

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JESUS JAVIER BRITO RIVERA,
JOSE ALEXIS DE LA CRUZ MORA,
JOSE ANTONIO DE LA CRUZ MORA,
DANY RIVERA SANCHEZ,
JOAN ALBERTO TORIBIO TAVAREZ,
FREDDYS RIVERA QUEZADA, and

Defendants.

25 MAG 2870

COMPLAINT

Violations of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841, 846

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
BRONX

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

MICHAEL DUFFY, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration, and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE

(Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Narcotics)

1. In or about September 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JESUS JAVIER BRITO RIVERA, JOSE ALEXIS DE LA CRUZ MORA, JOSE ANTONIO DE LA CRUZ MORA, DANY RIVERA SANCHEZ, JOAN ALBERTO TORIBIO TAVAREZ, and FREDDYS RIVERA QUEZADA, the defendants, and others known and unknown, knowingly and intentionally combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together and with each other to violate the controlled-substance laws of the United States.

2. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that JESUS JAVIER BRITO RIVERA, JOSE ALEXIS DE LA CRUZ MORA, JOSE ANTONIO DE LA CRUZ MORA, DANY RIVERA SANCHEZ, JOAN ALBERTO TORIBIO TAVAREZ, and FREDDYS RIVERA QUEZADA, the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute and possess with the intent to distribute a controlled substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A).

3. The controlled substance involved in the offense was 400 grams and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(A).

(Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.)

COUNT TWO

(Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics)

4. On or about September 9, 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JESUS JAVIER BRITO RIVERA, JOSE ALEXIS DE LA CRUZ MORA, JOSE ANTONIO DE LA CRUZ MORA, DANY RIVERA SANCHEZ, JOAN ALBERTO TORIBIO TAVAREZ, and FREDDYS RIVERA QUEZADA, the defendants, knowingly and intentionally distributed and possessed with intent to distribute a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), and aided and abetted the same.

5. The controlled substance involved in the offense was 400 grams and more of mixtures and substances containing detectable amounts of fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(A).

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 812, 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A); Title 18 United States Code, Section 2.)

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

6. I am a Detective with the New York City Police Department (the “NYPD”) and a Task Force Officer (“TFO”) with the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”). I have been a Detective with the NYPD for approximately seven years. Over my career, I have participated in many investigations of narcotics trafficking organizations. I have been personally involved in this investigation. This affidavit is based on my involvement in this investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers and other individuals, and my examination of reports and records. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing 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.

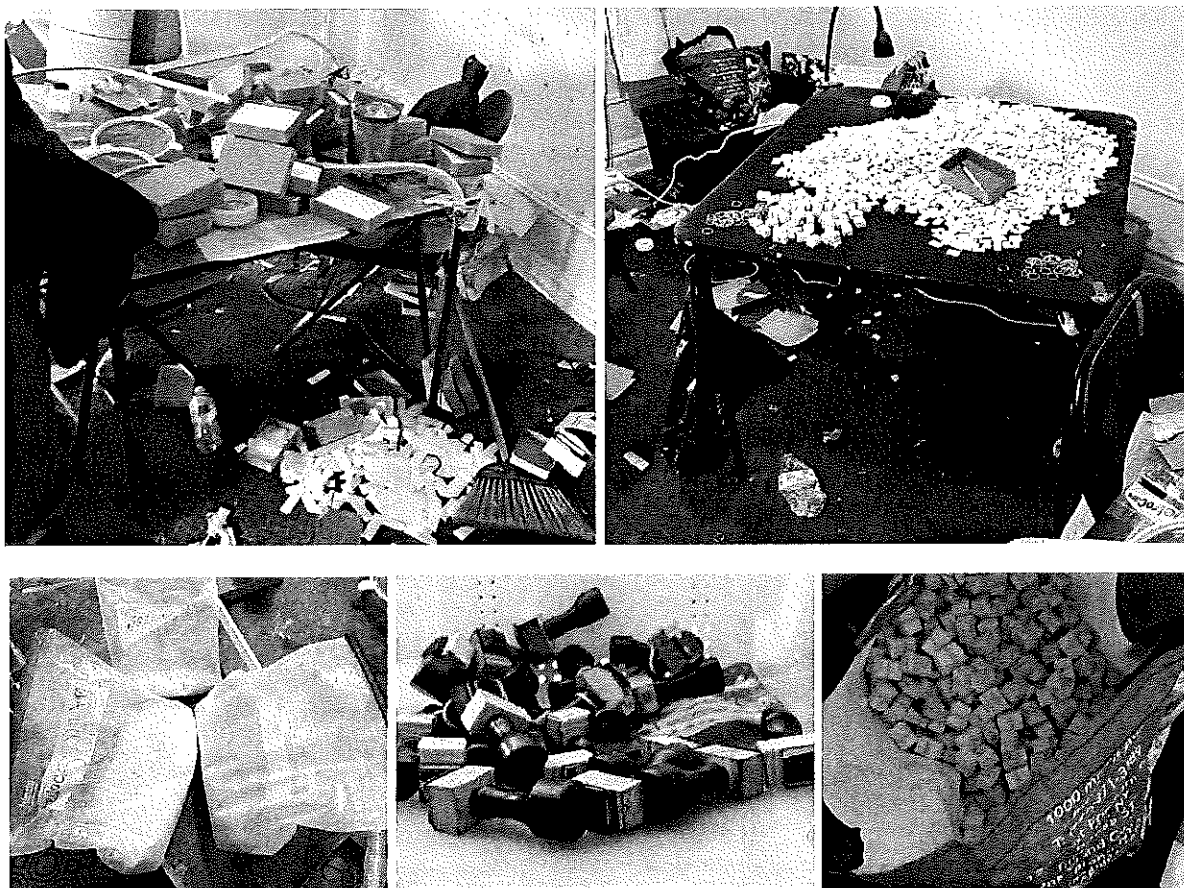
7. Based on my participation in this investigation, I know that, since in or about December 2023, law enforcement officers have been investigating a drug trafficking organization operating in and around northern New Jersey and New York City. As a part of that investigation, law enforcement officers have conducted extensive surveillance of individuals traveling in and out of an apartment building located in the vicinity of Aqueduct Avenue in the Bronx, New York (the “Building”) and two apartments within it—one operating as a fentanyl mill (the “Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill”) and one downstairs apartment (the “Downstairs Apartment”).

The Search of the Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill

8. Based on my participation in this investigation and communications I have had with other law enforcement officers, I know that on or about the morning of September 9, 2025, law enforcement officers conducted a search of the Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill based upon a warrant authorized by the Honorable Sarah Netburn, Chief United States Magistrate Judge, Southern District of New York. Law enforcement officers arrested five individuals inside the apartment and observed extensive fentanyl-manufacturing operations throughout it, recovering approximately eight kilograms of a powdered substance which, on the basis of my experience in this and other investigations, I believe may be fentanyl.¹ Specifically, during the course of the search:

¹ The powder is awaiting laboratory testing.

a. Inside the apartment bedroom, law enforcement officers observed a table that appeared to be set up with four working stations to mix and package apparent fentanyl powder, each lit with a reading lamp and covered in apparent fentanyl dust; a large pile of individually stamped glassines filled with powder, but which had not yet been sealed; another table piled with thousands of wrapped and stamped glassines; two plastic bags filled with white powder; two boxes filled with seventeen grinders, themselves filled with powder; numerous scales, boxes of packaging materials, colanders, markers, rubber bands, and MetroCards, all of which appear to have been used to separate, measure, process, and package the powder; and a shopping bag containing hundreds of fully bundled and stamped glassines. Officers also found glassines and stamps drying inside the kitchen oven and identified a drawer full of stamps used to mark variations of fentanyl being prepared for distribution. Below are images taken inside the mill:



b. Five individuals—whom officers identified as JOSE ALEXIS DE LA CRUZ MORA, JOSE ANTONIO DE LA CRUZ MORA, DANY RIVERA SANCHEZ, JOAN ALBERTO TORIBIO TAVAREZ, and FREDDYS RIVERA QUEZADA, the defendants—were found inside the Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill, all of whom were located inside the bedroom apparently manufacturing fentanyl at the time the apartment was searched. Although two air mattresses were stacked on top each other next to two couches in the living room, no one appeared to be living at the Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill.

The Arrest of JESUS JAVIER BRITO RIVERA

9. I also know, based on my participation in this investigation and communications I have had with other law enforcement officers, that law enforcement officers repeatedly observed an individual later identified as JESUS JAVIER BRITO RIVERA, the defendant, appearing to coordinate the operations of the Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill from a downstairs apartment in the same building (*i.e.*, the “Downstairs Apartment”). For example:

a. On the basis of my review of surveillance video and my conversations with other law enforcement officers who conducted physical surveillance, I know that on or about July 31, 2025, law enforcement officers observed a co-conspirator (“CC-1”) arrive at an apartment in East Orange, New Jersey, to meet another co-conspirator (“CC-2”). Minutes after CC-1 arrived at CC-2’s apartment, CC-1 departed and traveled in a Mercedes SUV (the “Mercedes”) to the Building. Shortly after CC-1 arrived at the Building, law enforcement officers observed BRITO RIVERA exit the Building and enter the Mercedes carrying a blue Wal-Mart shopping bag. Video surveillance footage then showed BRITO RIVERA returning to the Building several minutes later carrying a black plastic bag. The next day, on or about August 1, 2025, law enforcement officers observed CC-1 return to and enter the East Orange, New Jersey apartment building carrying a blue Wal-Mart shopping bag, where he appeared to meet with a third co-conspirator (“CC-3”). Shortly thereafter, CC-1 exited the building empty-handed. A short time later, CC-3 departed the building carrying a black and grey backpack, and was pulled over by law enforcement officers to execute a state arrest warrant. Upon searching CC-3’s backpack, officers found a blue Wal-Mart shopping bag containing approximately 188 bricks of a substance which, on the basis of my training and experience in this and other investigations, I believe may be heroin.

b. On or about August 8, 2025, law enforcement officers again observed a suspected drug transaction between CC-1 and BRITO RIVERA at the Building. Specifically, based on video surveillance footage, I know that law enforcement officers observed CC-1 arrive at the Building at approximately 3:33 p.m. About two minutes later, BRITO RIVERA exited the Downstairs Apartment empty-handed and took the elevator to the fifth floor, where the Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill was located. Moments later, BRITO RIVERA re-entered the elevator carrying a red bag and then exited the Building, where he met outside with CC-1 in the Mercedes. BRITO RIVERA was then observed shortly thereafter exiting the Mercedes carrying a black bag, apparently having left the red bag inside the vehicle.

c. On or about August 31, 2025, law enforcement officers again observed a suspected drug transaction between CC-1 and BRITO RIVERA outside the Building. Specifically, at approximately 5:25 a.m., BRITO RIVERA was observed on video surveillance exiting the Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill—on the fifth floor of the Building—carrying a black shopping bag, locking the door to the apartment behind him. Later that day, BRITO RIVERA was observed exiting the Building and meeting CC-1 in the Mercedes outside. BRITO RIVERA was again observed carrying what appeared to be the same black shopping bag he had removed earlier that day from the Aqueduct Avenue Fentanyl Mill. After meeting with CC-1, BRITO RIVERA again returned to the Building without the black bag, carrying instead a smaller black bag.

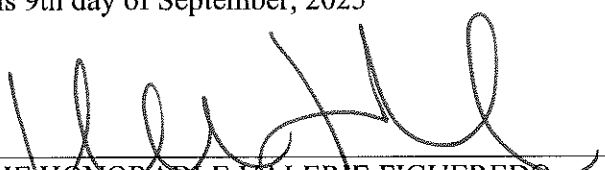
d. On or about the morning of September 9, 2025, law enforcement officers also conducted a search of the Downstairs Apartment based upon a warrant authorized by the Honorable Sarah Netburn, Chief United States Magistrate Judge, Southern District of New York.

BRITO RIVERA was found inside a bedroom near a dresser containing stacks of cash. In a hallway across from the bedroom, law enforcement officers recovered additional stacks of cash, totaling approximately \$60,000 inside the Downstairs Apartment. Both the closet and dresser contained male clothing and the only other two occupants of the Downstairs Apartment at the time of the search were women. Law enforcement officers also recovered a notebook ledger appearing to document hundreds of apparent narcotics transactions totaling sales of millions of dollars.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that JESUS JAVIER BRITO RIVERA, JOSE ALEXIS DE LA CRUZ MORA, JOSE ANTONIO DE LA CRUZ MORA, DANY RIVERA SANCHEZ, JOAN ALBERTO TORIBIO TAVAREZ, and FREDDYS RIVERA QUEZADA, the defendants, be imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.

Michael Duffy (by VF with permission)
MICHAEL DUFFY
Task Force Officer
Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to me through the transmission of this
Complaint by reliable electronic means,
pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 4.1
this 9th day of September, 2025


THE HONORABLE VALERIE FIGUEREDO
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York