

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH
CRUTE,

Defendants.

25 mag 3863

COMPLAINT

Violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1951,
924(c)(1)(A), and 2

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
WESTCHESTER

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

Francesca R. Fiore, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"), and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE

(Conspiracy to Commit Hobbs Act Robbery)

1. Between on or about November 10, 2025 and on or about November 29, 2025, in the Southern District of New York, JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, and others known and unknown, knowingly combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together and with each other to commit robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(1), and would and did thereby obstruct, delay, and affect commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(3), to wit, RANSOM and CRUTE conspired to rob businesses in Mount Vernon and Manhattan, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951.)

COUNT TWO

(Hobbs Act Robbery)

2. On or about November 10, 2025, in the Southern District of New York, JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, knowingly committed robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(1), and thereby obstructed, delayed, and affected commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(3), and aided and abetted the same, to wit, RANSOM and CRUTE robbed at gunpoint a restaurant in Manhattan, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951 and 2.)

COUNT THREE
(Hobbs Act Robbery)

3. On or about November 12, 2025, in the Southern District of New York, JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, knowingly committed robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(1), and thereby obstructed, delayed, and affected commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(3), and aided and abetted the same, to wit, RANSOM and CRUTE robbed at gunpoint a restaurant in Mount Vernon, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951 and 2.)

COUNT FOUR
(Hobbs Act Robbery)

4. On or about November 19, 2025, in the Southern District of New York, JYEREONNE RANSOM, the defendant, knowingly committed robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(1), and thereby obstructed, delayed, and affected commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(3), to wit, RANSOM robbed at gunpoint a gas station in Mount Vernon, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951)

COUNT FIVE
(Hobbs Act Robbery)

5. On or about November 29, 2025, in the Southern District of New York, JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, knowingly committed robbery, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(1), and thereby obstructed, delayed, and affected commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b)(3), and aided and abetted the same, to wit, RANSOM and CRUTE robbed a restaurant in Mount Vernon, New York.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1951 and 2.)

COUNT SIX
(Firearm Use, Carrying, and Possession)

6. On or about November 10, 2025, in the Southern District of New York, JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which they may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely, the Hobbs Act robbery charged in Count Two of this Complaint, knowingly did use and carry a firearm, and, in furtherance of such crime, did possess a firearm, and did aid and abet the use, carrying, and possession of a firearm, which was brandished.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(i) and (ii), and 2.)

COUNT SEVEN
(Firearm Use, Carrying, and Possession)

7. On or about November 12, 2025, in the Southern District of New York, JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which they may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely, the Hobbs Act robbery charged in Count Three of this Complaint, knowingly did use and carry a firearm, and, in furtherance of such crime, did possess a firearm, and did aid and abet the use, carrying, and possession of a firearm, which was brandished.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(i) and (ii), and 2.)

COUNT EIGHT
(Firearm Use, Carrying, and Possession)

8. On or about November 19, 2025, in the Southern District of New York, JYEREONNE RANSOM, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely, the Hobbs Act robbery charged in Count Four of this Complaint, knowingly did use and carry a firearm, and, in furtherance of such crime, did possess a firearm, which was brandished.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(i) and (ii).)

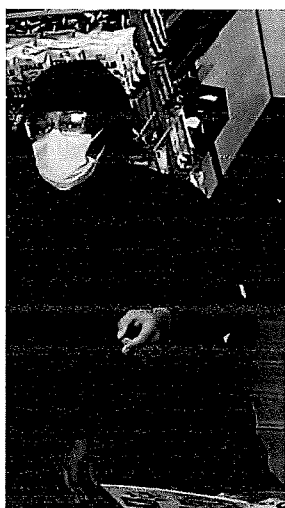
The bases for my knowledge and for the foregoing charges are, in part, as follows:

9. I am a Special Agent with the ATF, and I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. This affidavit is based in part upon my training and experience, my conversations with other law enforcement officers and others, and my examination of correspondence, reports, video footage, and other 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 my investigation. Where the contents of documents or recordings and the actions, statements and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

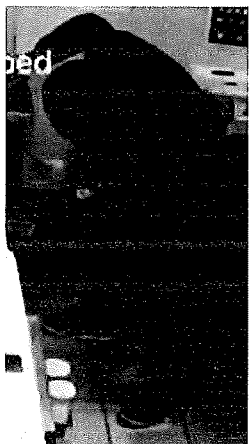
RANSOM's and CRUTE's November 10, 2025 Robbery of Restaurant-1

10. On or about November 10, 2025, at approximately 8:00 p.m., New York City Police Department ("NYPD") officers traveled to a restaurant in the vicinity of West 169th Street and Fort Washington Avenue in Manhattan, New York ("Restaurant-1") in response to a 911 report of an armed robbery. Upon the officers' arrival, the victim ("Victim-1") reported, in substance and in part, that two black males wearing facemasks entered Restaurant-1, and that one of the individuals pushed him in the torso with a silver firearm and demanded all the money from the cash register.

11. Video surveillance obtained from Restaurant-1 for November 10, 2025 at approximately 7:30 p.m. depicts two individuals robbing the location as Victim-1 described. The two individuals are pictured below in still images obtained from Restaurant-1 surveillance video.



(Figure 1)



(Figure 2)



(Figure 3)

12. Video surveillance obtained from an apartment complex in the vicinity of 115th Street and Lenox Avenue in Manhattan, New York ("Apartment Complex-1") for November 10, 2025 at approximately 6:21 p.m. depicts an individual wearing clothing that appears identical to one of the two robbers exiting an apartment where, as discussed in Paragraph 30, below, CRUTE is known to reside. That individual is pictured below in a still image obtained from Apartment Complex-1 surveillance video.



(Figure 4)

RANSOM's and CRUTE's November 12, 2025 Robbery of Restaurant-2

13. On or about November 12, 2025, at approximately 5:05 p.m., City of Mount Vernon Police Department ("MVPD") officers traveled to a restaurant in the vicinity of East Grand Street and Gramatan Avenue in Mount Vernon, New York, in response to a 911 report of an armed robbery. Upon the officers' arrival, the victim (Victim-2) reported, in substance and in part, that two black males wearing facemasks entered Restaurant-2 and robbed him; that one of the men stood in front of Victim-2 and pointed a gray-and-black handgun at him, while the other went behind the counter and removed approximately \$700 in U.S. currency from the cash register.

14. Video surveillance obtained from Restaurant-2 for November 12, 2025, between approximately 4:41 p.m. and 4:50 p.m., depicts two men robbing the location as Victim-2 described. The two men are pictured below in still images obtained from Restaurant-2 surveillance video.



(Figure 5)



(Figure 6)

15. Video surveillance obtained from the area surrounding Restaurant-2 for the period after the November 12, 2025 robbery depicts the two men departing Restaurant-2 and entering a black vehicle that law enforcement officers identified as a registered livery cab and interviewed its driver ("W-1"). W-1 stated, in substance and in part that:

a. W-1 picked up the two men from a location in the vicinity of East 229th Street and Schieffelin Place in the Bronx, New York (Apartment Complex-2).

b. The men directed W-1 to stop at two locations, including a location near Restaurant-2.

c. The men asked W-1 to wait for them near Restaurant-2, left the vehicle, returned a short time later, and directed W-1 to drop them off at a location in Manhattan.

16. Records obtained from the cab service that dispatched W-2's cab reflect that a certain phone number ("Phone Number-1") was used to request the cab service. Publicly available records indicate that Phone Number-1 is associated with KENNETH CRUTE, the defendant.

17. Law enforcement officers obtained surveillance video from the area surrounding Apartment Complex-2 for November 12, 2025, which depicts the two men walking with their masks down and their faces visible, including as depicted in the following still images.



(Figure 7)



(Figure 8)

18. On or about November 25, 2025, members of the NYPD who are familiar with the appearances of JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, through prior interactions identified the individuals depicted in the foregoing images as RANSOM and CRUTE, respectively.

RANSOM's November 19, 2025 Robbery of Gas Station-1

19. On or about November 19, 2025, at approximately 9:05 p.m., MVPD officers traveled to a gas station in the vicinity of William Street and Gramatan Avenue in Mount Vernon, New York ("Gas Station-1") in response to a 911 report of an armed robbery. Upon the officers' arrival, the victim ("Victim-3") reported, in substance and in part, that a male had entered Gas Station-1, placed several items on the counter for purchase in order to initiate a transaction, drew a silver and black firearm, pointed the firearm at Victim-3, told Victim-3 not to move, and took approximately \$300 in U.S. currency from the cash register.

20. Surveillance video obtained from Gas Station-1 for November 19, 2025, depicts an individual robbing Gas Station-1 as Victim-3 described. That individual is depicted in the following still images.



(Figure 9)



(Figure 10)

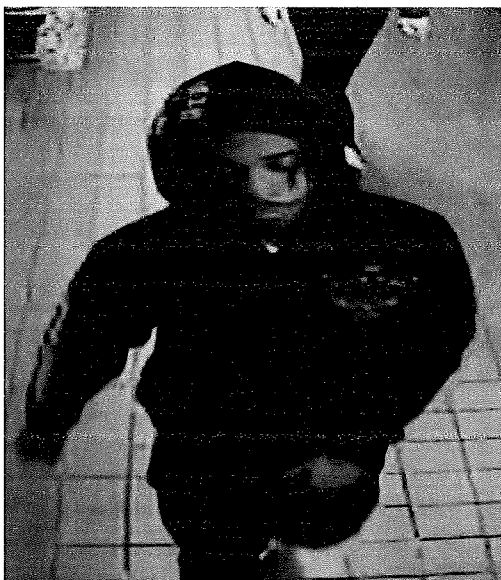
21. Surveillance video obtained from the area surrounding Gas Station-1 for the period after the foregoing November 19, 2025 robbery depicts the robber leaving Gas-Station 1 carrying a black grocery bag and entering a gray vehicle that law enforcement officers identified as a registered livery cab and interviewed its driver (“W-2”). W-2 stated, in substance and in part, that:

a. On November 19, 2025, W-2 picked up a man from an apartment complex in the vicinity of 118th Street and Manhattan Avenue in Manhattan, New York (“Apartment Complex-3”).

b. W-2 drove the man to a location in Mount Vernon, New York, where the man asked Witness-2 to wait for him.

c. The man exited the vehicle, returned after a few minutes, and ultimately asked W-2 to take him back to Apartment Complex-3, which W-2 did.

22. Surveillance video obtained from the vicinity of Apartment Complex-3 for the time period immediately following the November 19, 2025 robbery described above depicts a man who appears to be wearing the same distinctive sweatshirt (“Sweatshirt-1”) and carrying a black grocery bag, with his mask down and his face visible. That individual is depicted in the following still images.



(Figure 11)



(Figure 12)

23. On or about November 25, 2025, members of the NYPD who are familiar with the appearance of JYEREONNE RANSOM, the defendant, through prior interactions, identified the individual depicted in the foregoing images as RANSOM.

RANSOM's and CRUTE's November 29, 2025 Robbery of Restaurant-2

24. On or about November 29, 2025, at approximately 10:19 p.m., MVPD officers traveled to Restaurant-2 again in response to a 911 report of an armed robbery. Upon the officers' arrival, the victim ("Victim-4") reported, in substance and in part, that:

a. Two males entered Restaurant-2, and one pointed at a screen in the restaurant while the other said, in sum and substance, "open the register, otherwise I'm going to shoot you."

b. Victim-4 saw what appeared to be a firearm in the male's front jacket pocket and opened the cash register, at which point the two males removed all of the U.S. currency from the register and left.

25. Surveillance video obtained from Restaurant-2 for November 29, 2025, depicts two men robbing Restaurant-2 as Victim-4 described, with one of the men wearing what appears to be Sweatshirt-1. A still image from that surveillance video appears below.



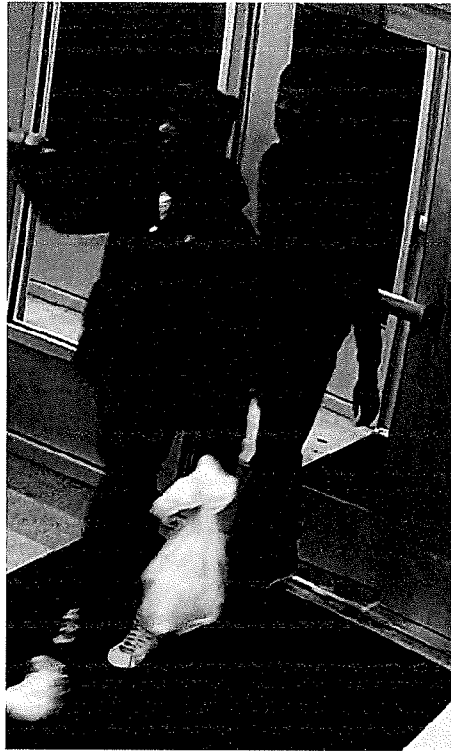
(Figure 13)

26. Surveillance video obtained from the area surrounding Restaurant-2 for the period following the robbery depicts the two men leaving Restaurant-2 and entering a blue vehicle. Law enforcement officers identified the vehicle as a registered livery cab and located and interviewed its driver (“W-3”). W-3 stated, in substance and in part, that:

a. On November 29, 2025, W-3 picked up two individuals at Apartment Complex-3 and drove them to a location in Mount Vernon, New York, where they asked him to wait for them.

b. The individuals exited the vehicle, returned several minutes later, and asked to be dropped off at Apartment Complex-2.

27. Surveillance video obtained from the vicinity of Apartment Complex-2 for the time period immediately following the November 29, 2025 robbery depicts JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, entering the building with their masks down and faces visible, as reflected in the following still image:



(Figure 14)

RANSOM's and CRUTE's Post-Arrest Statements

28. Law enforcement officers arrested JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, on December 6, 2025 in the Bronx, New York, at Apartment Complex-2.

29. Following his arrest on December 6, 2025, JYEREONNE RANSOM, the defendant, was informed of his *Miranda* rights and agreed to be interviewed by law enforcement. I have reviewed a video recording of that interview, during which RANSOM stated, in substance and in part, that:

a. He possessed a black and silver .40 caliber Smith and Wesson handgun between in or around October 2025 through late November 2025.

30. Following his arrest, KENNETH CRUTE, the defendant, was informed of his *Miranda* rights and agreed to be interviewed by law enforcement. I have reviewed a video recording of that interview, during which CRUTE stated, in substance and in part, that:

a. He resides at Apartment Complex-1.

b. He participated in the November 10, 2025 robbery of Restaurant-1.

c. He participated in the November 12, 2025 and November 29, 2025 robberies of Restaurant-2.

d. He knew the that the firearm used in the robberies was real.

Articles of Clothing Recovered from Search of Residence in Apartment Complex-2

31. Pursuant to a search warrant, on December 6, 2025, law enforcement officers executed a search of a residence located at Apartment Complex-2. JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, were present inside of the residence when the warrant was executed. Law enforcement officers recovered, among other things, the following articles of clothing from inside the residence:

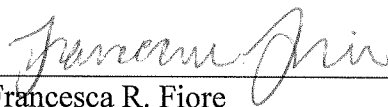
a. Sweatshirt-1, which JYEREONNE RANSOM, the defendant, wore during the November 19, 2025 robbery of Gas Station-1, and the November 29, 2025 robbery of Restaurant-2, as depicted in Figures 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

b. A dark colored vest with a holographic stripe on the back, which JYEREONNE RANSOM, the defendant, wore during the November 10, 2025 robbery of Restaurant-1, the November 12, 2025 robbery of Restaurant-2, and the November 19, 2025 robbery of Gas Station-1, as depicted in Figures 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10.

c. Black Nike Jordan sneakers with blue and red trim, which JYEREONNE RANSOM, the defendant, wore during the November 10, 2025 robbery of Restaurant-1, as depicted in Figure 2.

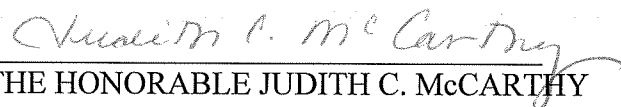
d. Black sweatpants with a white pattern above the left ankle, which KENNETH CRUTE, the defendant, was wearing immediately following the November 29, 2025 robbery of Restaurant-2, as depicted in Figure 14.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that JYEREONNE RANSOM and KENNETH CRUTE, the defendants, be arrested, and imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.



Francesca R. Fiore
Special Agent
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Sworn to before me this 8th day of December, 2025.



THE HONORABLE JUDITH C. McCARTHY
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York