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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Brooklyn Man Sentenced for Mail Theft and Bank Fraud**

**BROOKLYN, NY** — Following an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the New York Police Department, a federal judge sentenced Andrae Small on March 16, 2026, to seven years in prison for postal theft and financial crimes resulting from several mail theft incidents in the Crown Heights neighborhood.

In late February 2024, postal inspectors opened an investigation after noticing a pattern of mail thefts in Brooklyn. Postal inspectors linked Small and a vehicle used in each incident, including one on March 5th in which Small, possessing a knife, stole several bundles of mail from a letter carrier. Small had previously been arrested for mail theft in Allentown, PA, in July 2023.

On July 3, 2024, Small was arrested following the execution of a federal search warrant at his residence in the New Lots neighborhood. Small admitted he used stolen identification cards to open bank accounts, using those accounts to negotiate checks. He also admitted operating a Telegram channel to correspond with others for stolen checks and personally identifiable information. In total, the value of the checks posted on Small's Telegram channel was estimated at more than \$2.5 million.

Small pleaded guilty on August 26, 2025, to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and wire fraud and one count of mail theft. His sentence under the charges of conspiracy to commit bank or wire fraud and mail theft also included two years of supervised release.

"As a primary focus of our mission, postal inspectors are determined to keep postal employees safe and the mail secure," said Ketty Larco-Ward, inspector in charge of the New York Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. "I commend our postal inspectors, in collaboration with detectives from the New York Police Department Financial Crimes Task Force, in tracking down this individual and putting a stop to his wave of financial crimes. We are pleased justice was served to keep this prolific mail thief off the streets and postal carriers safe while serving Brooklyn communities."

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The [U.S. Postal Inspection Service](https://www.uspis.gov) serves to protect against and prevent criminal attacks on U.S. Postal Service employees, customers, and infrastructure. U.S. postal inspectors enforce more than 200 federal laws that preserve public trust in the U.S. Mail.