

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

ELVIN VILA,

Defendant.

26 MAG 2141

SEALED COMPLAINT

Violations of 21 U.S.C. §§ 812, 841, 846

COUNTY OF OFFENSE:
BRONX

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ss.:

KYLE HARRELL, 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 Narcotics Resulting in Death)

1. From at least in or around November 2023 through at least in or around January 2026, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ELVIN VILA, 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 ELVIN VILA, the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute and possess with intent to distribute narcotics, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

3. The controlled substances involved in the offense were quantities and mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

4. The use of such controlled substances resulted in (i) the death of a 57-year-old man (“Victim-1”) on or about April 16, 2025, in Stamford, Connecticut; (ii) the death of a 32-year-old woman (“Victim-2”) on or about April 25, 2025, in Port Chester, New York; and (iii) the death of a 69-year-old man (“Victim-3”) on or about January 21, 2026, in Port Chester, New York.

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

COUNT TWO

(Distribution of Narcotics Resulting in Death)

5. On or about April 11, 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ELVIN VILA, the defendant, 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).

6. The controlled substance involved in the offense was a quantity of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

7. The use of such controlled substance resulted in the death of Victim-1 on or about April 16, 2025, in Stamford, Connecticut.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 812, 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(C).)

COUNT THREE
(Distribution of Narcotics Resulting in Death)

8. On or about April 16, 2025, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ELVIN VILA, the defendant, 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).

9. The controlled substance involved in the offense was a quantity of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

10. The use of such controlled substance resulted in the death of Victim-2 on or about April 25, 2025, in Port Chester, New York.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 812, 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(C).)

COUNT FOUR
(Distribution of Narcotics Resulting in Death)

11. On or about January 9, 2026, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ELVIN VILA, the defendant, 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).

12. The controlled substance involved in the offense was a quantity of mixtures and substances containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

13. The use of such controlled substance resulted in the death of Victim-3 on or about January 21, 2026, in Port Chester, New York.

(Title 21, United States Code, Sections 812, 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(C).)

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

14. I am a Special Agent with the DEA. I have been a Special Agent with the DEA for approximately three years. I have been personally involved in this investigation. This affidavit is based on my involvement in this investigation, including my conversations with other law enforcement officers and other individuals, my examination of reports and records, and my review of photographs and electronic and recorded communications. 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.

Victim-1

Victim-1's Death

15. Based on my involvement in this investigation, including review of reports and conversations with other members of law enforcement, I know the following:

- a. On or about April 16, 2025, Victim-1 was found dead in his home in Stamford, Connecticut.
- b. A toxicology report showed that Victim-1's blood contained fentanyl, norfentanyl (a metabolite of fentanyl), and methadone. The Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner performed an autopsy of Victim-1 and concluded that Victim-1 died as a result of acute intoxication by the combined effects of fentanyl and methadone.
- c. On or about May 15, 2025, a relative of Victim-1 reported to police that, while the relative was clearing Victim-1's home, the relative found what appeared to be narcotics in Victim-1's pants pocket.
- d. Police recovered the suspected narcotics, which tested positive for heroin and fentanyl.

Victim-1's Communications with Vila

16. Based on my involvement in this investigation, including review of a phone seized from Victim-1's home (the "Victim-1 Phone"), and conversations with other members of law enforcement, I know the following:

- a. The Victim-1 Phone contained hundreds of messages with a phone number entered in Victim-1's contacts as "Elvin Vila" ("Vila Phone Number-1") and a number entered in Victim-1's contacts as "Elvin Vila New" ("Vila Phone Number-2"). As set forth below, I believe these numbers were used by ELVIN VILA, the defendant.
- b. The first known text conversation between VILA and Victim-1 is on or about November 21, 2023, though those messages indicate that Victim-1 and VILA already knew each other, including because, in the first message, Victim-1 asked VILA to "meet me . . . by my place."
- c. In the period from in or around November 2023 through in or around April 2025, VILA and Victim-1 exchanged numerous messages arranging dozens of meetings to conduct transactions, with VILA indicating that he was driving to meet Victim-1 in Connecticut. During some periods of time, such meetings occurred multiple times per week.
- d. On multiple occasions, Victim-1 expressed concern about specific meeting spots because they were too crowded, sometimes instructing VILA to meet him down the block

from where Victim-1 was. For example, on or about March 30, 2024, Victim-1 expressed the need to be careful in choosing a meeting spot, adding: “I gotta be careful don’t want to get pinched.” Additionally, on multiple occasions, Victim-1 wrote to VILA that his batches were “short,” after which VILA promised to make up the quantity later. Based on my training and experience, and based on the context of the conversations, I believe these are references to VILA supplying batches that contained fewer narcotics than Victim-1 had paid for.

e. In the month leading up to Victim-1’s death, the messages indicate that VILA drove from the Bronx, New York, to Connecticut every few days to sell drugs to Victim-1, including on or about March 6, March 10, March 13, March 18, March 21, March 25, March 28, April 2, April 8, and April 11, 2025.

e. Several days after the last meeting on or about April 11, 2025, VILA sent the following four messages to Victim-1, all of which are marked as “unread,” likely because Victim-1 was dead or unconscious:

From	To	Date	Time	Content	Status
Elvin Vila New	Victim-1	April 15, 2025	8:00 a.m.	You good	Unread
Elvin Vila New	Victim-1	April 15, 2025	11:45 a.m.	You good	Unread
Elvin Vila New	Victim-1	April 15, 2025	1:33 p.m.	Are you ok	Unread
Elvin Vila New	Victim-1	April 15, 2025	5:15 p.m.	Just let me know you ok	Unread

Victim-2 and Victim-3

17. As set forth below, ELVIN VILA, the defendant, sold narcotics to Victim-3, who in turn provided them to Victim-2. Specifically, (i) VILA delivered narcotics to Victim-3 on or about April 16, 2025; (ii) Victim-3 provided some or all of those narcotics to Victim-2; (iii) Victim-2 died of an overdose on or about April 25, 2025; (iv) VILA continued delivering narcotics to Victim-3 on dozens of occasions after Victim-2’s death, including on or about January 9, 2026; and (v) Victim-3 died of an overdose on or about January 21, 2026.

Victim-2’s Death

18. Based on my involvement in this investigation, including review of police reports and conversations with other members of law enforcement, I know the following:

a. On or about April 25, 2025, Victim-2 was found unresponsive in a house in Port Chester, New York, where Victim-2 had been staying. Victim-2 was transported to a hospital in Greenwich, Connecticut, where Victim-2 was pronounced dead.

b. A search of Victim-2’s room in the above-mentioned house revealed empty white glassine envelopes and a straw containing white powdery residue. Laboratory testing of the substances found on the straw indicated that they contained cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl.

c. Autopsy and toxicology tests performed on Victim-2 determined that her death was the result of an accidental overdose secondary to acute intoxication due to the combined effects of fentanyl, para-fluorofentanyl, amphetamine, and alcohol.

Victim-2's Communications with Victim-3

19. Based on my involvement in this investigation and conversations with other members of law enforcement, I know that toll records revealed significant phone and text communications between a cellphone number registered to Victim-2 and a cellphone number registered to Victim-3. I further know that members of law enforcement recovered a cellphone which a relative of Victim-2 identified as belonging to Victim-2 (the "Victim-2 Phone"). Review of the Victim-2 phone revealed the following:

a. Victim-2 exchanged multiple messages with other individuals about purchasing "packets" from Victim-3, who is referred to by a diminutive of his first name. Based on the context, and based on my training and experience, I believe that "packets" refers to narcotics doses.

b. On or about April 17, 2025 (i.e., approximately a week before Victim-2's death), Victim-3 wrote to Victim-2: "i got all the dope i want" and "I just got a new batch yesterday and regardless what you say it is BETTER, that's why I have 4 or 5 at the most." As further set forth below, messages between ELVIN VILA, the defendant, and Victim-3 reveal that the "new batch" that Victim-3 received "yesterday" (i.e., on or about April 16, 2025) was obtained from VILA.

The Vila iCloud Account

20. Based on my review of records from Apple, I know that an iCloud account (the "Vila iCloud Account") is registered under the name "Elvin Vila," is associated with Vila Phone Number-1 and Vila Phone Number-2 (i.e., the two phone numbers that ELVIN VILA, the defendant, used to communicate with Victim-1), and is associated with an email address that contains the word "Elvin."

21. On or about March 3, 2026, the Honorable Valerie Figueredo, United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York, issued a warrant to search the Vila iCloud Account. Based on law enforcement review of the Vila iCloud Account, I know it contained multiple messages, photographs, and other data confirming that ELVIN VILA, the defendant, is the user of the Vila iCloud Account, including numerous emails and text messages addressed to "Elvin Vila" and numerous selfies taken by a person matching VILA's appearance.

VILA's Sale of Narcotics to Victim-3

22. Based on my involvement in this investigation, including review of records from the Vila iCloud Account pursuant to the Vila iCloud Warrant; review of toll records; review of surveillance footage showing the outside of Victim-3's house in Port Chester, New York; and communications with other members of law enforcement, I know the following:

a. On or about April 16, 2025—i.e., the day before Victim-3 wrote to Victim-2 that he "just got a new batch yesterday"—Victim-3 made two phone calls to ELVIN VILA, the defendant, at or about 12:24 p.m. and 12:26 p.m. Several hours later, VILA made eight calls to the Victim-3 Phone Number between approximately 4:29 p.m. and 4:32 p.m., each call lasting less than six seconds and several appearing to have gone to voicemail. Based on my training and experience, this pattern is consistent with Victim-3 and VILA arranging to meet, VILA traveling

to meet Victim-3, and VILA trying to reach Victim-3 upon his arrival. Moreover, at approximately 4:11 p.m. on the same day, VILA messaged Victim-3: “On my way.”

b. In or around June 2025, members of the Port Chester Police Department installed a camera facing Victim-3’s residence in Port Chester, New York (the “Victim-3 House”), which revealed multiple instances between in or around June 2025 and in or around January 2026 in which VILA drove to the Victim-3 House, appeared to conduct a hand-to-hand transaction through a side window, and departed. Further analysis, including a comparison of the surveillance footage with the call records between Victim-3 and VILA, revealed several instances in which the two matched up—i.e., the footage showed VILA conducting a transaction at the Victim-3 House on the days on which VILA and Victim-3 communicated by phone.

c. Members of the Port Chester Police Department obtained location data for Vila Phone Number-2 pursuant to a judicial warrant, which revealed that VILA typically drove to Port Chester from the Bronx prior to his meetings with Victim-3 and returned to the Bronx after those meetings.

d. The Vila iCloud Account contained multiple messages between VILA and Victim-3 regarding narcotics sales. For example, on or about June 23, 2025, Victim-3 sent a voice message asking VILA to “hit [Victim-3] up like you did last time” but asked VILA to improve the quality of the narcotics: “Make sure they ain’t fucking melted, bro. They fucking stick to the bag. They ain’t powdery, man. They ain’t powdery, man. Fucking people complaining and shit, man.” Based on my training and experience, I know that the above description is consistent with the characteristics of synthetic narcotics like fentanyl.

Victim-3’s Death

23. Based on my participation in this investigation, including review of toll records, review of law enforcement reports and records, and conversations with other members of law enforcement, I know the following:

a. On or about the early morning of January 9, 2026, surveillance footage showed a man arriving in an SUV at the Victim-3 House, walking to the side window, doing a hand-to-hand transaction, and leaving.¹ Toll records revealed multiple calls between VILA and Victim-3 at around the same time. Moreover, the above-mentioned SUV is registered to a woman who, based on my review of the Vila iCloud Account, appears to be VILA’s romantic partner.

b. On or about January 21, 2026, Victim-3 was discovered dead in his bedroom in the Victim-3 House. Relatives of Victim-3 reported that Victim-3 had reported feeling ill in the hours before his death. A search of Victim-3’s bedroom revealed glassine envelopes commonly used to package opioids, including several partially ripped glassines.

c. A toxicology report performed by the Westchester County Department of Labs and Research showed that Victim-3’s blood contained fentanyl, norfentanyl, and other narcotic substances. The Westchester County Medical Examiner assessed that Victim-3 died as a

¹ Because the transaction occurred before dawn, the man’s face is not clearly visible.

result of acute mixed drug intoxication by the combined effects of tramadol, fentanyl, and alprazolam.

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

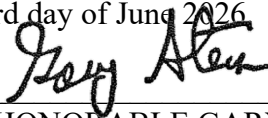
/s/ Kyle Harrell (by GS w/ permission)

KYLE HARRELL

Special Agent

Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to me through the transmission of
this Complaint by reliable electronic
means (telephone), pursuant to Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure 41(d)(3) and 4.1
this 3rd day of June 2026



THE HONORABLE GARY STEIN

United States Magistrate Judge

Southern District of New York