

19-year-old found guilty on drug trafficking charges, discovered with fentanyl and hydromorphone in Ottawa's ByWard Market

By Grace Bestard



Ottawa ByWard Market [photo by Grace Bestard]

Timothee Bayombo pleaded guilty to six charges, including drug trafficking and failure to comply with a release order in the Ontario Court of Justice on Jan. 28, 2025.

On Oct. 24, 2023, at just 18 years old, police “observed him [Bayombo] conduct several hand-to-hand drug transactions,” said Safa Abdel Rahman, Crown prosecutor.

Bayombo was then arrested for possession for the purpose of trafficking after being found with 131 hydromorphone pills, \$267, and a knife in his pocket. He later failed to attend court and was issued a bench warrant.

Around two months later, on Jan. 4, 2024, Bayombo was recognized by officers and arrested on the bench warrant. This time, he was found with 139 hydromorphone pills, \$287, a knife, and 2.5 grams of fentanyl.

Finally, on May 18, 2024, Bayombo was recognized again by police for violating the terms of his previous house arrest and in possession of three oxycodone pills.

[Hydromorphone](#), [oxycodone](#), and [fentanyl](#) are opioids used for the relief of severe pain. The drugs are often misused to produce feelings of euphoria, leading to dependency.

Fentanyl has a significantly higher risk of overdose due to its potency and concealability.

“Your Honour is very well aware of the danger of these drugs,” said Abdel Rahman.

Bayombo was found guilty by Justice Marlyse Dumel on three counts of possession of a Schedule I substance (hydromorphone and fentanyl) for the purpose of trafficking, two counts of failure to comply with conditions of a release order or undertaking, and one count of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

“I’m being presented with a joint sentencing that I agree is appropriate in this case because of your limited record and your youth but also balances the seriousness of the offences of which I found you guilty,” said Dumel.

In addition to an \$1100 fine, he will serve 18 months of probation, which includes a curfew of 10 p.m. and a requirement to undergo counselling.

He will spend the first nine months under house arrest, with exceptions including medical emergencies involving him or his immediate family, school or programming, and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for the necessities of life.

“This is a jail sentence that you’re being allowed to serve in the community,” said Dumel.

Ottawa is no stranger to opioids and fentanyl in the ByWard Market. In 2024, the Ottawa Police Service received [301 opioid overdose calls and 36 fentanyl overdose calls](#) within the market alone.

On June 3, 2024, the Ottawa Police Service opened a Neighbourhood Operations Centre (NOC) bordering the ByWard Market to combat the high number of calls.



Ottawa Police Service Neighbourhood Operations Centre in ByWard Market [photo by Grace Bestard]

The centre is part of its [Community Outreach, Response and Engagement \(CORE\)](#) strategy to increase police presence in high-priority areas.

According to the Ottawa Police Service, the CORE strategy aims to reduce “crime in specific areas of Ottawa by dealing with the root issues.”