

MPR:EMR
F. # 2019R00074

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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TO BE FILED UNDER SEAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- against -

**COMPLAINT AND AFFIDAVIT IN
SUPPORT OF ARREST WARRANT**

JUNIOR ORTIZ,

Defendant.

(T. 21, U.S.C., § 846)

20-MJ-243

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EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, SS:

SEAN SWEENEY, being duly sworn, deposes and states that he is a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”), duly appointed according to law and acting as such.

In or about May 2018, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the defendant JUNIOR ORTIZ, together with others, did knowingly, intentionally, and unlawfully conspire with intent to distribute a substance containing cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

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

The source of your deponent’s information and the grounds for his belief are as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”) and have been involved in the investigation of numerous cases involving narcotics trafficking. I am familiar with the facts and circumstances set forth below from my participation in the investigation; my review of the

investigative file; and from reports of other law enforcement officers involved in the investigation.

2. Since approximately 2016, HSI has been investigating a multinational drug trafficking organization (the “DTO) with distributors in the New York metropolitan area and the Dominican Republic. The organization transports multi-kilogram quantities of narcotics into the United State through a variety of means, including sending drug couriers on flights to the United States, concealing narcotics in mail and tractor trucks that enter the United States from Mexico, and concealing narcotics in produce shipments that are imported into the United States.

3. In or about May 2018, ORTIZ owned and operated Junior’s Produce, a produce importing business based in Uniondale, New York. ORTIZ has conspired with other members of the DTO to import cocaine into the United States, concealed in produce shipments to Junior’s Produce.

4. In or about May 2018, the DTO sent a shipment of approximately 248 kilograms of cocaine to Junior’s Produce, concealed in cardboard boxes of tomato imports from the Dominican Republic. On or about May 11, 2018, the shipment arrived at the Red Hook Port in Red Hook, Brooklyn, New York. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) officers discovered the cocaine hidden in the bottom of the boxes, removed it, and alerted HSI agents to their discovery.

5. On or about May 14, 2018, HSI agents delivered the boxes without the cocaine to Junior’s Produce, where ORTIZ accepted delivery. After waiving his Miranda rights, ORTIZ stated in substance and in part that he did not know about the cocaine inside the boxes.


6. During the summer of 2019, a cooperating witness (the “CW”),¹ who was formerly a senior member of the DTO, conducted a face-to-face meeting in New York with ORTIZ, which the CW recorded. I have reviewed the recording of the CW’s conversation with ORTIZ. During their conversation, ORTIZ discussed his ties with the DTO. ORTIZ stated in substance and in part that his payment agreement for receiving loads of cocaine from the DTO was supposed to be \$50,000 to \$60,000 per container, and that he was willing to do more work for the DTO but with “conditions” and with money “paid up front.”

7. During their conversation, ORTIZ also told the CW about the May 2018 cocaine shipment to Junior’s Produce. ORTIZ stated in substance and in part that, after the police arrived, he called the produce export company in the Dominican Republic and yelled at them in order to “act innocent in front of the police officer.”

8. ORTIZ also told the CW about the two shipments of produce that he received from the DTO: (i) one containing approximately 90 kilograms of cocaine, and (ii) one containing approximately 200 kilograms of cocaine. ORTIZ stated in substance and in part that he helped facilitate that transport of 90 kilograms of cocaine to his warehouse in Ronkonkoma, and that he was paid approximately \$10,000 for that load. ORTIZ further stated in substance and in part that the DTO sent the 200 kilogram shipment in a group of 15 produce containers, and that he was paid \$25,000 for that load.

¹ The CW pleaded guilty in March 2019 in the Eastern District of New York pursuant to a cooperation agreement to one count of Conspiracy to Import Cocaine and one count of Unlawful Use of Firearm. The CW has provided information in the past that has proven reliable and been corroborated by independent evidence. He is cooperating with law enforcement authorities with the hope that he will receive leniency at sentencing.

WHEREFORE, your deponent respectfully requests that the defendant JUNIOR ORTIZ be dealt with according to law.


SEAN M. SWEENEY
Special Agent, United States Department of
Homeland Security, Homeland Security
Investigations

Sworn to before me by
telephone this 11th day
of March, 2020


THE HONORABLE PEGGY KOO
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK