

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOEL ANTONIO ALONZO,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 111(a)(1)
and (b)

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
New York

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

Gregory J. Gowrie, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”), Federal Protective Service (“FPS”), and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE

(Assaulting an Employee of the United States)

1. On or about June 6, 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JOEL ANTONIO ALONZO, the defendant, knowingly and forcibly assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, intimidated, and interfered with a person designated in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1114, while engaged in and on account of the performance of official duties, and in doing so, made physical contact with the victim of the assault and used a deadly and dangerous weapon, to wit, at 26 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, ALONZO forcibly assaulted a federal protective security officer while the officer was engaged in the performance of his official duties, in that ALONZO attempted to gain control of the officer’s firearm, and, in doing so, ALONZO made physical contact with the officer.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 111(a)(1) and (b).)

The bases for my knowledge and for the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

2. I am a Special Agent with FPS and have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. I base this complaint on my participation in this investigation, as well as on my conversations with other law enforcement agents and other individuals, my examination of various reports, recordings, photographs, and records, and my training and experience. Because this complaint is being submitted for the limited purpose of demonstrating probable cause, it does not include all the facts that I have learned during the course of my investigation. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

3. Based on my training and experience, I am aware that FPS employs Protective Security Officers (“PSOs”) whose official duties include providing security services at federal government facilities. These PSOs are security officers employed by a private company awarded a security contract by FPS who act at the direction of FPS.

4. Based on my participation in this investigation, my review of law enforcement reports and records, my conversations with law enforcement officers, and my review of surveillance video, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about June 6, 2025, at approximately 8:00 a.m., JOEL ANTONIO ALONZO, the defendant, arrived on the 12th floor of 26 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, where certain Immigration Court appointments and proceedings are conducted. Upon his arrival, ALONZO attempted to force his way into a courtroom. Unable to enter the courtroom, ALONZO then pushed himself ahead of others waiting in line to speak at a service window with personnel who direct visitors as to where they should proceed for their appointments or proceedings.

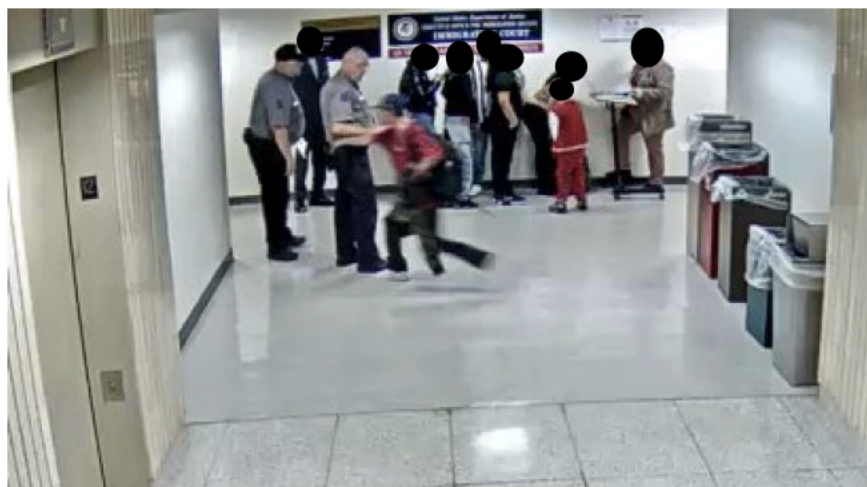
b. A federal protective security officer (“PSO-1”) observed ALONZO’s disruptive behavior and instructed ALONZO to return to the proper place in line. ALONZO complied and returned to the back of the line. At this time, PSO-1 identified the defendant as JOEL ANTONIO ALONZO based on immigration paperwork that ALONZO was holding.

c. When ALONZO reached the front of the line, however, he became increasingly agitated and difficult with the personnel at the service window, aggressively tossing his papers toward the window.

d. PSO-1 observed ALONZO’s escalating behavior and approached ALONZO to assist. Because ALONZO was speaking only in Spanish, PSO-1 brought ALONZO to another federal protective security officer who was fluent in Spanish (“PSO-2”).

e. PSO-1, PSO-2, and ALONZO stood together in the hallway while attempting to determine where ALONZO was supposed to report for an appointment. During this interaction, ALONZO made statements suggesting, in substance and in part, that the immigration paperwork he possessed did not belong to him, or that he did not have a scheduled appointment.

f. While PSO-1 was examining ALONZO’s paperwork, ALONZO suddenly lunged at PSO-1 from the side and grabbed PSO-1’s service firearm with significant force, attempting to pull the firearm from its holster. A still image from surveillance footage capturing ALONZO lunging for PSO-1’s firearm is reproduced below.



g. PSO-1's service firearm was a loaded firearm secured in a holster with two separate locking mechanisms.

h. When ALONZO grabbed PSO-1's weapon, PSO-1 immediately reacted, restraining ALONZO with PSO-2's assistance and eventually placing ALONZO in handcuffs.

i. This incident occurred in a public area of a federal building where several civilians, including children, and federal employees were present.

j. Following the incident and while still restrained, ALONZO made statements in Spanish indicating, in substance and in part, that he wanted to commit suicide.

k. ALONZO was subsequently taken for processing by FPS personnel. During the booking process, ALONZO's identity was confirmed through a photocopy of a Honduran passport found on his person, which identified him as JOEL ANTONIO ALONZO, as well as through a National Crime Information Center report documenting a prior arrest in Texas under the same name and associated with the same date of birth as was listed on the photocopy of the passport.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that a warrant be issued for the arrest of JOEL ANTONIO ALONZO, the defendant, and that he be arrested, and imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.

Gregory J. Gowrie
Special Agent
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Protective Service

Sworn to me through the transmission of
this Complaint by reliable electronic
means (telephone), pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 4.1,
this ____ day of June, 2025

THE HONORABLE SARAH NETBURN
Chief United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York