908 in his waistband. Steven Mendoza had a partially disassembled AR-15 style pistol tucked in his pants.

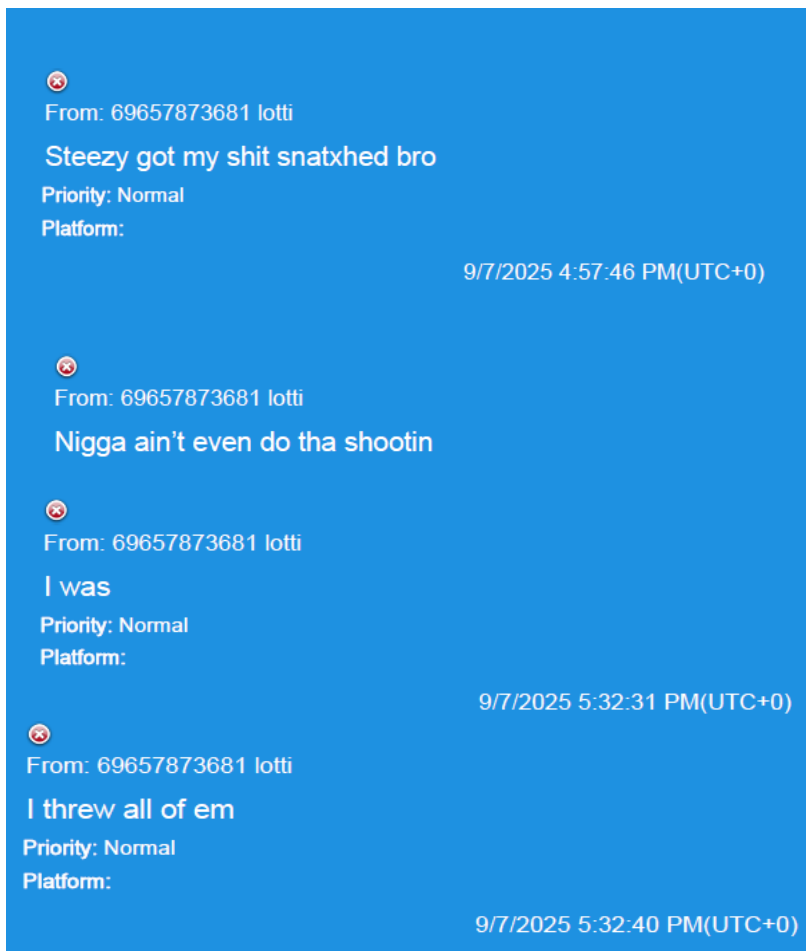


*(Glock 22 handgun located in the waistline of John Anthony Orta on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025)*

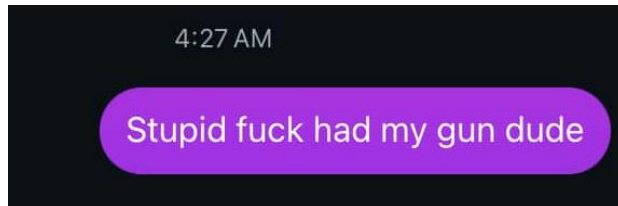


*(AR-15 style pistol located in the pants of Steven Mendoza on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025)*

6. Orta and Mendoza were arrested by LCPD for Negligent Use of a Deadly Weapon (30-7-4(2) NMSA) for being intoxicated while possessing the firearms. They were later both charged with Possession of a Firearm in a School Zone 18 U.S.C. § 922 (q)(2)(a).
7. In furtherance of the investigation into the incident at Young Park, I secured search warrants for the cell phones of Orta and Mendoza. During the search of one of those cell phones, I observed a conversation on Instagram involving numerous individuals, that included Orta, Mendoza, and an account with the username “lottitrophiedup”. During this conversation, the group discusses the incident at Young Park on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The user with the account name “lottitrophiedup” made statements that Orta and Mendoza “ain’t even do tha shootin...I was...I threw all of them”. In the same conversation, “lottitrophiedup” made statements indicating that the firearm Steven Mendoza (aka “Steezy”) was in possession of actually belonged o “lottitrophiedup”.



*(Excerpts from a group conversation on or about September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 on Instagram, retrieved from a forensic download of John Orta's cell phone.)*



*( A message sent by “lottitrophiedup” on Instagram to another user apparently discussing the gun Steven Mendoza was in possession of.)*

I was with them all night we was at young's park and Luis shot in the air and orta so everyone got in the car and drove away and there was some house close by we stopped at for a while then we left with Luis gun and Steven just started shooting it outside my window a lot of times and I got mad and orta and Steven wanted to go to dae dae and I wanted to go to the trailer and they didn't so they said drop them off on the side of the road

*(A screenshot shared to the same group conversation wherein another user states they observed a male named “Luis” shooting at Young Park and that they left with Luis’ gun.)*

8. Based on the content of these messages, I petitioned the Third Judicial District Court for the State of New Mexico for a search warrant for the content of the Instagram account with the username “lottitrophiedup”. After reviewing the content of that account, I was able to determine that the primary owner and operator of the account was identified as Luis Angel Ruiz. This is based on the numerous photographs of Luis Angel Ruiz that show his face and distinct tattoos. Additionally, the user is referred to as “Luis” by multiple users, and also refers to himself as “Luis” in at least one conversation.



*(Photos retrieved from the Instagram account with the username “lottitrophiedup” (top) compared to recent booking photos of the face and tattoos of Luis Angel Ruiz (bottom)).*

9. A further inspection of his Instagram account showed Luis Angel Ruiz to be posting pictures of himself in possession of what appears to be the same AR-15 style pistol with the red bandana that was recovered from Steven Mendoza after the incident at Young Park on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

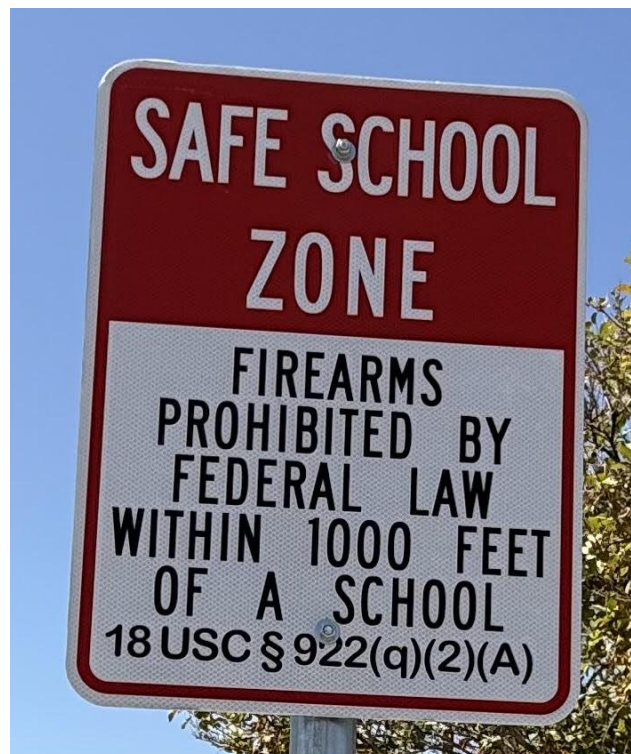




*(Photographs recovered from Luis Ruiz's Instagram account showing him apparently in possession of the same AR-15 style pistol seized from Steven Mendoza on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.)*

10. I observed a conversation on his Instagram account between Luis Angel Ruiz and another user wherein Ruiz is asking the other user what they told to officers about the incident at Young Park. The user assures Ruiz that they did not say anything was related to Ruiz and that the firearm Steven Mendoza had was not the one that was shot at Young Park. I believe this user is attempting to comfort and cover for Ruiz by possibly providing a false statement to officers about the incident.
11. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 I learned that two test-fire casings from the AR-15 style pistol seized from Steven Mendoza on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 were entered into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN). These test-fire casings showed a presumptive match to the spent .223 caliber shell casings recovered from the scene at Young Park on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

12. During this investigation, numerous witnesses were interviewed. During one interview, I spoke to a witness who is personally familiar with Luis Angel Ruiz. This witness stated that they personally observed Luis Angel Ruiz discharge what they believed to be the AR-15 style pistol with the red bandana in the parking lot at Young Park on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
13. Signage has been previously conspicuously posted around the entire perimeter of Young Park indicating it to be a Safe School Zone and that possessing firearms is prohibited and in violation of 18 USC § 922(q)(2)(a).



14. Additionally, the campus and signage for Lynn Middle School, located well within 1000 feet of the crime scene at Young Park, is large and conspicuous.

15. I believe there is probable cause to charge Luis Angel Ruiz with Discharging a Firearm in a School Zone 18 U.S.C. § 922 (q)(3)(a) based on this summary of the above-stated facts: the fact that Luis Angel Ruiz claimed ownership of the gun in the Instagram conversation; the fact that Luis Angel Ruiz admitted to shooting at Young Park in the Instagram conversation; the fact that Luis Angel Ruiz admitted that Steven Mendoza was *not* shooting at Young Park in the Instagram conversation; the fact that there are multiple photographs of Luis Angel Ruiz in possession of what appears to be the same firearm recovered from his Instagram account; the fact that the spent .223 shell casings show a presumptive match in the NIBIN system to the AR-15 style pistol that apparently belongs to Luis Angel Ruiz; and the fact that an eye-witness who is personally familiar with Luis Angel Ruiz saw him discharging the AR-15 style pistol with the red bandana at Young Park on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
16. During a separate incident on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at approximately 0136 hours, an Officer with the Las Cruces Police Department conducted a traffic stop on a grey and black in color Chevrolet Trailblazer bearing New Mexico license plate PTZ895 for running a red light and weaving between lanes near the intersection of North Solano Drive and Spruce Ave in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Luis Angel Ruiz.
17. A backup LCPD Officer, positioned on the passenger side of the vehicle, was speaking with the front seat passenger, identified as Christopher Ruiz. During this interaction, the officer observed a handgun in the center console of the vehicle, well within the reach of both occupants. The officer immediately removed the firearm from the vehicle for the safety of the officers, and both occupants were asked to exit the vehicle.
18. Upon exiting the vehicle, a pat down of the front seat passenger, Christopher Ruiz, was conducted, which yielded two more firearms.
19. Officers learned that Luis Angel Ruiz made statements that he was driving his brother, Christopher Ruiz, home because Christopher was drunk. Luis Angel Ruiz exhibited signs of intoxication to the officers, including slurred speech, swaying, and difficulty following directions. He denied consuming alcohol but

admitted to taking Xanax approximately two hours before the traffic stop. Luis Angel Ruiz conducted Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, after which officers made the decision to place him under arrest for Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor or Drug contrary to section 66-8-102 NMSA.

20. Due to the fact that the vehicle was improperly and unsafely parked more than 18 inches from the curb, the driver was being arrested, and the passenger was too intoxicated to drive, the officer decided to impound the vehicle.
21. During an inventory of the vehicle, officers observed a grey backpack on the floor in the front-passenger seat. The backpack was unzipped, and the contents could be viewed plainly. An LCPD officer observed another black in color handgun, a Smith and Wesson M&P with black electrical tape wrapped around the grip. The serial number on the firearm had been obliterated by manually scratching it off the plate where it should have been displayed.





*(Photographs of the Smith and Wesson M&P recovered from Luis Angel Ruiz's vehicle on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025).*

22. During a *Post-Miranda* interview with an LCPD Detective, Luis Angel Ruiz admitted that all four of the firearms located in the vehicle belonged to him. He was not asked in this interview about his knowledge of the serial number being obliterated.
23. During my inspection of the content of Luis Angel Ruiz's Instagram account, I observed numerous conversations between Luis Angel Ruiz and other users, wherein he is attempting to sell the above-described Smith and Wesson M&P handgun with black electrical tape and the obliterated serial number. While the topic of the serial numbers is never explicitly discussed in the conversations, at least two of the videos sent by Mr. Ruiz of the firearm end with him apparently deliberately zooming in directly on the serial number plate, showing it to be obliterated.



*(Screenshots of two separate videos sent by Luis Angel Ruiz on Instagram to other users, zooming in on the obliterated serial number of the Smith and Wesson M&P handgun. Both videos were sent on or about September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025).*

24. Affiant believes the fact that he is zooming specifically on the serial number plate, clearly and obviously showing it to be obliterated, demonstrates he requisite knowledge that Luis Angel Ruiz knew, or should have known, that the firearm had a removed, obliterated, or altered serial number.

25. Affiant has learned that, according to Smith and Wesson's website, that they have manufacturing facilities in Springfield, Massachusetts and in Maryville, Tennessee. Affiant knows that there are no manufacturing facilities for Smith and Wesson within the District of New Mexico. As such, the above-described firearm must have travelled through interstate commerce to ultimately be possessed by Luis Angel Ruiz on or about September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

26. Based on the foregoing, there is probable cause to believe that Luis Angel Ruiz committed acts in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(k), Possession of a Firearm with a Removed, Obliterated, or Altered Serial Number.

27. Assistant United States Attorney Maria Armijo approved the charges filed in this criminal complaint.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_



Benjamin Berling  
Task Force Officer  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Electronically signed and telephonically  
sworn this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAMIAN L. MARTINEZ  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE