

Mobster Gene Borrello, who later turned on the Bonanno family, was ordered held without bail for threatening his ex-lover and her family. He has hosted “The Johnny and Gene Show” podcast with another turncoat, Johnny Alite (below).

Canary is caged

Mob turncoat jailed for vile threats vs. ex

BY NOAH GOLDBERG
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

A foulmouthed Mafia turncoat was busted after unleashing a torrent of vulgar and violent threats against his ex-girlfriend, authorities said Monday.

Gene Borrello, 36 — who helped put away more than a dozen members of the Bonanno crime family when he flipped to become a federal witness — was arrested Sunday in the wake of a January argument with his former lover that turned menacing, Brooklyn federal prosecutors said.

The dispute was triggered when Borrello asked his ex if he could use her photo in a book he’s working on. She refused, and Borrello went ballistic, prosecutors said.

“The minute you call the cops on me ... I’ll blow your husband’s head right off,” Borrello allegedly said to his ex in audio recordings over Instagram in January — before touting his violent wiseguy past. “Don’t forget about me. Remember what I used to do. I will grab your father right now and beat the dogs—t out of him.”

“Be happy I don’t grab you and your fat, ugly husband by the neck and drag you down the street.”

Borrello pleaded guilty to racketeering in 2016 and was sentenced in December 2019. He received a time-served sentence after spending from 2014 to 2019 in jail, according to a law enforcement source. Borrello now lives in Howard Beach, Queens.

His past includes convictions for multiple shootings, home invasions in which people were tied up, and arsons and beatings, prosecutors said Monday. He also has numerous gun convictions.

In addition, in 2011 he shot a man in the groin who owed a loan-sharking debt to the Bonanno family, a source said.

“The threats he made are very, very serious,” said Lindsay Gerdes, an assistant

U.S. attorney. “Threatening to basically kill the husband of his ex-girlfriend and brutally beat her father all because she refused to let him publish a picture of her in a book he’s working on.”

Borrello hosts “The Johnny and Gene Show” podcast with another former gangster who flipped, Johnny Alite. The feds say the podcast violates Borrello’s terms of release because he’s barred from associating with convicted felons.

But the case is more complicated, with Borrello’s ex-girlfriend telling Gangland News she does not feel threatened by the

former Bonanno associate. “This is a petty situation,” she told the outlet.

“I think my husband wants to see him in jail,” she continued. “Gene’s my ex-boyfriend, and he obviously doesn’t like him. He may have threatened him, but I don’t feel threatened, and I don’t think my husband feels threatened. I think he just wants to see him go back to jail.”

Borrello and his mother, who were on a call with Brooklyn Federal Judge Robert Levy on Monday, begged that he be released.

“I’m not threatening nobody,” Borrello said. “I did nothing but help the government. I made a mistake. We always fight with each other. I don’t deserve to be detained. ... This is so blown out of proportion your honor.”

Borrello’s mother, who didn’t identify herself, noted her son struggles with bipolar disorder but said he is a changed man and no longer a violent mobster.

“Gene had a very violent past, yes he did. He is no longer in that. He is a changed person totally,” she said.

After an hourlong hearing, Levy rejected a bail package and ordered Borrello detained.

“It’s hard for me to see clear and convincing evidence that you would be able to restrain yourself in the future,” he said. “I’m going to deny the bond.”

