

TLP CLEAR – DISSEMINATION UNLIMITED



In Obscura

Vincent M. Nasti, Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Consultant
In Obscura, LLC | Threat Intelligence | Security Countermeasures | Investigations
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(TLP-C) VIOLENT ENCOUNTER GUN, EDEN CHURCH, HOUSTON 15 MAR 26

KNOW THE TARGET – WATCH THE TARGET – LOOK DEEPER -EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

IN OBSCURA THEAT LEVEL – IMMINENT

CAVEAT: THIS INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT RELIES ON OPEN-SOURCE MEDIA OR GOVERNMENT RELEASED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS ARE INCLUDED FOR CLIENTS FOR INFORMATION AND ACTIONS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

DATE OF ACQUISITION: 15 MAR 26

PUBLISHED: 29 APR 2026 UPDATED 19 MAY 2026

COLLECTION PERIOD: 15 APR 26

INFORMATION CUTOFF: 15 MAY 2026

DISSEMINATION CONTROL: TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL-CLEAR (TLP-C)

PREPARED BY: V.M. NASTI

POINT OF CONTACT: V.M. NASTI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The context here is that this Pastor was targeted for assassination inside his church during services by an armed lone attacker. The security team neutralized the threat. The Eden Church Security Staff were visually alerted to a male inside the church, for ejected for behavior and handing out concerning “flyers.” He re-entered the service a short time later wearing a backpack. He had to be physically restrained by security as he tried to draw a concealed gun from a pants pocket and gripping his cell phone and pressing the screen and verbally counting down as trying to detonate an explosive (disproven). The pistol was pulled from his pants pocket. Several rounds of ammo were found in his backpack and in his cell phone screen was found images of the Pastors personal vehicle and a memo to kill

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the Pastor was targeted for assassination. He was arrested, charged and incarcerated for arraignment. Attached:

EXHIBIT (1) Harris County District Attorney Criminal Complaint and record of police interview of Eden Security.

EXHIBIT (2) SUBJECT photo, booking data screens

EXHIBIT (3) Eden Church interior environment Images

EXHIBIT (4) Sources

LOCATION

Eden Church located at operating inside the Houston Post Entertainment Center, 401 Franklin St, Houston, TX 77201: LAT/LONG 29.76602954470022-95.36529746847604. <https://www.edenchurchohouston.com> and <https://www.posthtx.com>.

Houston Post Entertainment Center is a city entertainment, special event facility which holds various shops and restaurants and has its own security force. Eden Church has about 1,000 members, conducts Sunday services in the foyer of Post Entertainment Center. The reporting on this attack does not mention the Post security staff or their role in this attack. It also does not disclose armed status of Post or Eden security staffs. Note that security vulnerabilities detected by In Obscura during analysis and information collection are never disclosed.

REPORT

Church Security Staff of the Eden Church, operating in the Post Entertainment Center, Houston, TX were alerted on 15 Mar 2026 to a suspicious male, inside the church who was later detained and identified as Emmanuel Ashono MBWAVI, age 23, hereafter referred to as SUBJECT. SUBJECT had suspicious, alerting behavior and recognized as having been there before and ejected for passing out “concerning flyers (Not Further Elaborated).

On morning of 15 Mar 2026, SUBJECT entered the church and was noticed by the pastor, who informed the church security team, handing out “concerning flyers.” He was ejected but returned later wearing a backpack. Security initiated surveillance, SUBJECT followed Pastor into the Men’s room and then exited and entered a few times while Pastor was inside then exited and as HE made eye contact with a security officer. HE then blended into the

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crowd, where security lost visual contact. HE was later found, and stopped by security, concealing one hand in a pants pocket indicating a gun being drawn.

SUBJECT then tried to draw the pistol, but the hammer mechanism obstructed this, and security physically pushed HIM to the floor and took control of the pistol. However, in HIS left hand HE was holding a cell phone and during the struggle SUBJECT was pushing on the phone screen and verbally counted down simulating a potential IED detonation. Security took possession of the cell phone to stop any such detonation. This was not further explained, but an IED was ruled out, apparently.

Security then discovered a phone notes app screen which contained information apparently collected by SUBJECT on the pastor as the target. “...**Kill Jared Darby** (Pastor) in downstairs rest room **with bag in hand**...” and photos and description of Darby’s car, a Black Audi SUV Q5 and the license plate number. A search SUBJECT and backpack recovered the loaded pistol, .22 caliber revolver and 100 rounds of pistol ammunition. SUBJECT then yelled HE was going to kill the pastor, a fake prophet. SUBJECT identified HIMSELF as a prophet named Warlock. SUBJECT was detained and arrested upon police arrival.

ATTACK ANALYSIS

There are some concerning gaps in the attack scenario. First the apparently undocumented ejection of SUBJECT during HIS first access to the church mainstream population. It is not explained why HE was allowed access that second time. Report does not mention wearing of the backpack that first time or his activity while there. The cellphone memo seems to explain the backpack might have been hidden elsewhere, then according to plan introduced on the second entry. This second entry spiked the attack success opportunity. There is no mention of SUBJECT being detected previously or was trespassed from the property.

That the church has an average attendance on Sunday mornings is concerning, and that SUBJECT conducted rudimentary counter surveillance techniques to evade security staff surveillance and get lost in the crowd. Then HE continued to enter and return to the Men’s room used by Pastor but was not stopped or followed inside where a more concerning silent assassination by edged weapon could have taken place.

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HE is presumed to be mentally deranged, derived based on HIS statements of the Pastor as a false prophet, HIM as that true one named Warlock.

HIS finger pushing the cell phone screen and verbally counting down during the struggle for the gun in HIS pants pocket. The backpack had additional ammunition and cell phone images of the Pastors personal vehicle. The admission by the security staff of small security team to secure an average 1,000 population on Sunday mornings.

In Obscura assesses with medium to high confidence, this supposed mentally deranged SUBJECT conducted target surveillance more than once. Was then aware of the small security team in a sea of worshippers. Ejected at least once for handing out “concerning flyers” which very easily was a test of security, cover for action and cover for status, and then observe how HE would be ejected from the church that same day. Was able and savvy enough to acquire firearms and ammunition, possibly hide the backpack then retrieve it and reenter the church for the final mission.

From this attack, security staffs and clergy should, again should be awakened to the reality of the continuing escalation of church tactical targeting and attacks. Protests, demonstrations, physical hard mob entries during services are all attack scenarios with professional planning, target intelligence collection and analysis and ruthless execution. Multiple times across the U.S. by proven mentally deranged solo attackers and large, organizations with foreign intelligence control, training, funding.

Yet again, churches, clergy, congregations MUST be sober of the reality of this escalation of church vulnerabilities not resolved. The concurrent escalation of the insurgency inside the U.S. which is and has targeted churches professionally and deploying intelligence collection attacks. This must change immediately.

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EXHIBIT (1) COMPLAINT

CAUSE NO: 1957864 COURT NO: 183

P4

THE STATE OF TEXAS
VS.
EMMANUEL AHSONO MBWAVI
4950 MEMORIAL DR
HOUSTON TX 77077

SPN: 03329368
DOB: B M 06/24/2002
DATE PREPARED: 03/30/2026

D.A. LOG NUMBER: 3250018
CJIS TRACKING NO.:
AGENCY:HPD
O/R NO: 034070626
ARREST DATE: TO BE

NCIC CODE: 1301 19

RELATED CASES: SD-FEL

FELONY CHARGE: Aggravated Assault

CAUSE NO: 1957864
HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT NO: 183
FIRST SETTING DATE:

COURT ORDERED BAIL: TO BE SET AT
MAGISTRATION
PRIOR CAUSE NO:
CHARGE SEQ NUM: 1

IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

Before me, the undersigned Assistant District Attorney of Harris County, Texas, this day appeared the undersigned affiant, who under oath says that he has good reason to believe and does believe that in Harris County, Texas, EMMANUEL AHSONO MBWAVI, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about March 15, 2026, did then and there unlawfully, intentionally and knowingly threaten Fernando Romo with imminent bodily injury by using and exhibiting a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm.

Probable Cause

The Affiant, C Schuster, is a credible and reliable person, who is a certified peace officer with the Houston Police Department. The Affiant has reason to believe and does believe that on or about March 15, 2026, Emmanuel Ashono Mbwavi, D.O.B. 06-24-2002 Texas Driver License 48389795 SPN 03329368, hereafter the Defendant, committed the offense of Aggravated Assault-Deadly Weapon in Harris County, Texas.

The incident occurred at the Eden Church, located in the Post Entertainment Center. The Post Entertainment Center is a building with several shops and restaurants located at 401 Franklin St, Houston, Harris County, Texas. The Eden Church conducts services in the foyer of the Post Entertainment Center every Sunday at 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. before most businesses open. The Post Entertainment Center has security officers on duty and the Eden Church has over 1,000 members with a small security team, which is made up of church members.

The Affiant interviewed Complainant Fernando Romo, hereafter Complainant Romo, who the Affiant believes to be credible and reliable. Complainant Romo is a member of the Eden Church security team. Complainant Romo told the Affiant that he met the Defendant twice in the past, so he knows the Defendant by name and sight. Complainant Romo told Affiant that he was told by Pastor Jared Darby, that the Defendant had been asked to leave the property approximately two months prior, because the Defendant was passing out concerning flyers to other church members. Complainant Romo said he was at the Eden Church on March 15, 2026, when he was advised by Pastor Jared Darby, that the Defendant was in the church area and was wearing a backpack. Believing that the Defendant would once again attempt to pass out flyers, Pastor Jared Darby asked Complainant Romo, church staff, and the security team to watch the Defendant. Complainant Romo stated he observed the Defendant following Pastor Jared Darby as he walked into the bathroom. While Pastor Jared Darby was in the bathroom, Complainant Romo observed the Defendant walk in and out of the bathroom three times, then making eye contact with Complainant Romo. Complainant Romo lost sight with the Defendant, who then walked into a crowd of people.

Complainant Romo said that Abraham Guajardo, hereafter Complainant Guajardo, a Pastor at the Eden Church, located the Defendant and was going to speak with him. Complainant Guajardo questioned the Defendant as to his business at the church. Complainant Romo said he had a heightened awareness because the Defendant was wearing a backpack and appeared to be concealing something on the right side of his body as he talked to Complainant Guajardo. Complainant Romo said the Defendant's movements and demeanor were so concerning that he placed his coffee cup on the ground to free his hands. Complainant Romo said he continued to watch the Defendant as he had a conversation with Complainant Guajardo. The Defendant then turned slightly, allowing Complainant Romo to see his right hand. Complainant Romo observed that the Defendant was holding the brown grip of a pistol that was in his right front pant pocket. Complainant Romo said he noticed the Defendant attempting to pull the pistol from his pant pocket, but the hammer of the pistol snagged on the pant material. Complainant Romo said he believed the Defendant was going to shoot Complainant Guajardo, him, and other church members causing serious bodily injury or death, so he tackled the Defendant. Complainant Romo said the Defendant had his cellular phone in his left hand and was pushing on the phone screen with his finger. While on the ground, the Defendant verbally counted down, causing Complainant Romo to believe that he would detonate a bomb when he reached zero. The Defendant also shouted "I'm gonna kill Jared, who is a fake prophet. I am a prophet called Warlock." The Defendant then threatened to kill Complainant Romo.

D.A. LOG NUMBER: 3250018
DEFENDANT: EMMANUEL AHSONO MBWAVI

Page 1 of 3

RECORDER'S MEMORANDUM
This instrument is of poor quality
at the time of imaging

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CAUSE NO: 1957864 COURT NO: 183

Complainant Romo said the pistol fell from the Defendant's hand as they went to the ground. Complainant Romo said he was able to hold the Defendant on the ground with help of a church member as a second church member picked up the Defendant's pistol. Complainant Romo said he was concerned that the Defendant may be trying to use his cellular phone to detonate a bomb in his backpack, so he grabbed the Defendant's cellular phone. Complainant Romo said the Defendant's cellular phone was open to the Notes app, displaying a memo that contained information about killing Jared Darby, a Pastor at Eden Church. The Note memo read, "Kill Jared Darby in the downstairs restroom with bag in hand" and included "black Audi SUV Q5 belongs to Jared" with the vehicle's license plate number. Complainant Romo recovered the Defendant's .22 caliber revolver firearm, loaded with six live rounds and 100 live rounds that were later located in the Defendant's backpack.

The Affiant interviewed Complainant Guajardo, who the Affiant believes to be credible and reliable. Complainant Guajardo said he knows the Defendant by name and sight because he had introduced himself to the Defendant earlier that morning. During this encounter, Complainant Guajardo said the Defendant told him that he was asking too many personal questions. Complainant Guajardo found the Defendant's response to be strange, so he ended the conversation. Complainant Guajardo later noticed the Defendant who appeared to be hiding behind concrete columns and looking around, as if he was looking for someone specific. The movements by the Defendant caused heightening awareness and fear by Complainant Guajardo. Complainant Guajardo said he noticed the Defendant wearing a backpack, so he asked Complainant Romo to monitor him as he questioned the Defendant regarding his business at the church. Complainant Guajardo said he walked up to the Defendant as Complainant Romo stood close by. Complainant Guajardo said he was talking to the Defendant and the Defendant appeared to be disengaged and anxious. Complainant Guajardo said he noticed Complainant Romo moving toward the Defendant very quickly as he observed the Defendant pulling a pistol from his pants pocket. Complainant Guajardo said he froze in fear because he knew the Defendant was going to shoot him, causing him to die. Complainant Guajardo said Complainant Romo took the Defendant to the ground, causing the Defendant to drop his pistol. Complainant Guajardo said he later noticed the pistol recovered had live bullets and the Defendant had approximately 100 rounds of live ammunition in his backpack. Complainant Guajardo believes Complainant Romo's quick actions saved his life and the lives of other church members.

Officers were called to the scene, and the Defendant was arrested and charged with Unlawful Carrying of Weapon (Firearm). The Defendant Emmanuel Ashono Mbawavi: D.O.B. 06-24-2002, was identified by his Texas Driver License 48389795.

Complainant Guajardo said that in a post incident staff meeting, he learned that the Defendant had attempted to come into the church that morning with the backpack and was stopped by a member of the Eden Church security team. Complainant Guajardo said he was told the Defendant was turned away because he refused to let the security team check his backpack. The Defendant was escorted out of the building by a Post Entertainment Center security officer; and subsequently returned and entered with the firearm and backpack, acting strangely, and the Aggravated Assault incident occurred.

Affiant reviewed video surveillance footage from the Post Entertainment Center from March 15, 2026. Affiant observed that once the Defendant reentered the building and was walking amongst church members, he had his right hand in his right pant pocket. When the Defendant turned away from the camera, Affiant observed the Defendant's right hand holding the brown grip of the pistol firearm that was later wrestled away from him by Complainant Romo. The Affiant knows from experience that a firearm is, by definition, a deadly weapon that can cause serious bodily injury.

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CAUSE NO: 1957865 COURT NO: 183

AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE.

Signed and sworn by me on 3/30/26

[Signature]

AFFIANT

Duly attested by me on 30 Mar 2026

[Signature]

Assistant District Attorney
Harris County District Attorney's Office
TBC No.

19057500

[Signature]
Witness (Peace Officer)

[Printed Name]
Witness Printed name & Badge or Payroll number

COMPLAINT

FILED
Marilyn Burgess
District Clerk

MAR 30 2026

Time: 1124
Harris County, Texas

By [Signature]
Deputy

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3508 9/13/16
10/13/16
10/13/16

COPY OF COMPLAINT/WARRANT DELIVERED TO
Officer's name: Schultz
Police agency: FPPD
Phone no: _____ date/time: 3/24/16

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I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.
Witness my official hand and seal of office
this April 20, 2026

Certified Document Number: 125881107 Total Pages: 4

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

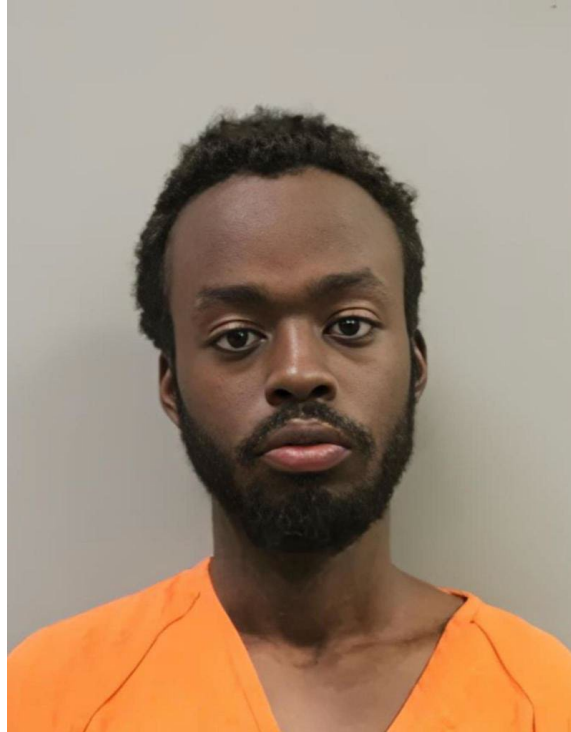
In accordance with Texas Government Code 51.301 and 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail support@hcdistrictclerk.com

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EXHIBIT (2) SUBJECT BOOKING PHOTO and DOCUMENTS



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BOOKING DOCUMENTS

NAME	MBWAVI, EMMANUEL ASHONO	SPN	03329368	DOB	06/24/2002
JAIL	JA09/2B2 02A	BOOKING DATE	03/30/2026		
UP DATE		OUT DATE			

if the up date is the same as the out date, payment of the fine amount is not required to release the inmate from custody on that case.

CASE #	261065501010	BOOKING DATE	03/30/2026		
CHARGE	UNL CARRYING WEAPON PUB PLACE				
COURT	013	COURT DATE	05/12/2026		
BOND AMT	5010.00	FINE BALANCE DUE			
BOND EXC	UNSECURED GOB ELIGIBLE				

CASE #	195786401010	BOOKING DATE	03/30/2026		
CHARGE	AGG ASSAULT W/DEADLY WEAPON				
COURT	183	COURT DATE	05/05/2026		
BOND AMT	50000.00	FINE BALANCE DUE			
BOND EXC					

CASE #	195786501010	BOOKING DATE	03/30/2026		
CHARGE	AGG ASSAULT W/DEADLY WEAPON				
COURT	183	COURT DATE	05/05/2026		
BOND AMT	50000.00	FINE BALANCE DUE			
BOND EXC					

CASE #	261299001010	BOOKING DATE	03/31/2026		
CHARGE	RESIST ARR-SEARCH				
COURT	013	COURT DATE	05/12/2026		
BOND AMT	10000.00	FINE BALANCE DUE			
BOND EXC					

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195786401010 - The State of Texas vs. MBWAVI, EMMANUEL ASHONO (Court 183)

Print All (non-financial)

Summary Images Appeals Bonds Activities Bookings/Holds Criminal History Witness Parties Restitu/Copies Fees Settings Court Registry Related cases Aliases Payment Plan

* Note: Not every case file in our library of records is available in electronic format. (A document may be filed in a case that is not viewable electronically.) Only **non-confidential** civil/criminal documents are available to the public. If a document in a case you are looking for is not available, please [click here](#) to notify Customer Service.

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Image No.	Type	Title	Post Jdgm	Date	Pages	Add Entire Case
126164780	Order	CHARGING INSTRUMENT - FELONY INDICTMENT		04/15/2026	1	Add to Basket
125939325	Filing	DCA CASE RESET FORM		04/02/2026	1	Add to Basket
125921504	Order	BAIL ORDER SB9		04/01/2026	1	Add to Basket
125924223	Filing	BOND SET - DEFENDANT 2023		04/01/2026	1	Add to Basket
125884913	Filing	Financial Affidavit		03/31/2026	1	Add to Basket
125894562	Order	FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT FILED OTHER- REFER BAIL TO DISTRICT COURT PC PREVBAIL ORDER SIGNED (DEFENDANT NOT PRESENT)		03/31/2026 03/31/2026 03/31/2026	4	Add to Basket
125896189	Order	APPOINTING COUNSEL		03/31/2026	1	Add to Basket
125896430	Order	ORDER FOR SUPERVISION AND BOND CONDITIONS		03/31/2026	2	Add to Basket
125907949	Order	COURT DIRECTIVE		03/31/2026	1	Add to Basket
125881107	Order	CHARGING INSTRUMENT - COMPLAINT		03/30/2026	4	Add to Basket
125882191	Filing	STATE'S MOTION FOR BOND CONDITIONS		03/30/2026	6	Add to Basket
125882363	Filing	MOTION FOR SUFFICIENT BAIL		03/30/2026	4	Add to Basket

195786401010 - The State of Texas vs. MBWAVI, EMMANUEL ASHONO (Court 183)

Print All (non-financial)

Summary Images Appeals Bonds Activities Bookings/Holds Criminal History Witness Parties Restitu/Copies Fees Settings Court Registry Related cases Aliases Payment Plan

Click column headings to sort. Click again to toggle direction. Print History

Case (Cause) Nbr / Status	Defendant	Filed / Booked	Ct	Defendant Status	Disposition	Bond Amt	Offense	Next Setting
261299001010-2/ Active - CRIMINAL(A)	MBWAVI, EMMANUEL ASHONO	3/31/2026 3/30/2026	13	JAIL(J)		\$10,000	RESIST ARR-SEARCH (M)	5/12/2026
195786401010-3/ Active - CRIMINAL(A)	MBWAVI, EMMANUEL ASHONO	3/30/2026 3/30/2026	183	JAIL(J)		\$50,000	AGG ASSAULT W/DEADLY WEAPON (F)	5/5/2026
195786501010-3/ Active - CRIMINAL(A)	MBWAVI, EMMANUEL ASHONO	3/30/2026 3/30/2026	183	JAIL(J)		\$50,000	AGG ASSAULT W/DEADLY WEAPON (F)	5/5/2026
261065501010-2/ Active - CRIMINAL(A)	MBWAVI, EMMANUEL ASHONO	3/16/2026 3/30/2026	13	JAIL(J)		UNSECURED GOB ELIGIBLE	UNL CARRYING WEAPON PUB PLACE (M)	5/12/2026

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EXHIBIT (3) EDEN CHURCH ENVIRONMENT



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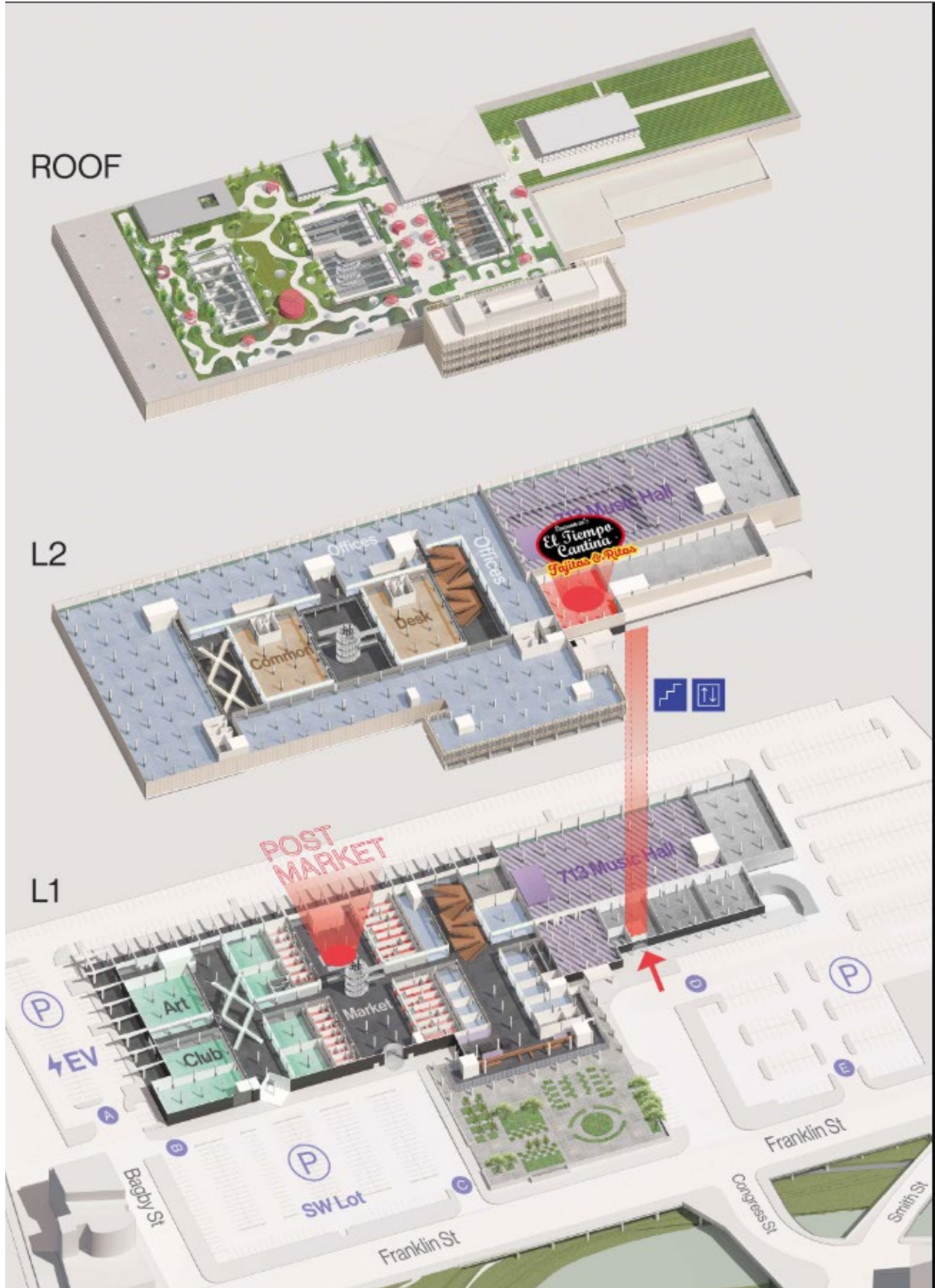
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EXHIBIT (4) SOURCES

Harris County District Attorney Criminal Complaint, State of Texas v. Emmanuel Ahsono Mbwavi, Log Number 3250018, 26 March 2026

Man accused of bringing loaded gun, 100 rounds of ammo to Houston church service

By Barbi Barbee, **Published** April 6, 2026, 8:51pm CDT, [Houston, FOX 26 Houston](#)

<https://www.fox26houston.com/news/man-accused-bringing-loaded-gun-100-rounds-ammo-houston-church-service>

Texas man with loaded gun, 100 rounds tackled by security at Houston church: police

By Michael Sinkewicz, Fox News

Published April 8, 2026, 3:41 a.m. ET

<https://nypost.com/2026/04/08/us-news/texas-man-tackled-at-houston-church-with-loaded-gun-100-rounds/>

Man arrested after bringing gun to church service, threatening to kill pastor, HPD says

By Brianna Willis Monday, April 6, 2026

<https://abc13.com/post/man-arrested-bringing-gun-church-service-threatening-kill-pastor-houston-police-department-says/18849214/>

Man Arrested After Alleged Plot To Shoot Pastor at Houston Church

April 10, 2026 By Dale Chamberlain Church Leaders

<https://churchleaders.com/news/2216119-emmanuel-ahsono-mbwavi-arrested.html>

Police: Armed man arrested at church claimed to be prophet, had note to 'kill' pastor

by WKRC, Thu, April 9, 2026, at 3:07 PM

<https://local12.com/news/nation-world/police-arrest-armed-man-claiming-prophet-warlock-note-phone-kill-pastor-emmanuel-mbwavi-houston-texas-eden-church-jared-darby-fernando-romo-crime-news>

Armed Man Claiming to Be 'Prophet' Arrested at Texas Church with Note on Phone to

'Kill' Emmanuel Ashono Mbwavi is accused of threatening a pastor at a Houston church while armed with a loaded revolver and about 100 rounds of ammunition

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TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – DISSEMINATION UNLIMITED

By Christina Coulter Published on April 8, 2026, 06:35PM EDT

<https://people.com/armed-man-claiming-to-be-prophet-arrested-church-threatening-to-kill-11946098>

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TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY