

BROOKLYN

11 busted looting Key Food in Coney Island during post-storm blackout

'What am I supposed to do? Let my grandmother starve?' says suspect Justin Diaz. The accused made off with toilet papers, diapers and candy, police said.

BY [OREN YANIV](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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JOE MARINO FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Alleged looters were arrested throughout the week in Coney Island, where cops have been dealing with reports of thefts from businesses and homes.

Eleven Brooklyn men accused of looting a Coney Island supermarket during the post-storm blackout were nabbed Friday.

The men were arrested and charged with raiding a Key Food supermarket late Wednesday, making off with toilet paper, diapers, candy and other items after Hurricane Sandy knocked out electrical power and lights.

One of the accused, Justin Diaz, pleaded with cops as he was arrested: "I'm not a criminal. What am I supposed to do? Let my grandmother starve?," he said, according to court papers.

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The men were ordered held on bail ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500. Defense lawyer Howard Tanner claimed most of the 11 defendants are students or gainfully employed and were all collared en masse outside the Key

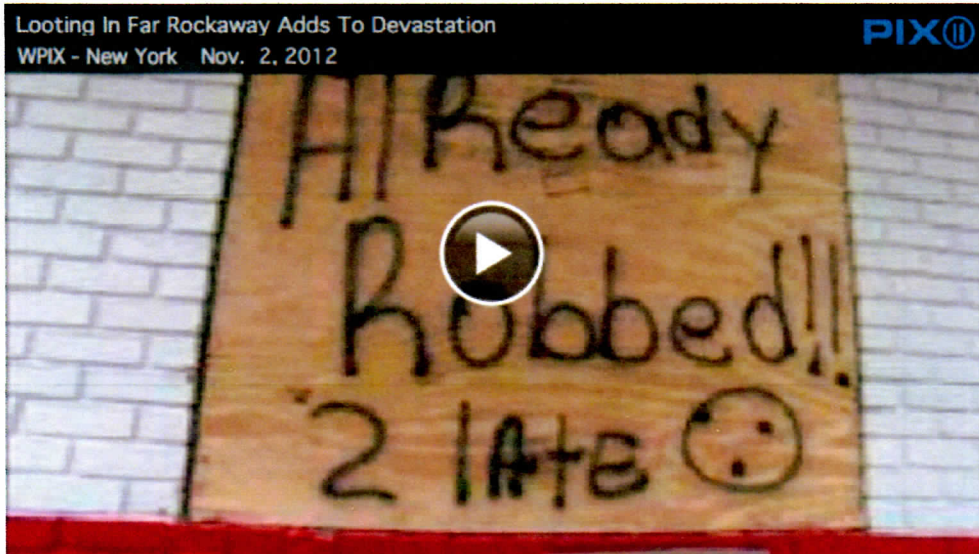
Food – which is next door to the city housing project where they live. But not all of them were actually caught in the act, Tanner said.

He also criticized prosecutors for seeking bail as high \$20,000 for the defendants.

Eight other people, charged with separate looting incidents, were arraigned Tuesday in Brooklyn Criminal Court.

"The People are going to prosecute these cases to the fullest extent possible," said prosecutor Eric Sonnenschein.

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