UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	**CRIMINAL NO. 14-131**
v.	*	**SECTION: "N"**
DARIUS WILLIAMS a/k/a "D-man"	*	

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter proceed to trial, the United States will prove the defendant **DARIUS WILLIAMS a/k/a "D-man"(WILLIAMS)** guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of knowingly and intentionally conspiring with others known and unknown to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 28 grams or more of cocaine base ("crack cocaine"), in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B); all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846; and to possess firearms in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(o). The government would establish the following through credible testimony and the production of reliable evidence:

In late 2011, federal agents with the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and members of the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) led Multi-Agency Gang (MAG) Unit started investigating several acts of violence and narcotics trafficking that had taken place in the area of the Melpomene Housing Development in the City of New Orleans. During the course of this investigation, the agents reviewed numerous police reports, 911 calls, recorded telephone calls, and have spoken to numerous cooperating witnesses. Based on this investigation, agents determined that **WILLIAMS**, Jacobi Boyd, a/k/a "Co," Alfred Cobbins a/k/a "Al," Jawan Fortia, a/k/a

DW BSC MEY

"Tittie," Ruben Geiger, a/k/a "Rue," Shawn Gracin a/k/a "Gunner," Deontre Hills a/k/a "Soulja," Dedrick Keelen, a/k/a "Roy," Delwin McLaren, a/k/a "Poo" and "Poo Stupid," Bryan Scott, a/k/a "Killer," Lionel Allen, a/k/a "Lot," and other known and unknown individuals were members and/or associates of a criminal street gang called the "Young Melph Mafia" (YMM) who engaged in, among other things, conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, the distribution of controlled substances, and a conspiracy to possess and use firearms in furtherance of their drug trafficking activities in the Central City area of the City of New Orleans from approximately 2007 to the present. The members of the YMM worked together for the common purpose of distributing illegal drugs and also possessed, used, carried, and discharged numerous firearms in furtherance of their drug trafficking activities in an effort to protect their drug turf, to retaliate against other rival neighborhood drug groups, such as the 110ers or other gang members from the 10th Ward, and for the purpose of maintaining and increasing their position in the criminal street gang.

During the last several years, numerous shooting have taken place between these rival groups. In an effort to curb this violence, ATF agents and members of the MAG Unit have identified members of the Allen family, who were responsible for the distribution of illegal drugs in this area. It was learned that this family had close ties to the YMM members. The MAG Unit also identified some of the members of the 110ers and other 10th Ward street gangs, who appeared to be rivals of the Allen Family and the YMM gang. On May 8, 2013, a Special Grand Jury sitting in Orleans Parish, New Orleans, Louisiana returned a multiple count indictment charging members of the 110ers street gang with a myriad of violent and narcotics related offenses as well as violating the Louisiana Racketeering Act. On June 6, 2013 a Federal Grand Jury indicted several members and associates of the Allen family (Burnell Allen, Lionel Allen, Sonny Allen and Eugene Allen) with several violations of the Federal

BF MEL

D.W

Controlled Substances Act and Federal Gun Control Act. All of the Allen family and their members/associates have since pleaded guilty or were found guilty of the majority of the federal charges.

At trial against the members of the YMM, the Government would call a cooperating witness (CW1) who would testify that **WILLIAMS,** Lionel Allen, Alfred Cobbins, Shaw Gracin, Jawan Fortia, Jacobi Boyd, and Deontre Hills created the "Young Melph Mafia" (also called the "YMM," "Team Melf," and "TM 103") while several of them were juveniles. The purpose of the YMM was to distribute narcotics, keep other groups, such as the 110ers, or other drug dealers from infringing on their territory and to protect the area in which they were all raised and where the Allen family distributed their drugs – the Melpomene Housing Projects. Each of the YMM members acted in concert to respond with violence towards rival gang members and/or competing drug dealers. The cooperating witness would further testify that over time, additional members joined the YMM and participated in the illegal activities of the group. CW1 has identified **WILLIAMS** as a member of the YMM.

CW1 would testify that due to their large numbers and familial connections, the YMM controlled and dominated the drug distribution activities in this area of New Orleans since its inception, along with the Allen family. This cooperating witness would testify that he/she grew up in the Melpomene Housing Development in the Central City area of New Orleans alongside the defendant and other members of the YMM street gang. According to this witness, members of the YMM possessed firearms to secure and defend their drug distribution in the area on Martin Luther King Boulevard near the Melpomene Housing Project. This area became the epicenter of the YMM drug distribution activities. This cooperating witness would further testify that YMM members acted together in concert

ea
YC MEF

D.W

to establish dominion and control over the armed and violent drug trafficking activities in and around the Central City area of New Orleans.

A second cooperating witness (CW2) will testify that he/she knows that **WILLIAMS** is a member of the YMM and that he/she observed **WILLIAMS** distribute crack cocaine several days a week in the Martin Luther King Boulevard area in the Central City area of New Orleans. He/she will further testify that **WILLIAMS** sometimes carried a firearm for protection while he sold crack cocaine.

A third cooperating witness (CW3) will testify that **WILLIAMS** is a member of the YMM and he/she has known him since **WILLIAMS** was a young boy. He/she has seen **WILLIAMS** regularly distribute crack cocaine for $10 per bag while armed on Martin Luther King Boulevard near Magnolia Street. CW3 believes that **WILLIAMS** "always" carried a firearm.

A fourth cooperating witness (CW4) will testify that **WILLIAMS** is an original YMM member and that he would steal cars in furtherance of the YMM activities. He/she also said that **WILLIAMS** "always" carried a firearm and would often sell marijuana on Clio Street.

For example, on November 8, 2010, NOPD officers were on patrol and observed **WILLIAMS** make furtive movements to his waistband as they drove by the corner of Felicity Street and S. Liberty Street. The NOPD officers stopped their unit and attempted to speak with **WILLIAMS**. In response, **WILLIAMS** fled on foot and was observed throwing a firearm to the ground by the NOPD officers. **WILLIAMS** was arrested and admitted to an NOPD officer that the recovered firearm, a Ruger, Model P-95, 9mm, pistol, serial number 315-33599, was his. The Ruger firearm had 14 live rounds in an extended magazine capable of holding 30 rounds. **WILLIAMS** was also wearing a red bandana with the words "Melph Boys" inscribed on it. **WILLIAMS** was charged with Illegal Carrying of a Weapon in Orleans Parish Criminal Court and pleaded guilty on November 19, 2010, in case number 501-891, "B."

DSC MEL

D.W

On February 28, 2011, an NOPD officer observed **WILLIAMS** driving a stolen Nissan Altima on Freret Street near Martin Luther King Boulevard. B.D. was seated in the front seat and an unknown black male was in the back seat. When the officer attempted to make an investigatory stop, **WILLIAMS** fled at a high rate of speed and ultimately crashed the Nissan into a utility pole. **WILLIAMS** fled and was later arrested. On June 29, 2011, he pleaded guilty to Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and Aggravated Flight from an Officer in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, case number 506-796, "C."

On February 7, 2012, **WILLIAMS**, Bryan Scott and Lionel Allen were gambling in an abandoned residence at 1235 South Saratoga Street and had a firearm with them at the location. An NOPD officer would testify that he entered the structure to investigate after seeing a suspicious person leave the abandoned house. The officer would further state that when he entered the abandoned house where the three subjects were located he observed WILLIAMS with a firearm. The NOPD officer would further state that he fired his weapon and struck **WILLIAMS** in the left arm. **WILLIAMS** and Scott were immediately apprehended and the NOPD recovered a Smith & Wesson, Model SW9VE, 9mm, pistol, with an obliterated serial number from **WILLIAMS**. On December 5, 2012, **WILLIAMS** pleaded guilty to Attempted Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Attempted Possession of an Unidentifiable Firearm and Resisting an Officer in Orleans Parish Criminal Court, case number 510-921/511-319, "E."

On December 4, 2011 several members of the YMM, including Shawn Gracin, Dedrick Keelen, Alfred Cobbins, Derrick Carter, Lionel Allen, "Paul" (last name unknown), J.V. and others were congregated together at the intersection of Martin Luther King Boulevard and South Robertson Street. While hanging out on the corner they observed a rival drug gang member, J.J. a/k/a "Bop", turned the

BK MEJ

D.W

corner on South Robertson Street riding a bicycle. Lionel Allen removed the FN Herstal Model 5-7 semi-automatic firearm (serial number 386183628) from his waistband and shot "Bop" in the leg. According to cooperating co-conspirators the members of YMM were very close friends with members of the Mid City Killers (MCK) street gang who were "beefing" with "Bop". It is well known that the YMM and the MCK have an established criminal gang alliance and therefore, Lionel Allen shot "Bop" in furtherance of said alliance. Sometime after the shooting, the victim, J.J., ran into **WILLIAMS** and told **WILLIAMS** that "one of your 'podnas'(meaning a fellow YMM member) shot me."

An expert in ballistics will confirm that the FN Herstal firearm that was used to shoot "Bop" on December 4, 2011, was the same firearm that was used in a drive-by shooting that took place on October 16, 2011, and again in a second drive-by shooting that took place on October 18, 2011, by members of the YMM. It should also be noted that federal agents searched social media outlets and found a picture of several members of the YMM, including **WILLIAMS**. In the picture, YMM member Alfred Cobbins and another individual are wearing white T-shirts that read "Mafia 103" and "YMM", while other YMM members are making gang signs with their hands. This picture was taken in the same area where Lionel Allen shot "Bop" in the leg with the FN pistol.

ATF Agents have also examined multiple Facebook accounts and have identified **WILLIAMS** in numerous photographs with various members of the YMM "throwing" a particular hand gesture indicative of street gang membership. **WILLIAMS** is also seen holding a firearm in at least two photographs while displaying a YMM gang sign.

By pleading guilty to these charges **WILLIAMS** freely and voluntarily admits that he and the above listed individuals were members and/or associates of the YMM, that he participated in the conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute crack cocaine, and that he also

BSC MEJ

D.W

conspired to use, carry, possess, and discharge firearms with the members of YMM to further their drug trafficking activity.

The government and the defendant **WILLIAMS** agree and stipulate that for sentencing purposes the government could prove that the amount of drugs that was distributed and possessed with the intent to be distributed by **WILLIAMS** and his co-conspirators during the several years that he was a member of the conspiracy was at least 280 grams but not more than 840 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectible amount of cocaine base ("crack").

Limited Nature of Factual Basis

This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by **WILLIAMS** and described by **WILLIAMS** to the government, but rather is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for the guilty plea. The limited purpose of this proffer is to demonstrate that there exists a sufficient legal basis for **WILLIAMS's** plea of guilty to the charged conspiracies and to inform the court of some of the relevant conduct in this case and, unless noted otherwise, to stipulate that all acts took place within the Eastern District of Louisiana.

READ AND APPROVED:

MAURICE E. LANDRIEU, JR. — 2/11/15 — DATE
Assistant United States Attorney

EDWARD J. RIVERA — 2/4/2015 — DATE
Assistant United States Attorney

BRIAN J. CAPITELLI — 2/4/15 — DATE
Counsel for Darius Williams

DARIUS WILLIAMS — 2-4-15 — DATE
Defendant