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March 27, 2024

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United States District Court
District of Connecticut
FILED AT HARTFORD

3/27 20 24
Dinah Milton Kinney, Clerk
By  Deputy Clerk

Re: *United States v. Michael Almodovar*
Case No.3:22-CR-171 (SVN)

Dear Attorney Riccio:

This letter confirms the plea agreement between your client, Michael Almodovar (the “defendant”), and the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Connecticut (the “Government”) in this criminal matter.

THE PLEA AND OFFENSE

In consideration for the benefits offered under this agreement, the defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count One of the Superseding Indictment charging violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 371 and 2314 and Count Four of the Superseding Indictment charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2314 and 2.

The defendant understands that, to be guilty of this offense, the following essential elements must be satisfied:

Count One - Conspiracy to Commit Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property

First: There was an agreement between two or more persons to commit an unlawful act, namely the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property;

Second: The defendant knowingly engaged in the conspiracy intending to commit those offenses that were the object of the conspiracy; and

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 2

Third: At some point during the existence of the conspiracy, one or more members of the conspiracy committed an overt act in furtherance of the conspiracy.

Count Four- Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property

First: The defendant transported or caused to be transported in interstate commerce items of stolen, converted, or fraudulently obtained property as described in the Superseding Indictment;

Second: At the time of such transportation, the defendant knew that the property had been stolen, converted, or taken by fraud; and

Third: The items had a value of \$5,000 or more.

THE PENALTIES

Imprisonment

The offense at Count One carries a maximum penalty of 5 years of imprisonment.

The offense at Count Four carries a maximum penalty of 10 years of imprisonment.

Supervised Release

In addition, the Court may impose a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years to begin after any term of imprisonment. 18 U.S.C. § 3583.

The defendant understands that, should he violate any condition of supervised release, he may be required to serve a further term of imprisonment of up to 2 years per revocation pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583 with no credit for time already spent on supervised release.

Fine

This offense carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. The defendant also is subject to the alternative fine provision of 18 U.S.C. § 3571. Under this section, the maximum fine that may be imposed on the defendant is the greatest of the following amounts: (1) twice the gross gain to the defendant resulting from the offense; (2) twice the gross loss resulting from the offense; or (3) \$250,000.

Special Assessment

In addition, the defendant is obligated by 18 U.S.C. § 3013 to pay a special assessment of \$100 on each count of conviction, for a total of \$200. The defendant agrees to pay the special assessment on or before the date of sentencing unless he establishes an inability to pay on or before the date of sentencing through the financial disclosure to the U.S. Probation Office as part of the

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 3

presentence investigation and report, in which case the defendant agrees to pay it as soon as practicable.

Restitution

In addition to the other penalties provided by law, the Court may order that the defendant make restitution under 18 U.S.C. § 3663, and the Government reserves its right to seek restitution on behalf of victims consistent with the provisions of § 3663.

Interest, penalties and fines

Unless otherwise ordered, should the Court impose a fine or restitution of more than \$2,500 as part of the sentence, interest will be charged on the unpaid balance of the fine or restitution not paid within 15 days after the judgment date. 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). Other penalties and fines may be assessed on the unpaid balance of a fine or restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3572(h), (i) and § 3612(g). The defendant reserves the right to request that the Court waive interest and penalties as permitted by statute, and the Government reserves the right to oppose any such request.

THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES

Applicability

The defendant understands that the Court is required to consider any applicable Sentencing Guidelines as well as other factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to tailor an appropriate sentence in this case and is not bound by this plea agreement. The defendant agrees that the Sentencing Guidelines determinations will be made by the Court, by a preponderance of the evidence, based upon input from the defendant, the Government, and the United States Probation Office. The defendant further understands that he has no right to withdraw his guilty plea if his sentence or the Guidelines application is other than he anticipated, including if the sentence is outside any of the ranges set forth in this agreement.

Acceptance of Responsibility

At this time, the Government agrees to recommend that the Court reduce by two levels the defendant's adjusted offense level under § 3E1.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines, based on the defendant's prompt recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the offense. Moreover, should the defendant qualify for a decrease under § 3E1.1(a) and his offense level determined prior to the operation of subsection (a) is level 16 or greater, the Government will file a motion with the Court pursuant to § 3E1.1(b) which recommends that the Court reduce the defendant's Adjusted Offense Level by one additional level based on his prompt notification of his intention to enter a plea of guilty. The defendant understands that the Court is not obligated to accept the Government's recommendations on the reductions.

The above-listed recommendations are conditioned upon the defendant's affirmative demonstration of acceptance of responsibility, by (1) truthfully admitting the conduct comprising the offense(s) of conviction and truthfully admitting or not falsely denying any additional relevant

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 4

conduct for which the defendant is accountable under § 1B1.3 of the Sentencing Guidelines, and (2) disclosing to the United States Attorney's Office and the United States Probation Office a complete and truthful financial statement detailing the defendant's financial condition. The defendant expressly authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to obtain a credit report concerning the defendant.

In addition, the Government expressly reserves the right to seek denial of the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility if the defendant engages in any acts, unknown to the Government at the time of the signing of this agreement, which (1) indicate that the defendant has not terminated or withdrawn from criminal conduct or associations (§ 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines); (2) could provide a basis for an adjustment for obstructing or impeding the administration of justice (§ 3C1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines); or (3) constitute a violation of any condition of release. Moreover, the Government reserves the right to seek denial of the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility if the defendant seeks to withdraw his guilty plea or takes a position at sentencing, or otherwise, which, in the Government's assessment, is inconsistent with affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility. The defendant understands that he may not withdraw his plea of guilty if, for the reasons explained above, the Government does not make one or both of the recommendations or seeks denial of the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility.

Guidelines Stipulation

The parties agree as follows:

The Guidelines Manual in effect on the date of sentencing is used to determine the applicable Guidelines range.

Because the defendant pled guilty to Counts One and Four of the Superseding Indictment, a multiple count analysis is required pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3D1.1(a). Under that section, all counts involving substantially the same harm shall be grouped together into a single Group. Here, the defendant's base offense level under U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(a)(2) is 6. That level is increased by 4 under § 2B1.1(b)(1)(C) because the loss amount was more than \$15,000 but less than \$40,000. Two levels are added because the offense involved 10 or more victims. U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(2)(A). Two levels are added because the offense involved receiving stolen property, and the defendant was a person in the business of receiving and/or selling stolen property. U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(4). Two additional levels are added under § 2B1.1(b)(15) because the offense involved an organized scheme to steal or receive stolen vehicle parts. Three levels are subtracted under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1 for acceptance of responsibility, as noted above, resulting in a total offense level of 13.

Based on an initial assessment, the parties agree that the defendant falls within Criminal History Category I. The parties reserve the right to recalculate the defendant's Criminal History Category and corresponding sentencing ranges if this initial assessment proves inaccurate.

A total offense level of 13, assuming placement in Criminal History Category I, would result in a Guidelines range of 12 to 18 months of imprisonment (sentencing table) and a fine range of \$5,500 to \$55,000 (U.S.S.G. § 5E1.2(c)(3)). The defendant also is subject to a supervised release term of one to three years. U.S.S.G. § 5D1.2.

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 5

The Government and the defendant reserve their rights to seek a departure or a non-Guidelines sentence, and both sides reserve their right to object to a departure or a non-Guidelines sentence. Moreover, the defendant reserves the right to argue that a fine is not appropriate in this case, and the Government reserves the right to argue that a fine is appropriate in this case.

The defendant understands that the Court is not bound by this agreement on the Guideline ranges specified above. The defendant further understands that he will not be permitted to withdraw the guilty plea if the Court imposes a sentence outside any of the ranges set forth in this agreement.

In the event the United States Probation Office or the Court contemplates any sentencing calculations different from those stipulated by the parties, the parties reserve the right to respond to any inquiries and make appropriate legal arguments regarding the proposed alternate calculations. Moreover, the parties reserve the right to defend any sentencing determination, even if it differs from that stipulated by the parties, in any post-sentencing proceeding.

Information to the Court

The parties reserve their rights to address the Court with respect to an appropriate sentence to be imposed in this case. Moreover, the Government will discuss the facts of this case, including information regarding the defendant's background and character, 18 U.S.C. § 3661, with the United States Probation Office and will provide the Probation Officer with access to material in its file, with the exception of grand jury material.

WAIVER OF RIGHTS

The defendant acknowledges and agrees that he is knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waiving the following rights:

Waiver of Trial Rights and Consequences of Guilty Plea

The defendant understands that he has the right to be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceeding and, if necessary, one will be appointed to represent him.

The defendant understands that he has the right to plead not guilty or to persist in that plea if it has already been made, the right to a public trial, the right to be tried by a jury with the assistance of counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him, the right not to be compelled to incriminate himself, the right to testify and present evidence, and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify in his defense. The defendant understands that by pleading guilty he waives those rights and that, if the plea of guilty is accepted by the Court, there will not be a further trial of any kind.

The defendant understands that, if he pleads guilty, the Court may ask him questions about each offense to which he pleads guilty, and if he answers those questions falsely under oath, on

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 6

the record, and in the presence of counsel, his answers may later be used against him in a prosecution for perjury or making false statements.

Waiver of Statute of Limitations

The defendant agrees that, should the conviction following the defendant's guilty plea be vacated for any reason, then any prosecution that is not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this plea agreement (including any indictment or counts the Government has agreed to dismiss at sentencing pursuant to this plea agreement) may be commenced or reinstated against the defendant, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this plea agreement and the commencement or reinstatement of such prosecution. The defendant agrees to waive all defenses based on the statute of limitations with respect to any prosecution that is not time-barred on the date the plea agreement is signed.

Waiver of Right to Challenge Conviction

The defendant acknowledges that under certain circumstances he is entitled to challenge his conviction. By pleading guilty, the defendant waives his right to appeal or collaterally attack his conviction in any proceeding, including but not limited to a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and/or § 2241. In addition to any other claims the defendant might raise, the defendant waives the right to challenge the conviction based on (1) any non-jurisdictional defects in the proceedings before entry of this plea, (2) a claim that the statute(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and (3) a claim that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute. This waiver does not preclude the defendant from raising a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in an appropriate forum.

Waiver of Right to Appeal or Collaterally Attack Sentence

The defendant acknowledges that under certain circumstances, the defendant is entitled to challenge his sentence. In consideration for the benefits offered under this agreement, the defendant agrees not to appeal or collaterally attack the sentence in any proceeding, including but not limited to a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and/or § 2241, if that sentence does not exceed 18 months of imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, a \$200 special assessment, a \$55,000 fine, and restitution, even if the Court imposes such a sentence based on an analysis different from that specified above. Similarly, the defendant will not challenge any condition of supervised release imposed by the Court for which he had notice and an opportunity to object. The Government and the defendant agree that this waiver applies regardless of whether the term of imprisonment is imposed to run consecutively to or concurrently with, in whole or in part, the undischarged portion of any other sentence that has been imposed on the defendant at the time of sentencing in this case. Furthermore, the parties agree that any challenge to the defendant's sentence that is not foreclosed by this provision will be limited to that portion of the sentencing calculation that is inconsistent with (or not addressed by) this waiver. This waiver does not preclude the defendant from raising a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel in an appropriate forum.

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 7

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUILT AND VOLUNTARINESS OF PLEA

The defendant acknowledges that he is entering into this agreement and is pleading guilty freely and voluntarily because the defendant is guilty. The defendant further acknowledges that he is entering into this agreement without reliance upon any discussions between the Government and the defendant (other than those described in the plea agreement letter), without promise of benefit of any kind (other than the concessions contained in the plea agreement letter), and without threats, force, intimidation, or coercion of any kind. The defendant further acknowledges his understanding of the nature of the offense to which the defendant is pleading guilty, including the penalties provided by law. The defendant also acknowledges his complete satisfaction with the representation and advice received from his undersigned attorney. The defendant and his undersigned counsel are unaware of any conflict of interest concerning counsel's representation of the defendant in the case.

SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

The defendant acknowledges that this agreement is limited to the undersigned parties and cannot bind any other federal authority, or any state or local authority. The defendant acknowledges that no representations have been made to him with respect to any civil or administrative consequences that may result from this plea of guilty because such matters are solely within the province and discretion of the specific administrative or governmental entity involved. Finally, the defendant acknowledges that this agreement has been reached without regard to any civil tax matters that may be pending or which may arise involving the defendant.

COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

The defendant understands that he will be adjudicated guilty of each offense to which the defendant has pleaded guilty and will be deprived of certain rights, such as the right to hold public office, to serve on a jury, to possess firearms and ammunition, and, in some states, the right to vote. Further, the defendant understands that if he is not a citizen of the United States, a plea of guilty may result in removal from the United States, denial of citizenship, and denial of admission to the United States in the future. The defendant understands that pursuant to section 203(b) of the Justice For All Act, the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the United States Probation Office will collect a DNA sample from the defendant for analysis and indexing. Finally, the defendant understands that the Government reserves the right to notify any state or federal agency by which the defendant is licensed, or with which the defendant does business, as well as any current or future employer of the fact of his conviction.

SATISFACTION OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL LIABILITY; BREACH

The defendant's guilty plea, if accepted by the Court, will satisfy the federal criminal liability of the defendant in the District of Connecticut as a result of the defendant's participation in a conspiracy to steal and resell catalytic converters, which forms the basis of the Superseding Indictment in this case.

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 8

The defendant understands that if, before sentencing, he violates any term or condition of this agreement, engages in any criminal activity, or fails to appear for sentencing, the Government may void all or part of this agreement. If the agreement is voided in whole or in part, the defendant will not be permitted to withdraw the guilty plea.

NO OTHER PROMISES

The defendant acknowledges that no other promises, agreements, or conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this plea agreement, and none will be entered into unless set forth in writing, signed by all the parties.

This letter shall be presented to the Court, in open court, and filed in this case.

Very truly yours,

VANESSA ROBERTS AVERY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



LAUREN CLARK
REED DURHAM
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

The defendant certifies that he has read this plea agreement letter and its attachment(s) or has had it read or translated to him, that he has had ample time to discuss this agreement and its attachment(s) with counsel and that he fully understands and accepts its terms.



MICHAEL ALMODOVAR
The Defendant

3/27/2024
Date

I have thoroughly read, reviewed, and explained this plea agreement and its attachment(s) to my client who advises me that he understands and accepts its terms.



FRANK RICCIO, ESQ.
Attorney for the Defendant

3/27/2024
Date

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 9

RIDER CONCERNING RESTITUTION

The Court may order that the defendant make restitution under 18 U.S.C. § 3663 as follows:

1. If the offense resulted in damage to or loss or destruction of property of a victim of the offense:
 - A. Return the property to the owner of the property or someone designated by the owner; or
 - B. If return of the property is impossible, impracticable, or inadequate, pay an amount equal to:

The greater of -

 - (I) the value of the property on the date of the damage, loss, or destruction; or
 - (II) the value of the property on the date of sentencing, less the value as of the date the property is returned.
2. In the case of an offense resulting in bodily injury to a victim –
 - A. Pay an amount equal to the costs of necessary medical and related professional services and devices related to physical, psychiatric, and psychological care; including non-medical care and treatment rendered in accordance with a method of healing recognized by the law of the place of treatment;
 - B. Pay an amount equal to the cost of necessary physical and occupational therapy and rehabilitation; and
 - C. Reimburse the victim for income lost by such victim as a result of such offense.
3. In the case of an offense resulting in bodily injury that results in the death of the victim, pay an amount equal to the cost of necessary funeral and related services.
4. In any case, reimburse the victim for lost income and necessary child care, transportation, and other expenses incurred during participation in the investigation or prosecution of the offense or attendance at proceedings related to the offense.

The order of restitution has the effect of a civil judgment against the defendant. In addition to the Court-ordered restitution, the Court may order that the conditions of its order of restitution be made a condition of probation or supervised release. Failure to make restitution as ordered may result in a revocation of probation, 18 U.S.C. § 3565, or a modification of the conditions of supervised release, 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e). Failure to pay restitution also may result in the defendant being held in contempt, or the defendant's re-sentencing to any sentence which might originally have been imposed by the Court. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3613A, 3614. Moreover, in the event of default, notwithstanding any installment schedule for the payment of restitution, the Court may order

Frank J. Riccio, Esq.

Page 10

payment of the entire amount of restitution due within 30 days after notification of the default, subject to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 3572(i) and 3613A.