

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

25 MAG 2359

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

RUDDY CENIT-THEN,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
NEW YORK

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK:

PATRICK O'LEARY, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances)

1. In or around July 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, RUDDY CENIT-THEN, the defendant, 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 RUDDY CENIT-THEN, the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute and possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

3. The controlled substances involved in the offense were (i) 400 grams and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of fentanyl and (ii) 500 grams and more of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, and salts of its isomers, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(A).

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

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

4. I have been a Special Agent with the DEA for approximately two years, and I am currently assigned to the El Dorado Task Force, which focuses on narcotics trafficking and money laundering. As part of the El Dorado Task Force, I have participated in multiple narcotics investigations involving the milling of narcotics, including counterfeit pills, in residential apartment buildings in New York City and have conducted searches of such locations. Based on my training and experience with the DEA, I am familiar with how narcotics are made, acquired, stored, transported, concealed, packaged, and distributed, and I am familiar with the ways in which narcotics traffickers communicate about, distribute, and conceal narcotics, and the means that they use to try to evade law enforcement detection. I have been personally involved in the investigation

of this matter. This affidavit is based upon my personal participation in the investigation, my examination of reports and records, and my conversations with other law enforcement officers and other individuals. Because this affidavit 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.

5. Based on my participation in this investigation, including my conversations with other members of law enforcement and other individuals, my review of reports and records, my review of photographs and surveillance video, and physical surveillance, I have learned the following, in substance and in part, which lead me to believe that RUDDY CENIT-THEN, the defendant, has committed the crime charged above in Count One:

Calcium Purchases

a. An individual using the name “Ruddy Cenit,” *i.e.*, CENIT-THEN, has a Costco membership account (the “Costco Account”) that lists a unit located on the 20th floor (“Apartment 20C”) in a particular building located at 111 Wadsworth Avenue (“Building-2”) as the address associated with the Costco Account.

b. The Costco Account was used to purchase approximately 180 bottles containing tens of thousands of pills of Citracal calcium citrate on six different days between in or about October 2024 through in or about April 2025. I know from my training and experience that Citracal calcium citrate is a vitamin supplement that is also used as a common binding agent to manufacture counterfeit pharmaceutical pills and other pills containing illicit narcotics.

c. As an example, on or about March 15, 2025, at approximately 4:30 p.m., an individual whom I believe to be CENIT-THEN, based in part on my comparison of that individual’s appearance to images of CENIT-THEN kept in law enforcement and other official public databases, appeared to purchase approximately 24 bottles of calcium citrate from a Costco located in Teterboro, New Jersey. After purchasing the bottles of calcium citrate, CENIT-THEN appeared to load the bottles into a particular white Lexus (“Vehicle-1”) that was parked in the Costco parking lot. Based on my review of records from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, I have learned that Vehicle-1 is registered to a particular individual (“Individual-1”) at Apartment 20C. Surveillance footage from the 16th floor inside a particular apartment building located at 260 Audubon Avenue in Washington Heights (“Building-1”) appeared to show CENIT-THEN returning to a particular apartment on the 16th floor (“Apartment 16G”) at approximately 5:24 p.m., carrying multiple heavy shopping bags. Minutes later, at approximately 5:32 p.m., CENIT-THEN appeared to leave Apartment 16G wearing a distinctive coat with a fur hood and carrying two shopping bags containing items that appeared to be wrapped in a yellow material. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 5:39 p.m., surveillance cameras from Building-2 captured an individual wearing what appeared to be the same distinctive coat and carrying the same distinctive shopping bags, *i.e.*, CENIT-THEN, entering Building-2 and then traveling up to the 20th floor, where Apartment 20C is located.

Apparent Use of Apartment 20C as a Pill Mill

d. On several occasions in early July 2025, law enforcement officers have observed CENIT-THEN and a particular coconspirator (“CC-1”) follow what appears to be a particular pattern of movement suggesting that CENIT-THEN and CC-1 use Apartment 20C as a “pill mill” to produce large numbers of narcotics pills for sale. More specifically, on several days in or around July 2025—*e.g.*, July 4, July 7, and July 9—CENIT-THEN appeared to leave Apartment 16G in the early morning, approximately before 7 a.m., frequently carrying a backpack and a garbage bag that appeared at least partially full. CENIT-THEN then appeared to leave Building-1. Shortly thereafter, CENIT-THEN appeared to enter Building-2. CENIT-THEN then appeared to remain inside Building-2 all day, until approximately 9 or 10 p.m. On multiple occasions, CENIT-THEN appeared to leave Building-2 carrying what appeared to be weighted shopping bags and brought them back to Building-1, where they appeared to be picked up by CC-1, who then appeared to bring those shopping bags back to apartment 13H inside Building-1 (“Apartment 13H”).

e. On or about July 8, 2025, CENIT-THEN appeared to conduct a hand-to-hand drug transaction out of Apartment 20C.

i. At approximately just before 9:13 p.m., an individual that I believe, based in part on my comparison of that individual’s appearance to images of CENIT-THEN kept in law enforcement and other official public databases, to be CENIT-THEN appeared to exit Apartment 20C carrying a weighted bag. At approximately 9:13 p.m., a surveillance camera inside one of the elevators of Building-2 captured CENIT-THEN entering the elevator on the 20th floor, *i.e.*, the floor on which Apartment 20C is located. CENIT-THEN appeared to be carrying a weighted bag.

ii. Approximately 30 seconds later, CENIT-THEN appeared to get off the elevator on the 9th floor. At approximately 9:12 p.m., *i.e.*, approximately one minute before CENIT-THEN appeared to leave Apartment 20C with a weighted bag and take the elevator down to the 9th floor, a particular individual (“Individual-2”) was seen inside an elevator in Building-2. At approximately 9:14 p.m., Individual-2 arrived in the elevator on the 9th floor and appeared to meet up with CENIT-THEN. Individual-2 appeared to take the weighted bag from CENIT-THEN before getting back in the elevator.

iii. At approximately 9:16 p.m., *i.e.*, about two minutes after CENIT-THEN appeared to hand the weighted bag to Individual-2, CENIT-THEN—now empty-handed—got back into an elevator inside Building-2 and rode it to the 20th floor. Also at approximately 9:16 p.m., a surveillance camera capturing the front entrance of Apartment 20C showed an individual appearing to resemble CENIT-THEN reenter Apartment 20C, this time empty-handed.

Trash Pull Outside Building-2

f. On or about July 9, 2025, at approximately 9:45 p.m., surveillance video depicting the front entrance of Building-2 appeared to show CENIT-THEN exiting Building-2 with a garbage bag (“Garbage Bag-1”), which CENIT-THEN appeared to discard next to a garbage bin in front of Building-2.

g. Shortly after CENIT-THEN discarded Garbage Bag-1 outside Building-2, law enforcement officers recovered Garbage Bag-1 and searched it. Inside, law enforcement officers found, among other things, approximately two empty bottles of food dye;¹ rubber gloves; plastic Ziplock baggies; yellow rags; sheets of tin foil; and paper towels that appeared to have a powder residue.

h. On or about July 10, 2025, law enforcement officers conducted a field test on some of the powder residue found on the paper towels from Garbage Bag-1. The field test returned positive for the presence of suspected methamphetamine.

Search of Apartment 20C

i. On or about July 24, 2025, I and other law enforcement officers executed a judicially authorized search warrant at Apartment 20C. During that search, I and other law enforcement officers found the following evidence, among other things, indicating that Apartment 20C was being used as a “pill mill,” *i.e.*, a location where drug traffickers (1) store large quantities of narcotics and other additives such as cutting agents and dyes, (2) mix those ingredients, and (3) press them into counterfeit pills for wholesale distribution. I know from training and experience that, oftentimes, these pills are manufactured to resemble prescription drugs or are pressed into bright colors or colorful shapes to resemble party drugs to attract younger drug users:

i. Inside a hidden compartment of a closet in Apartment 20C, law enforcement officers found, among other things: an industrial-scale pill press (pictured below), a commercial grinder, multiple plastic bags containing large crystal substances, a plastic Ziplock bag containing brown powder, colorful powders, jars containing dyes, and a digital scale.

ii. Preliminary field testing of residue on the industrial-scale pill press indicated the presence of fentanyl and methamphetamine. Preliminary field testing of the crystal substance in the plastic bags indicated the presence of methamphetamine. Preliminary field testing of the brown powder in the Ziplock bag indicated the presence of fentanyl. Collectively, the plastic bags containing the suspected crystal methamphetamine weighed approximately 37 pounds, and the Ziplock bag of suspected fentanyl powder weighed approximately 5 pounds.

iii. The pill-press, grinder, drugs, and other items found behind the hidden panels are pictured below on the left. The hidden panels themselves are pictured below on the right.

¹ Based on my training and experience, as well as my involvement in this investigation, I have learned that individuals engaged in drug trafficking sometimes use food dye to color pills that they make using pill presses. Drug traffickers color their counterfeit so that, among other reasons, (1) the pills appear to be genuine, pharmaceutically manufactured tablets, and/or (2) the brightly colored pills will appeal to younger potential drug users.



Search of Apartment 13H

j. On or about July 24, 2025, I and other law enforcement officers executed a judicially authorized search warrant at Apartment 13H. During the search of Apartment 13H, I and other law enforcement officers found, among other things, approximately more than 100,000 multi-colored pills packaged in dozens of clear Ziplock plastic bags. Below is a photograph of the pills that law enforcement found inside Apartment 13H. Preliminary field testing of those pills indicates the presence of methamphetamine.



k. During the search of Apartment 13H, I and other law enforcement officers encountered, among others, CC-1. The methamphetamine pills shown in the photograph above were found underneath the bed inside CC-1's bedroom. Furthermore, law enforcement officers recovered a total of seven phones in that bedroom, including three phones in or around the bed under which the methamphetamine pills were found.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that a warrant be issued for the arrest of RUDDY CENIT-THEN, the defendant, and that he be arrested, imprisoned, or bailed, as the case may be.

/s/ Patrick O'Leary, by SDA with permission

PATRICK O'LEARY
Special Agent
Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to me through the transmission of this Complaint
by reliable electronic means, pursuant to
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 41(d)(3) and 4.1,
on this 28th day of July 2025.



HONORABLE STEWART D. AARON
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of New York