



Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York
Bridget G. Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

For Immediate Release
October 12, 2022

snpnyc.org
@snpnyc

Contacts:

Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office
Kati Cornell
(212) 815-0525

DEA New York Division
Erin Mulvey
(212) 337-2906

Major Seizure of Approximately 300,000 “Rainbow Fentanyl” Pills and Over 20 Pounds of Powdered Fentanyl in the Bronx

Tec-9 semi-automatic assault weapon, hydraulic door opener and 11 GPS devices also recovered

Two individuals are charged in connection with the seizure of approximately 300,000 fentanyl pills in assorted colors and another 20 pounds of fentanyl in powdered form from a drug stash location in the Bronx. The apartment, situated adjacent to the Bronx River Parkway, near the border of Westchester County, also contained a Tec-9 semi-automatic assault weapon, a hydraulic door opener and 11 GPS devices. Some of the fentanyl pills resembled pharmaceutical drugs, including oxycodone and Xanax.

The size of this major cache of candy-colored fentanyl eclipses that of another “rainbow fentanyl” seizure announced in New York last week, and further illustrates drug traffickers’ latest marketing tactics to attract the public while deceiving them about the potentially lethal contents of pills sold on the street.

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City’s Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Frank A. Tarentino III, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) New York Division, Nassau County District Attorney Anne T. Donnelly and Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced the arrests, which occurred on Friday, October 7, 2022. ERICKSON LORENZO and JEFRY RODRIGUEZ-PICHARDO were scheduled to appear today in Manhattan Criminal Court, Part N, to face charges filed by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

The ongoing investigation was conducted by the DEA’s Long Island District Office Task Force, which consists of agents and investigators from the DEA, the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office, the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, the Hempstead Police Department, the New York State Police, and the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office. The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Investigators Unit assisted in the investigation.

“This investigation uncovered a trove of dangerous ‘rainbow fentanyl’ pills worth up to \$6 million on the street, plus an estimated \$3 million in powdered fentanyl,” said **Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan**. “The accused traffickers kept an assault weapon on hand and set up their stash house in a residential building near a highway, with easy access into and out of New York City. Fentanyl pills are masquerading in many different forms, and our city is flooded with them. Any street drug, whether it looks like a legitimate pharmaceutical or like candy, may be fentanyl, and it may be lethal.”

“There is no question this seizure of poisonous fentanyl saved lives,” said **DEA Special Agent in Charge Frank Tarentino**. “Hundreds of thousands of lethal pills were lying in wait in a Bronx apartment to be unleashed onto our streets. In today’s world, the potential to overdose is dangerously high. There is no quality control in these fake pills and it only takes two milligrams of fentanyl to be lethal. The men and women of the DEA are relentlessly working to keep these deadly drugs and the associated violence off of our streets and away from our most vulnerable. These drug traffickers are brazen, but they will be held accountable. I commend the members of our DEA Long Island District Office, and the NYC Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for their hard work on this investigation.”

“This investigation by the DEA’s Long Island District Office Task Force has dealt another blow to the criminals trafficking fentanyl in New York and ensured hundreds of thousands of potentially lethal pills are kept off of our streets,” said **Nassau County District Attorney Anne T. Donnelly**. “Rainbow fentanyl is the latest threat we face in our fight against the opioid epidemic that sadly continues to ravage our communities – a multi-colored poison specifically designed to attract younger users. Together with our partners in this task force, we will keep applying pressure and hold individuals accountable who attempt to profit from the sale of these deadly drugs.”

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark said, “I am grateful to Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan’s office and the Drug Enforcement Administration, our partners in the battle against fentanyl distribution, for intercepting this huge amount of the toxic drug. Creating these rainbow-colored pills out of a deadly drug – that is taking so many lives in the Bronx and around the city – is yet another dark marketing tool used by drug traffickers.”

LORENZO and RODRIGUEZ-PICHARDO were arrested at approximately 6:10 a.m. on Friday, October 7, 2022, as members of DEA’s Long Island District Office Task Force conducted a court-authorized search of 4030 Bronx Boulevard, Apt. 3G. LORENZO was allegedly inside one bedroom of the third-floor apartment, while RODRIGUEZ-PICHARDO was allegedly in another bedroom hanging out of a windowsill with no fire escape.

The fentanyl in the apartment took a wide array of forms and was contained in various types of packaging. Approximately 10 kilograms (over 22 pounds) of fentanyl in powdered form, wrapped in clear plastic packaging, was inside the kitchen, the living room and the bedroom where LORENZO was allegedly found. The roughly 300,000 multicolored fentanyl pills were inside two hallway closets and in LORENZO’s room. The majority of these pills were sorted by color and contained in large zip lock bags. Some of the pills were pressed to resemble legitimate oxycodone and Xanax. One large black garbage bag held up to 100,000 pills in assorted colors and shapes all mixed together.

A loaded Tec-9 semi-automatic assault weapon, an extended magazine and a box of ammunition were also in a hallway closet. Other items found in the apartment included three scales, 11 global positioning devices and a hydraulic door-opening device.

DEA laboratory analysis of the narcotics seized is pending. Preliminary testing indicated the presence of fentanyl.

LORENZO and RODRIGUEZ-PICHARDO were arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court on Saturday, October 8, 2022. Bail for each man was set at \$500,000 cash/\$1 million bond/\$1 million partially secured bond. They were required to surrender their passports.

A criminal complaint charges both men with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First and Third Degrees, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree and Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the Second Degree.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan thanked Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and commended her office’s Special Investigations Bureau and Investigators Unit, the DEA New York Division and the DEA’s Long Island District Office Task Force, including the Nassau County District

Attorney's Office, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, the Hempstead Police Department, the New York State Police, and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office. She also thanked the New York City Police Department's 46th Precinct's Anti-Crime Team for assisting in the investigation.

Defendants	Charges
Erickson Lorenzo Bronx, NY Age: 30	CPCS 1st – 1 ct CPCS 3rd – 1 ct Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd – 2 cts Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2nd – 1 ct
Jefry Rodriguez-Pichardo Bronx, NY Age: 32	CPCS 1st – 1 ct CPCS 3rd – 1 ct Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd – 2 cts Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia 2nd – 1 ct

The charges and allegations are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.