

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

26 MAG 1985

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ,
a/k/a “Andy Palacios,”

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Violations of
18 U.S.C. §§ 1951 and 2.

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
NEW YORK

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

BRIAN MCCARTHY, being duly sworn deposes and says that he is a Task Force Officer with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”), and charges as follows:

COUNT ONE

(Hobbs Act Robbery Conspiracy)

1. In or about January 2026, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant, 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, PALACIOS conspired together and with others to commit armed robberies of commercial establishments, including a gunpoint robbery of a retail store in Queens, New York on or about January 9, 2026, and a gunpoint robbery of a retail store in Manhattan, New York on or about January 14, 2026.

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

COUNT TWO

(Hobbs Act Robbery)

2. On or about January 14, 2026, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant, knowingly aided and abetted the commission of a 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, PALACIOS, the defendant, organized and participated in the commission of a gunpoint robbery of a retail store in New York, New York.

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

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

3. I am a Task Force Officer with the ATF and am currently assigned to the Sparta Joint Robbery Task Force (the “Task Force”) comprised of members of ATF and the New York City Police Department (the “NYPD”). I have been personally involved in the investigation of this matter. This affidavit is based upon my investigation, my conversations with law enforcement agents and others, 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.

4. The Task Force is investigating the armed robberies of two retail stores that sell, among other things, collectable merchandise related to Pokémon, which is a popular multimedia franchise that includes videogames and collectible trading cards, commonly referred to as Pokémon cards (the “Pokémon Retail Stores”). The first armed robbery in this investigation occurred on or about January 9, 2026, at the first of the Pokémon Retail Stores (“Store-1”), which is located in the vicinity of 64-17 39th Avenue in Queens, New York (the “Queens Robbery”). The second armed robbery in this investigation occurred on or about January 14, 2026, at the second of the Pokémon Retail Stores (“Store-2”), which is located in the vicinity of 412 West 13th Street in Manhattan, New York (the “Manhattan Robbery” and, together with the Queens Robbery, the “Robberies”). During the Robberies, multiple masked individuals entered the Pokémon Retail Stores brandishing guns and pointing them at customers and store employees in order to steal rare collectible Pokémon cards and other merchandise believed to exceed \$100,000 in value, as well as cash. During the Manhattan Robbery, one of the robbers also used a hammer to smash display cases located across from the store’s registers.

5. For the reasons described in Paragraphs 6 through 27, *infra*, I believe that ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant, conspired with others to commit the Queens Robbery and the Manhattan Robbery, and organized and participated in the commission of both the Queens Robbery and the Manhattan Robbery. In particular, I believe that PALACIOS helped plan the Robberies by surveilling the Pokémon Retail Stores prior to the Robberies, identifying the most valuable Pokémon cards in the Pokémon Retail Stores, and communicating that information to the robbers. I further believe that PALACIOS participated in the commission of the Robberies by, among other things, recruiting the individual who drove the robbers to and from the Robberies. Moreover, a short time after the Manhattan Robbery, PALACIOS sold some of the Pokémon cards stolen from Store-2 for thousands of dollars.

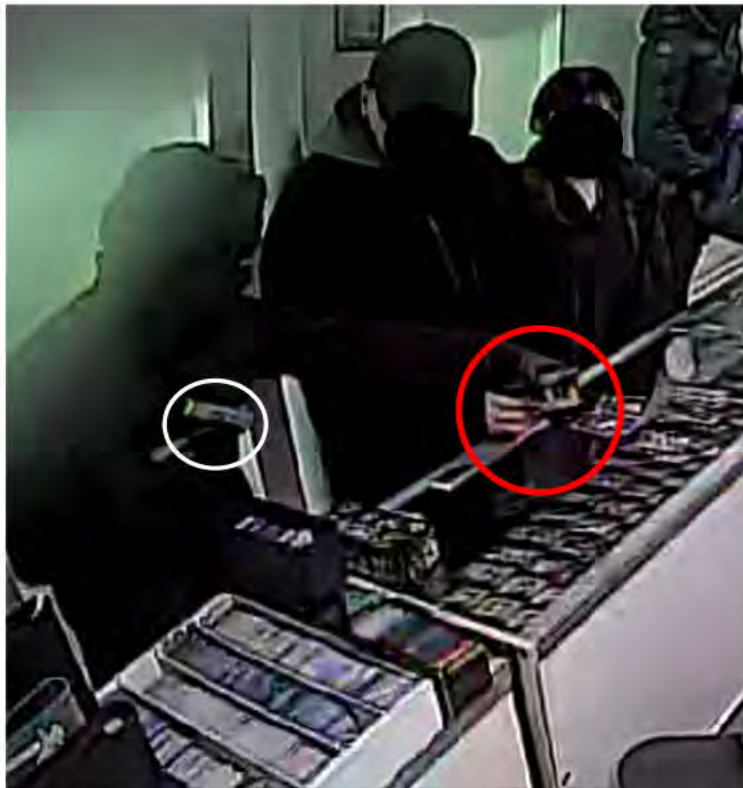
The Queens Robbery

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

a. On or about January 9, 2026, at approximately 8:50 p.m., approximately three males (the “Queens Robbers”) wearing dark clothes, gloves, and ski masks entered Store-1.

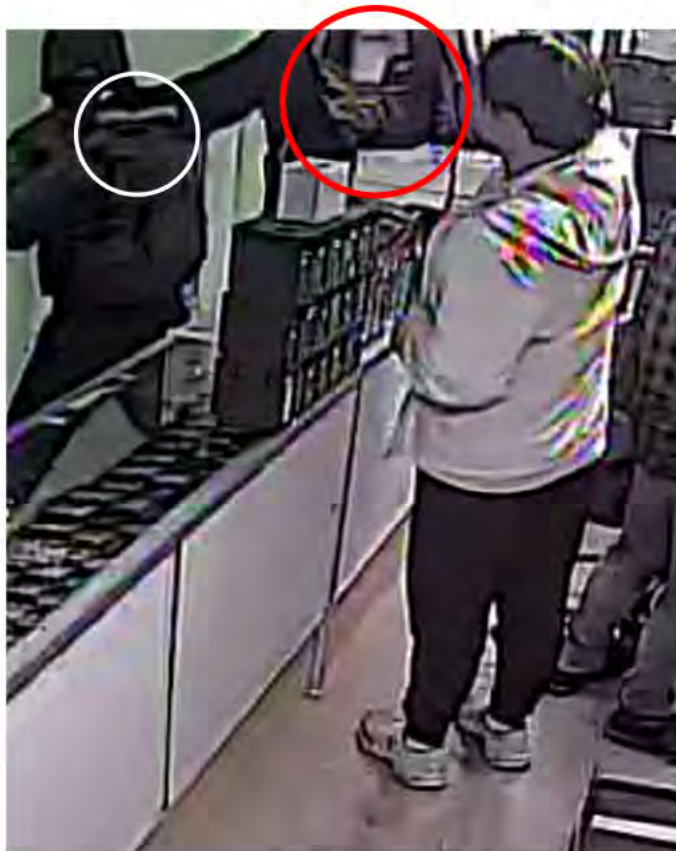
b. Once inside Store-1, two of the Queens Robbers (“Queens Robber-1” and “Queens Robber-2”) pulled out firearms and displayed them to the other individuals inside of Store-1, including customers and employees, demanding cash and Pokémon merchandise.

c. Queens Robber-1 approached a customer who had been viewing Pokémon merchandise at one of the display counters of Store-1. Queens Robber-1 pointed his firearm at the customer and took Pokémon merchandise out of the customer’s hands. The below still image captured from surveillance footage inside Store-1 during the commission of the Queens Robbery, shows Queens Robber-1 displaying a firearm (circled in white) and taking Pokémon merchandise (circled in red) from a customer in Store-1.¹



d. Queens Robber-2, who was carrying a multicolored backpack and also brandishing a firearm, approached a Store-1 employee (“Employee-1”), who was behind the counter. After hitting Employee-1 in the chest, Queens Robber-2 pointed a black and silver firearm at Employee-1, opened the multicolored backpack, and demanded, in substance and in part, that Employee-1 fill the backpack with Pokémon merchandise. Employee-1 and another individual (specifically, the owner of Store-1) then put Pokémon merchandise into Queens Robber-2’s backpack. Employee-1 then handed the backpack containing Pokémon merchandise back to Queens Robber-2. The still image below, captured from surveillance footage inside Store-1 during the commission of the Queens Robbery, shows Employee-1 handing the multicolored backpack (circled in red) back to Queens Robber-2, as Queens Robber-2 points a firearm (circled in white) at Employee-1.

¹ The image depicted here from the surveillance footage contains redactions on the faces of the individuals in the center and far-right of the image.



e. While Employee-1 and the owner of Store-1 were filling the multicolored backpack at gunpoint, Queens Robber-2 began removing Pokémon merchandise from one of Store-1's display cases nearby. Queens Robber-2 and Queens Robber-3 then placed the Pokémon merchandise inside a black backpack that Queens Robber-3 had been wearing.

f. The Queens Robbers also stole approximately \$1,000 of cash from Store-1's cash register.

g. The Queens Robbers then left Store-1 with the cash from Store-1's cash register and Pokémon merchandise, which was worth approximately \$11,700. The Queens Robbers fled down 39th Avenue towards 64th Street, in Queens, New York.

The Manhattan Robbery

7. Based on my participation in this investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers, my review of law enforcement reports, and my review of surveillance video from the location of the Manhattan Robbery and surrounding businesses, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about January 14, 2026, Store-2 hosted a community event that drew a significant number of customers.

b. During the event on or about January 14, 2026, at approximately 6:40 p.m.,

approximately three males (the “Manhattan Robbers”) wearing dark clothes, gloves, and ski masks entered Store-2. At this time, there were approximately 40 customers and several employees in Store-2.

c. Once inside Store-2, one of the Manhattan Robbers pulled down the blinds so that the windows to Store-2 were covered. Then, one of the Manhattan Robbers (“Manhattan Robber-1”) proceeded towards a glass display case in the back of the store across from Store-2’s registers, pulled out a hammer, and started striking the glass display case with the hammer in an attempt to break the protective glass and access the Pokémon merchandise in the display case. The still image below, captured from surveillance footage inside Store-2 during the commission of the Manhattan Robbery, shows Manhattan Robber-1 approaching the glass display case with a black and silver hammer (circled in white).



d. A second Manhattan Robber (“Manhattan Robber-2”)—who was wearing a multicolored backpack that appeared consistent with the multicolored backpack described in Paragraph 6(d), *supra*—pointed a black and silver firearm at an employee of Store-2, and, once Manhattan Robber-1 smashed the glass display case with the hammer, proceeded to grab Pokémon merchandise from the display case and put it into Manhattan Robber-1’s black backpack. The still images below are captured from surveillance footage inside Store-2 during the commission of the Manhattan Robbery. The image on the left below shows Manhattan Robber-2 pointing a firearm at an employee of Store-2. The image on the right below shows Manhattan Robber-2 displaying a firearm (circled in white) while filling Manhattan Robber-1’s backpack with Pokémon merchandise that he had removed from the smashed display case inside Store-2.



e. During this time, a third Manhattan Robber (“Manhattan Robber-3”) stood guard in front of the front door to Store-2, keeping customers and employees of Store-2 inside Store-2 for the duration of the Manhattan Robbery.

f. In addition to Pokémon merchandise, the Manhattan Robbers also took approximately \$1,000 of cash from Store-2’s cash register.

g. The Manhattan Robbers then left Store-2 with the cash from Store-2’s cash register, Pokémon merchandise worth approximately \$115,995, and a cellphone stolen from a customer who was inside Store-2 at the time of the Manhattan Robbery.

h. The Manhattan Robbers fled westbound on 13th Street in Manhattan, New York on foot.

Identification of the Driver for the Robberies

8. Based on my participation in this investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers, my review of law enforcement reports, and my review of surveillance video, I know that investigators on the Task Force identified Julio Caseres Colina (“Caseres”), a co-conspirator, as the driver for the Robberies and that Caseres, among other things, communicated with ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant, by cellphone in the planning and commission of the Robberies. Specifically, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about January 14, 2026, at approximately 6:36 p.m.—that is, approximately four minutes before the commission of the Manhattan Robbery—a white van with a particular Ohio license plate number (the “White Van”) stopped in front of an establishment approximately 413 feet from Store-2.

b. At approximately 6:39 p.m.—that is, approximately one minute before the commission of the Manhattan Robbery—three males wearing dark clothing and masks exited the White Van and headed eastbound on West 13th Street, which is the direction of Store-2.

c. At approximately 6:47 p.m.—that is, approximately seven minutes after the Manhattan Robbers entered Store-2 and began committing the Manhattan Robbery—the three males wearing dark clothing and masks jumped into the White Van, which then traveled westbound on West 13th Street, away from Store-2.

d. The White Van is registered in the name of “Julio Caseres Colina.”

9. Based on my participation in this investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers, and my review of law enforcement reports, records, and recordings, I know that on or about January 20, 2026, Caseres was arrested on unrelated charges while sitting in the White Van and taken to the 115th precinct of the NYPD. At the 115th precinct, Caseres provided verbal and written consent to search his cellular device (the “Caseres Phone”) and the White Van.

10. Based on my review of the information in the Caseres Phone, I know, among other things, the following:

a. The number for the Caseres Phone is a particular number ending in -8024 (the “Caseres Number”).

b. Law enforcement located a video on the Caseres Phone of what appeared to be the approximate location of the Manhattan Robbery (the “Store-2 Video”). Based on metadata from the Caseres Phone, the video was taken on or about January 13, 2026 at approximately 7:07 p.m., that is, the day before the Manhattan Robbery and shortly after the 7 p.m. closing time of Store-2. Based on my training and experience, I believe that the Store-2 Video is indicative of efforts by Caseres and his co-conspirators to surveil and plan their commission of the Manhattan Robbery, including by identifying locations for the White Van to drop off the Manhattan Robbers and potential escape routes.

11. When law enforcement searched the White Van, they found, among other things, a hammer with a silver top, a black handle, and a blue bottom that appeared consistent with the hammer used by Manhattan Robber-1 in the Manhattan Robbery, as described in Paragraphs 7(c) & (d), *supra*. The images on the left and in the middle below are images of Manhattan Robber-1 holding the hammer (circled in red) used during the commission of the Manhattan Robbery. The image on the right below is a photograph that law enforcement took of the hammer found in the White Van.



12. Based on my review of license plate reader records, I know, among other things, the following: (i) the White Van traveled from Manhattan to Queens less than two hours before the commission of the Queens Robbery; (ii) the White Van traveled from Queens to Manhattan approximately one hour before the Store-2 Video was taken; (iii) the White Van was driving in the vicinity of Store-2 approximately 25 minutes after the Store-2 Video was taken; and (iv) the White Van traveled from Queens into Manhattan less than one hour before the commission of the Manhattan Robbery.

13. Based on my review of documents and records from the Caseres Phone and the service provider for the Caseres Number, I know, among other things, that the cellphone assigned to the Caseres Number connected to a particular cellular service tower located in the approximate vicinity of Store-1 at approximately 8:42 p.m. on or about January 9, 2026, meaning that the user of the Caseres Phone was in the approximate location of Store-1 approximately eight minutes before the Queens Robbery.

14. Based on the information set forth in Paragraphs 8 through 13, *supra*, I believe that Caseres was the driver for both the Manhattan Robbery and the Queens Robbery. I further know that, on or about January 22, 2026, Caseres was charged in *United States v. Julio Caseres Colina*, 26 Cr. 42 (JPO), Dkt. 1 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 22, 2026) for his participation in the Robberies.

Caseres's Communications with the 4341 Number During the Robberies

15. Based on my review of documents and records from the Caseres Phone and the service provider for the Caseres Number, Caseres exchanged multiple phone calls with a particular phone number ending in -4341 (the "4341 Number") that, for the reasons explained below, I believe was used by ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a "Andy Palacios," the defendant, during times that coincide with the Robberies. Specifically, I have learned, among things, the following:

a. On or about January 9, 2026 (the day of the Queens Robbery), approximately eight calls were placed between Caseres (using the Caseres Number) and the 4341 Number between approximately 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. As noted above, the Queens Robbery occurred at approximately 8:50 p.m. All eight calls were answered. Two of these calls occurred just minutes after the Queens Robbery. Caseres did not place or receive any other calls during this timeframe.

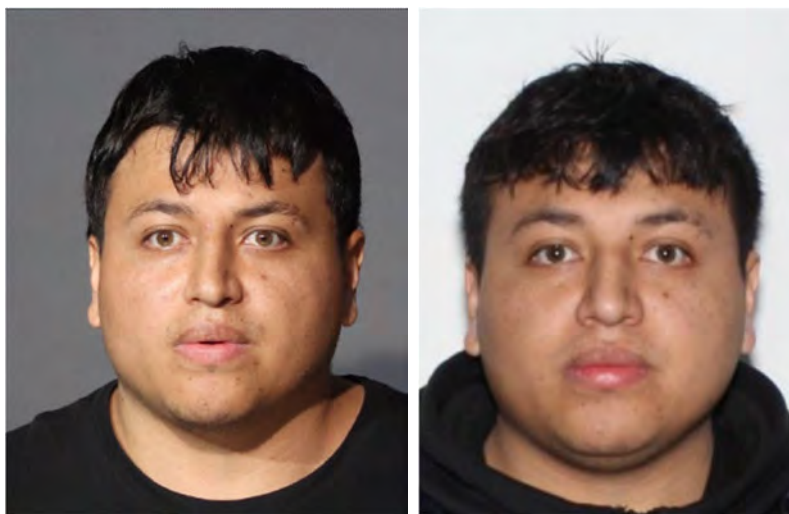
b. On or about January 13, 2026 (the day the Store-2 Video was taken), approximately twelve calls were placed between Caseres (using the Caseres Number) and the 4341 Number between approximately 6:05 p.m. and 7:20 p.m. The Store-2 Video, based on metadata from the Caseres Phone, was taken at approximately 7:07 p.m. that day. Eleven of the twelve calls were answered. Caseres did not place or receive any other calls during this timeframe.

c. On or about January 14, 2026 (the day of the Manhattan Robbery), approximately seven calls were placed between Caseres (using the Caseres Number) and the 4341 Number between approximately 5:55 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. As noted above, the Manhattan Robbery occurred at approximately 6:40 p.m. Six of the seven calls were answered. One of these calls occurred just minutes after the Manhattan Robbery. Caseres did not place any other calls during this timeframe.

Identification of PALACIOS as the Organizer of the Robberies

16. As explained below, the investigation revealed that ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant, was the user of the 4341 Number that was in communication with Caseres during the Robberies. In addition, PALACIOS sold valuable Pokémon cards stolen during the Robberies and had previously conducted reconnaissance of Pokémon merchandise to steal before the Manhattan Robbery.

17. Based on my review of law enforcement documents and records, I know that the photograph on the left below is a photograph of ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant, taken in connection with an arrest of PALACIOS by the NYPD on unrelated charges on or about July 10, 2025 (the “Arrest Photograph”). I further know that the picture on the right below is a photograph of PALACIOS that law enforcement identified in DMV records (with the full name “Andy D. Palacios Ortiz”) (the “DMV Photograph”).



*PALACIOS Surveils Store-1 Before the Queens Robbery and Sells Cards Stolen from Store-1
the Day After the Queens Robbery*

18. Based on my participation in this investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers, interviews with witnesses, including the owner of Stores-1 and -2, and my review of law enforcement documents and records, including surveillance footage collected as part of the investigation, I know, among other things, the following:

a. Just one day after the Queens Robbery, on or about January 10, 2026, a pawn store in the vicinity of 33-46 Farrington Street, in Flushing, New York (“Store-3”) paid approximately \$3,000 for several Pokémon cards (“Card Set-1”) in slabs² from a male and a female (the “Sellers”) who came to Store-3. I have reviewed surveillance footage of the Sellers inside Store-3 who sold Card Set-1 and believe that the male, circled in red in the left-side image below, is ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant, based on a comparison between the surveillance footage, the Arrest Photograph, and the DMV Photograph. The right-side image below contains examples of the unique Pokémon cards from Card Set-1 that PALACIOS sold to Store-3. The unique serial numbers assigned to Card Set-1 that PALACIOS sold to Store-3 matched the serial numbers of Pokémon cards that the Queens Robbers stole from Store-1 during the Queens Robbery one day before.



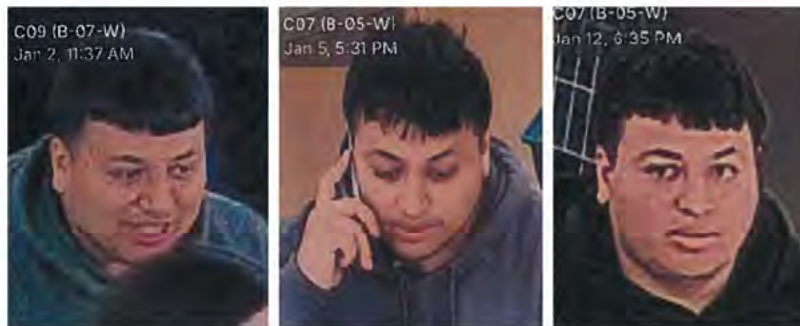
b. Approximately one week prior to the Queens Robbery, a male visited Store-1 (the “Customer”) and spent approximately one hour in the store. The Customer asked questions about the prices of many products but did not ultimately purchase anything. After the Queens Robbery, the owner of Store-1, who was present when the Customer visited Store-1 approximately one week prior to the Queens Robbery, reviewed surveillance footage of the male Seller—who I believe to be PALACIOS—inside Store-3 on or about January 10, 2026, and identified him as the Customer.

² Based on my conversations with the owners of Stores-1 through -3 and my review of publicly-available information, I know that slabs are protective, tamper-evident, hard plastic cases that house a trading card after it has been professionally graded or authenticated and that, in addition to the graded card itself, slabs display a label with a unique serial number identifying the card inside and confirmation of the professional grade that has been assigned to the card.

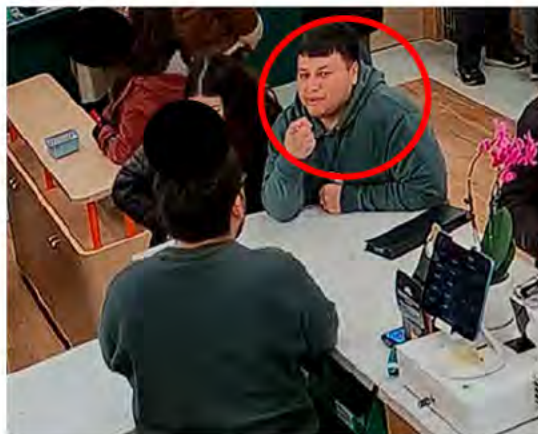
PALACIOS Surveils Store-2 in Advance of the Manhattan Robbery

19. Based on my conversations with the owner of Store-2 and other law enforcement agents and my review of law enforcement reports and records and surveillance footage, I have learned, among other things, the following:

a. On or about January 2, 2026, a male and a female consistent in appearance with the Sellers (including ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant) visited Store-2 between at least 11:27 a.m. and 11:58 a.m. PALACIOS also visited Store-2 on or about January 5, 2026 between at least 5:22 p.m. and 5:44 p.m., and on or about January 12, 2026 between at least 6:02 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The images below, which I have compared to the Arrest Photograph and the DMV Photograph, are still images captured from surveillance footage of Store-2 showing PALACIOS visiting Store-2 on or about January 2, 5, and 12, 2026. As shown in the middle picture below, PALACIOS used his phone on at least one of his visits to Store-2, on or about January 5, 2026.



b. During these visits to Store-2, PALACIOS conversed with multiple Store-2 employees and asked questions about the most valuable Pokémon cards in Store-2. The most valuable Pokémon cards in Store-2 were kept in the glass display case across from the registers. As explained above, Manhattan Robber-1 broke into this display case using a hammer and stole many items from the display case during the Manhattan Robbery. The image below is a still image captured from surveillance footage of Store-2 on or about January 2, 2026, showing PALACIOS, circled in red, conversing with employees of Store-2.



January 2, 2026

c. On or about January 12, 2026—that is, two days before the Manhattan Robbery—PALACIOS used his cellphone to take pictures or video of various items behind the glass display case in Store-2, which held the most valuable Pokémon cards. From my review of surveillance footage from Store-2, I know that the Manhattan Robbers targeted this glass display case: Manhattan Robber-1 used a hammer to break the glass, and Manhattan Robber-2 grabbed Pokémon cards and merchandise out of the glass display case and put them into Manhattan Robber-1's backpack and into his own backpack. The first two images below are still images captured from surveillance footage of Store-2 on or about January 12, 2026, showing PALACIOS, circled in red, taking pictures or video using his cellphone of the glass display case in Store-2. The third image is a photograph taken by law enforcement in the hours after the Manhattan Robbery showing the shattered glass of the same glass display case that PALACIOS had photographed or filmed approximately two days earlier.



January 12, 2026



January 12, 2026



January 14, 2026

20. Based on my conversations with the owner of Store-2, who has reviewed Store-2 security footage, I further understand that PALACIOS, who visited Store-2 at least three times in the two weeks prior to the Manhattan Robbery, has not visited Store-2 since the commission of the Manhattan Robbery.

PALACIOS Uses the 4341 Number During the Commission of the Robberies

21. Based on my review of records from the service provider of the 4341 Number, I know, among other things, the following regarding how ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a “Andy Palacios,” the defendant, used the 4341 Number during the commission of the Robberies:

a. Records from the service provider for the 4341 Numbers show that the phone assigned to the 4341 Number from at least on or about January 1, 2026 through at least on or about January 24, 2026 was a SAMSUNG SM-F741U, which is a touch-screen smartphone with a silver border that folds in half (the “Samsung”). Based on my review of surveillance footage from Store-2, I know that the cellphone that PALACIOS used while in Store-2 appears to be a foldable touch-screen smartphone with a silver border that is consistent in appearance with the Samsung. The images below on the left and middle are still images captured from surveillance footage of Store-2 showing PALACIOS using what appears to be the Samsung (circled in white) in Store-2 on or about January 12, 2026—that is, approximately two days before the Manhattan Robbery. The image below on the right is an image of the Samsung obtained from Samsung’s website.



b. From approximately 11:14 a.m. through approximately 11:56 a.m. on or about January 2, 2026, the 4341 Number connected to a particular cellular service tower located in the approximate vicinity of Store-2 (the “Store-2 Cell Tower”), meaning that the user of the 4341 Number was in the approximate location of Store-2 at the same time that PALACIOS, was captured on Store-2’s surveillance footage using what appears to be the Samsung, as shown above.

c. From approximately 5:12 p.m. through approximately 5:54 p.m. on or about January 5, 2025, the user of the 4341 Number connected to the Store-2 Cell Tower, meaning that the user of the 4341 Number was in the approximate location of Store-2 at the same time PALACIOS was captured on Store-2’s surveillance footage, as shown above. Further, at

approximately 5:31 p.m. on or about January 5, 2025, the user of the 4341 Number placed a phone call that connected through the Store-2 Cell Tower, meaning that the user of the 4341 Number placed a call in the approximate location of Store-2 at the same time PALACIOS was captured on Store-2's surveillance footage placing a call from within Store-2, as shown above.

d. From approximately 6:32 p.m. to approximately 6:45 p.m. on or about January 12, 2026, the 4341 Number connected to the Store-2 Cell Tower, meaning that the user of the 4341 Number was in the approximate location of Store-2 at the same time PALACIOS, the defendant, was captured on Store-2's surveillance footage, as shown above.

e. On the evening of each of the days PALACIOS was captured on Store-2's surveillance cameras, the 4341 Number connected to cellular service towers in Astoria, Queens, meaning that, after traveling to the approximate location of Store-2 in Manhattan, the user of the 4341 number returned to Astoria, Queens.

22. Based on my review of information sourced from public records and law enforcement databases, I know that ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a "Andy Palacios," the defendant, lives at a particular address in Astoria, Queens, which is consistent with the cellphone location records for the 4341 Number described in Paragraph 21(e), *supra*.

23. Based on the information set forth in Paragraphs 21 through 22, *supra*, I believe that ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, a/k/a "Andy Palacios," the defendant, is the user of the 4341 Number.

24. Based on the information set forth in Paragraphs 15, *supra*, and Paragraphs 21 through 23, *supra*, I believe that Caseres and ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, the defendant, spoke on the phone shortly before and after the Queens and Manhattan Robberies and the filming of the Store-2 Video.

25. Based on my review of records from the service provider of the 4341 Number, I know, among other things, that: (i) the 4341 Number connected to a particular cellular service tower located in the approximate vicinity of Store-1 approximately eight minutes before the Queens Robbery, and (ii) the 4341 Number connected to cellular service towers in the approximate location of Store-2 approximately one minute before the Store-2 Video was filmed the day before the Manhattan Robbery. Accordingly, I know that the user of the 4341 Number—that is, ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, the defendant—was in the approximate location of the Queens Robbery around the time of the Queens Robbery and was in the approximate location of Store-2 around the time the Store-2 Video was captured on the Caseres Phone.

26. During a *Mirandized* interview on or about January 21, 2026,³ Caseres was shown a photograph of ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, the defendant, and identified him as an

³ Based on my review of the recorded interview, I know that Caseres speaks Spanish, and the interview was conducted through a Spanish interpreter. Based on my review of the recorded interview, my participation in this investigation, and my conversations with other law enforcement officers, I further know that the advisement of Caseres's *Miranda* rights and the form that Caseres signed confirming his understanding and willingness to speak with law enforcement were both in Spanish.

individual who Caseres knew by the nickname “Ecuador” who had recruited Caseres into the Robberies. Caseres identified PALACIOS (i.e., “Ecuador”) as the user of the 4341 Number. Caseres also told law enforcement officers the following, in substance and in part:

a. In January 2026—that is, the month in which the Robberies were committed—PALACIOS asked Caseres on two occasions to drive other individuals in Caseres’s car, the White Van. Based on Caseres’s description of these two trips—including the destinations, timing, and the conduct of the other individuals (who wore dark clothing and ski masks)—and for the reasons described above, *see supra* Paragraphs 8 through 13, I believe that these individuals were the robbers and that Caseres drove the robbers to the Queens Robbery and the Manhattan Robbery after PALACIOS had recruited Caseres to participate.

27. Based on my review of records from financial institutions, I know, among other things, that the female Seller who visited Store-2 with ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, the defendant, on or about January 2, 2026, and who accompanied PALACIOS to sell Card Set-1 the day after the Queens Robbery, deposited approximately \$2,600 in a bank account held in the female Seller’s name (“Bank Account-1”) on or about January 12, 2026—that is, two days after the female Seller and PALACIOS sold Card Set-1 for approximately \$3,000. I further know that the female Seller deposited approximately \$5,040 in Bank Account-1 and approximately \$14,000 in a different bank account held in the female Seller’s name (“Bank Account-2”) on or about February 6, 2026—that is, approximately three weeks after the Manhattan Robbery.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that ANDY DAVID PALACIOS ORTIZ, the defendant, be arrested, and imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be.

S/ by the Court with permission

BRIAN MCCARTHY

Task Force Officer

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Sworn to before me this 22nd day of May, 2026.



THE HONORABLE ROBERT W. LEHRBURGER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK