



# Harvard Model Congress Boston 2024

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## FBI INVESTIGATION INTO THE WESTON JEWELER HEIST

*By Ella Wesson*

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**THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
CASE DOSSIER NO. 93-4302**

**PREPARED FOR:**  
The FBI Jewelry and Gem Theft Program

**PREPARED BY:**  
William Shelson, Analyst

**SUBJECT:**  
Jewelry and Gem Theft at Weston Jewelers  
Boston, MA

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**URGENT AND CLASSIFIED**

## INTRODUCTION

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The mission of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is to Protect the American People and Uphold the Constitution of the United States. In order to do so, the organization determined mission priorities that allow them not only to deal with threats to their objective but get ahead of them. The FBI investigates counterterrorism, counterintelligence, cybercrime, public corruption, civil rights, transnational organized crime, white collar crime, violent crime, weapons of mass destruction, and the focus of this briefing—major theft crimes.

Major theft crimes can involve a variety of goods, most often including art, cargo, jewelry, retail, and vehicles. Like in any other investigation, the FBI works with partner organizations throughout the duration of their major theft crime cases, most often state and local law enforcement but potentially even larger groups such as INTERPOL or the Jewelers' Security Alliance. While at first major theft crimes appear to some as less impactful than other FBI jurisdictions, these cases remain a major priority for the FBI due to their economic impact. Consumer prices rise with each major theft, but perhaps more detrimental is the loss of tax revenue from the stolen goods that would have otherwise gone to local and state governments. Each year, over \$100 million worth of jewelry alone is stolen. In 2011, this number was over \$1.5 billion.

However, unfortunately, the negative impact goes further than only within the economic scope. Jewelry theft is known for being particularly violent, with many cases involving organized criminal enterprises that require tactful responses coordinated between several enforcement organizations. Because most gem thieves are involved in organized crime, many have committed more than one crime that falls under the FBI's jurisdiction, making their arrest a high priority for the Bureau.

One of the most common tactics for jewelry thieves is to use a fence—a person who converts stolen goods into cash. The cash is then laundered in a community far from the original theft, occasionally even abroad.

In July of 2023, a jewelry theft case was brought to the attention of the FBI. The esteemed Weston Jewelers in Boston fell victim to a heavily planned heist. After acquiring more details, **the case was forwarded to your team, the Jewelry and Gem Theft Program.** As an agent stationed in Washington, D.C. on the program, it is your responsibility to learn the facts of the case, examine the evidence, and decide how to structure an investigation. After doing so, you will conduct an investigation into the theft, hoping to play your part in taking down organized jewelry theft.

Because of the incredible value of the gems stolen, your team is under a lot of pressure to succeed. Top FBI leadership is keeping a close eye on this case, and it's important that you deliver a win. Remember, it is you and your fellow agents' job to uphold the Bureau's mission—Protect the American People and Uphold the Constitution of the United States. Good luck with your investigation.

## FACTS OF THE CASE

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**Weston Jewelers** is a well-known and well-respected jewelry store in the heart of Boston's financial district. Often frequented by the wealthiest of the New England city, Weston is a family-run business turned conglomerate within the past fifty years. While the flagship store remains in its original storefront in Boston, the Weston family has opened stores in New York City, San Francisco, Miami, and Chicago.

On the morning of July 11th, 2023, when Elsa Weston went to open the Boston store before the 9am opening, she saw that 70 million dollars worth of gems and precious stones which were present at closing on July 10th were now missing from the locked display cases. She called the Boston PD immediately.

Their initial investigations yielded only partial success, despite investigators feeling intense pressure from the elite buyers of Weston Jewelers and friends of the family. It became clear that the heist was meticulously planned, leaving very few pieces behind for law enforcement to comprehend.

Despite the store's security systems being considered state-of-the-art, they were breached without a trace. No glass cases were broken, nor were there any signs of a break-in, leading police and the public baffled by the audacity and precision of this major theft. Eventually, investigators found signs of entry in the ventilation shaft, indicating that the criminal(s) used this maneuver to slip into the store undetected.

Potential culprits spanned everyone from international criminal syndicates to resentful family members or friends of the Westons, and perhaps even an inside job. Motives investigated ranged from greed to revenge to financial gain. Despite the lack of clarity that remained regarding the case's facts, the major question that loomed was whether or not this caliber of theft could be executed by only one person alone.

As of this writing, the Boston Police Department is still undergoing their investigation. Your team was asked to travel to the scene of the crime and conduct an investigation alongside Boston PD. You will receive access to the rest of Boston PD's case files upon arrival. Included in this dossier are statements by relevant actors and persons of interest.

## WRITTEN STATEMENTS

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Statement from MR. AIDAN KEENAN, on behalf of JAIMEY HEPBURN

"My name is Aidan Keenan, and I serve as the legal counsel for Mr. Jaimey Hepburn. I want to address the concerns that have arisen in the Weston Jewelers heist regarding Mr. Hepburn's past associations. I also hope to ensure that his rights are upheld as a proud lifetime resident of Boston.

Mr. Hepburn understands why his history may be suspicious to investigators of this offense but would like to acknowledge that his association with individuals previously implicated in jewelry thefts does not make him a thief, not in this case or any other. Innocent until proven guilty should extend to every citizen of this country, and I urge you to investigate with an unbiased perspective.

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It has come to my attention that there are certain similarities in the modus operandi, MO, of Mr. Hepburn's associates and the facts of this case. Therefore, it is crucial to understand that Mr. Hepburn has distanced himself significantly from these individuals and any criminal activities several years ago.

Mr. Hepburn has been cooperative with law enforcement efforts thus far and is committed to assisting in any way he can during the investigation. As his legal counsel, I can attest to Mr. Hepburn's genuine desire to rebuild his life over these past few years. We are confident in law enforcement's commitment to impartiality throughout this process and are looking forward to clearing Mr. Hepburn's name once and for all."

Statement from WESTON JEWELERS, INC.:

"Our entire family is incredibly upset. Our company prides itself on trust with its clients; we were a small business not long ago and have maintained that air of intimacy. Aside from the sheer financial impact that already has and will continue to affect us, we will be devastated by the lack of trust in our client relationships. No longer will customers house their precious jewelry in our stores, they will be ambivalent to do so in any establishment. The fabric of trust that is especially vital in a business where the goods are so expensive will be ripped, perhaps not to be sewn up again for decades of years. We are absolutely committed to working with law enforcement agencies as they uncover the truth and retrieve our stolen gems, thereby restoring trust in our field as a whole."

Statement from LUCA WESTON, COO of Weston Jewelers, Inc.:

"It's rare to be in a family business like ours. We aren't all helping out taking shifts at our parents' jewelry shop anymore, we're running it, plus the other four storefronts. It has definitely caused strains in our relationships over the years. Our work problems are our family problems, and vice versa. It's almost like you never leave the shop. I'm hoping that as we start to grow the business and bring more outsiders in, we will alleviate the stress on our family. Maybe my brother had the right idea deciding not to join the business with my sister and I."

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

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The questions presented on the Jewelry and Gem Theft Program are thus:

1. Is this an act of organized crime?
2. Did the goods pass over state lines?
3. Was there significant money laundering involved?

## RELEVANT STATUTORY PROVISIONS

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*United States Code*

*Title 18: Crimes and Criminal Procedure*

*Part I – Crimes*

***Chapter 113: Stolen Property***

***§ 2314 – Definitions***

“Value’ means the face, par, or market value, whichever is the greatest, and the aggregate value of all goods, wares, and merchandise, securities, and money referred to in a single indictment shall constitute the value thereof...”

***§ 2314 - Transportation of stolen goods, securities, moneys, fraudulent State tax stamps, or articles used in counterfeiting***

“Whoever transports, transmits, or transfers in interstate or foreign commerce any goods, wares, merchandise, securities or money, of the value of \$5,000 or more, knowing the same to have been stolen, converted or taken by fraud... Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both...”

***Chapter 96: Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO)***

***§ 1961 – Definitions***

“racketeering activity’ means... any act or threat involving murder, kidnapping, gambling, arson, robbery, bribery, extortion, dealing in obscene matter, or dealing in a controlled substance or listed chemical... which is chargeable under State law and punishable by imprisonment for more than one year...”

“enterprise’ includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, and any union or group of individuals associated in fact although not a legal entity...”

“pattern of racketeering activity’ requires at least two acts of racketeering activity, one of which occurred after the effective date of this chapter and the last of which occurred within ten years (excluding any period of imprisonment) after the commission of a prior act of racketeering activity...”

***§ 1962 - Prohibited activities***

“It shall be unlawful for any person who has received any income derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of racketeering activity or through collection of an unlawful debt in which such person has participated as a principal within the meaning of section 2, title 18, United States Code, to use or invest, directly or indirectly, any part of such income, or the proceeds of such income, in acquisition of any interest in, or the establishment or operation of, any enterprise which is engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce... It shall be unlawful for any person through a pattern of racketeering activity or through collection of an unlawful debt to acquire or maintain, directly or indirectly, any interest in or control of any enterprise which is engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce...”

## *§ 1963 - Criminal penalties*

“Whoever violates any provision of section 1962 of this chapter shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years (or for life if the violation is based on a racketeering activity for which the maximum penalty includes life imprisonment), or both, and shall forfeit to the United States, irrespective of any provision of State law—

1. any interest the person has acquired or maintained in violation of section 1962;
2. any—
  - A. interest in;
  - B. security of;
  - C. claim against; or
  - D. property or contractual right of any kind affording a source of influence over any enterprise which the person has established, operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of, in violation of section 1962...”

## PROCEDURES

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As FBI agents, have received world-class training in Quantico, Virginia at the FBI’s Training Academy where you learned best practices for conducting a thorough and effective investigation. Now, you will bring these skills to Boston. As a refresher, these are your main objectives:

*Evidence Collection and Analysis:* Any and all evidence left at the crime scene shall be analyzed.

*Witness and Suspect Interviews:* Key individuals, including store staff, company heads, customers, or known felons or associates will be interviewed to gather information.

*Surveillance Footage Review:* Surveillance footage from the store and surrounding areas will be reviewed to identify suspicious activities.

*Financial Transactions Analysis:* Financial records will be scrutinized to trace any irregular financial activities connected to the theft.

At the time of this writing, we are unable to brief you on the availability of the evidence available to you. You will be privy to any evidence uncovered by the Boston PD upon arrival and will have the opportunity to gather your own evidence as well.

## RELEVANT AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

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Your investigation into the Weston Jewelers heist will not only involve the Jewelry and Gem Theft Program, nor only the FBI. The FBI partners with and reports to various other organizations within the United States government and occasionally abroad. As such, you may be cooperating with more than just the Boston Police Department. The following list is not exhaustive but will contain the most likely groups you might find yourself working with. A familiarity with the parties listed may prove useful during the investigation.

### *The Office of the Attorney General:*

The FBI is a subset of the Department of Justice, led by the Office of the Attorney General. Therefore, you report to the Attorney General on all investigations as the final authority, if it comes to that. While these instances when the Office of the Attorney General becomes involved are rare, they are not impossible. As such, remember that your role as an investigator is also connected to politics and government.

### *The International Crime Police Organization (INTERPOL):*

INTERPOL is an intergovernmental organization that aids police in their 195 member countries throughout their criminal investigations. INTERPOL allows police departments to share and access criminal and crime data through a communications system called I-24/7. If an FBI investigation yields that international travel or trafficking took place, INTERPOL can be a valuable resource.

### *Jewelers' Security Alliance (JSA):*

JSA is a trade association that informs and alerts jewelers about crimes in addition to working closely with law enforcement agencies and the FBI. They run their own research reports, seminars, and consulting activities which contain valuable information about the patterns of jewelry and gem theft. They are a significant resource in any major jewelry theft investigation.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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Before convening in Boston to begin the investigation into the Weston Jewelers heist, agents on the Jewelry and Gem Theft Program should review this dossier thoroughly. A complete understanding of the information in this briefing will be vital as we uncover more evidence and ultimately uncover the truth about the night of July 10th. This will allow our investigation to be fast-paced, productive, and thorough—the keys to bringing any criminals to justice.

Agents should familiarize themselves with the typical criminal investigative process and consider the reality of such a case. Researching past cases in which the FBI aided in the investigation of a jewelry theft will certainly prove useful, but with so much of the evidence yet to be uncovered, a keen eye and sharp mind are vital to connecting the dots on the spot.



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Agents are advised to take this matter seriously. As laid out in this dossier, this case is a top priority to the FBI. A hard stance against jewelry theft is crucial and will set a precedent for future crimes. The stakes could not be higher, and the FBI higher-ups expect you, under the guidance of your Supervisory Agents, to rise to the occasion. Best of luck.

**END OF DOSSIER**

**NO. 93-4302**