LODGED FILED COPY RECEIVED MICHAEL BAILEY MAY 12 2020 United States Attorney 2 District of Arizona Jonathan B. Granoff CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA Lori L. Price
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Assistant U.S. Attorneys
United States Courthouse 3 DEPUTY 4 405 W. Congress Street, Suite 4800 Tucson, Arizona 85701 Telephone: 520-620-7300 Email: jonathan.granoff@usdoj.gov Attorneys for Plaintiff 5 6 7 8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA 10 United States of America, CR 17-00518-TUC-RM (JR) 11 Plaintiff, 12 VS. PLEA AGREEMENT 13 (Class A Misdemeanor) 14 Kevin Jon Cummings, 15 Defendant. 16 17 The United States of America and the defendant agree to the following disposition 18 of this matter: 19 **PLEA** 20 1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to an Information, which charges the defendant 21 with a Class A misdemeanor violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1307(a), False Statements Related 22 to Social Security. The government will dismiss the felony indictment at sentencing. 23 **ELEMENTS OF THE CRIME** 24 2. The elements of False Statements Related to Social Security, 42 U.S.C. § 1307(a), are 25 as follows: 26 a. The defendant, knowingly and with the intent to defraud any person, made or 27 caused to be made any false representation concerning the requirements of 28

Chapter 7 of Title 42 of the United States Code, (The Public Health and Welfare

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- Social Security), or of any rules or regulations issued thereunder;

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c. The defendant knew such representations to be false.

b. The false representations were material; and

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MAXIMUM PENALTIES

6 7 3. The defendant understands that the maximum penalties for the offense to which he is pleading, False Statements Related to Social Security, 42 U.S.C. § 1307(a), are a

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maximum fine as described in the below paragraph, a maximum term of one (1) year

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imprisonment, or both, and a maximum term of one (1) year supervised release. 18

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U.S.C. §§ 3571(b)(1), (d), (e), 3581(b)(6), and 3583(b)(3). It is a Class A misdemeanor.

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18 U.S.C. § 3559(a)(6).

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4. Pursuant to the Sentencing Guidelines, the court shall order the defendant to pay a fine,

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which may include the costs of probation, supervised release or incarceration, unless, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3611 and §5E1.2(f) of the Guidelines, the defendant establishes

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the applicability of the exceptions found therein. The fine is the greater of \$1,000 or

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twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss from the offense. 42 U.S.C. § 1307(a); 18 U.S.C.

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§§ 3571(b), (d), (e). The defendant agrees 42 U.S.C. § 1307(a) is not exempt from the Alternative Fines Act. 18 U.S.C. § 3571(e). The defendant agrees that pursuant to the

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Alternative Fines Act, the maximum fine is twice the gross pecuniary loss or gain from

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the offense. 18 U.S.C. §§ 3571(b)(2), (d). The defendant agrees, given that the gross

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pecuniary loss to the Social Security Administration from his criminal conduct was

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\$305,371.20, the maximum fine is \$610,742.40. 18 U.S.C. §§ 3571(b)(2), (d). As part

23 24 of this agreement, the defendant agrees to pay a fine of \$200,000. The defendant agrees

he has the ability to pay a fine and any exceptions pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3611, 3572

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and U.S.S.G. 5E1.2(e) do not apply to him.

26 27 5. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013(a)(1)(A)(iii), the defendant must pay a special assessment of \$25.00 per Class A misdemeanor count. The special assessment is due and payable

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at the time the defendant enters the plea of guilty, but in no event shall be paid later

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than the time of sentencing unless the defendant is indigent. If the defendant is indigent, the special assessment will be collected according to the provisions of Chapters 227 and 229 of Title 18, United States Code.

6. In addition, restitution is mandatory pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(c)(2) because an offense listed under 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(c)(1) gave rise to the plea agreement, to wit 18 U.S.C. § 641. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(c)(2), the defendant agrees he shall be subject to an order of restitution to the Social Security Administration, requiring the defendant to repay the agency \$305,371.20.

Immigration Consequences

7. The defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses. The offense(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty may be removable offenses. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. The defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that this plea may entail, even if the consequence is his automatic removal from the United States.

STIPULATIONS, TERMS AND AGREEMENTS

Agreements Regarding Sentencing

8. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P., Rule 11(c)(1)(C), the government and the defendant stipulate and agree to a six-month term of incarceration with a one-year term of supervised release. The defendant has the ability to apply for early termination of his supervised release if he has paid in full his restitution and fine. If the defendant satisfies all his monetary penalties and is otherwise in compliance with his

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- 9. The parties agree that neither side will move to withdraw from the plea agreement if the sentence imposed is the stipulated six months of incarceration.

10. If the court accepts the plea agreement and sentences the defendant consistent with the agreement, the government will move to dismiss the remaining charges

7 8 against the defendant in the indictment, including the forfeiture allegation.

11. The defendant further agrees to pay mandatory restitution to the Social Security

Administration (SSA) totaling \$305,371.20 for the losses caused by his criminal

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offense in this case. The defendant also agrees to pay a fine of \$200,000. The defendant agrees he will pay \$200,000 toward his restitution prior to the date of

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his sentencing hearing. The defendant agrees he will pay the remaining balance of

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restitution owed and the \$200,000 fine no later than the date his supervised release

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12. The defendant and his co-defendant wife, Elaine Cummings, will be provided financial affidavits by the United States Attorney's Office (USAO). As part of this agreement, the defendant and the co-defendant will provide the USAO with their truthful and complete financial affidavits within 30 days of the defendant's guilty

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plea.

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13. If the court accepts the defendant's guilty plea and sentences him within the agreed upon sentencing range, the government will move to dismiss the pending charges against the co-defendant wife, Elaine Marie Cummings, at the defendant's

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sentencing hearing.

expires and/or is terminated.

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14. This agreement is contingent on the defendant qualifying as a criminal history category

I. If the defendant is more than a criminal history category I, the government may move

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to withdraw from this plea agreement. This agreement is also expressly conditioned upon the accuracy of the defendant's criminal history as known by the government at

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the time of the plea. The discovery of any criminal history prior to sentencing, which

- was unknown to the government at the time of the plea, will entitle the government to withdraw from this agreement.
- 15. The parties are not waiving the pre-sentence report and request that the court order one be prepared for sentencing.
- 16. The defendant understands that if the defendant violates any conditions of the defendant's probation and/or supervised release, the probation and/or supervised release may be revoked. Upon such revocation, notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, the defendant may be required to serve a term of imprisonment or the defendant's sentence may otherwise be altered.
- 17. This agreement does not in any manner restrict the actions of the government in any other district or bind any other United States Attorney's Office.
- 18. The defendant understands that the court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement and the court has complete discretion to impose the maximum sentence possible for the crime to which the defendant has pled. However, if the court imposes a sentence greater than the maximum term agreed upon by the parties or otherwise rejects the plea agreement, the defendant may withdraw his guilty plea as authorized by Rule 11, Fed. R. Crim. P. The defendant understands that he may not withdraw from this plea agreement if the court accepts the agreement and sentences him to the stipulated term of six months' incarceration consistent with the terms of this plea agreement.

Restitution and Fine

19. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A, the defendant specifically agrees to pay restitution of \$305,371.20 to the SSA. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3571(b)(2), (d), the defendant agrees to pay a fine of \$200,000. The defendant agrees he will pay \$200,000 toward his restitution prior to the date of his sentencing hearing. The defendant agrees he will pay the remaining balance of restitution owed and the \$200,000 fine no later than the date his probation and/or supervised release expires and/or is terminated. The defendant further agrees that one of his conditions of supervised release and/or probation will be

- that he pay the entire amount of restitution and fine on or before his term of supervised release and/or probation expires and/or is terminated. The defendant understands that the willful failure to pay the restitution and/or fine will be a violation of his supervised release and/or probation, which could subject the defendant to a term of prison.
- 20. The Court can resentence the defendant if he knowingly fails to pay a misdemeanor fine or restitution to any sentence which might have originally been imposed. 18 U.S.C. § 3614. In this case, the parties agree that includes up to one year in prison.
- 21. The defendant agrees that he is waving his right to appeal any order of the district court relating to the restitution and fine.
- 22. The defendant further agrees that, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3613, all monetary penalties, including the restitution and fine imposed by the Court, will be due immediately and subject to immediate enforcement by the United States, as provided for in Section 3613. The government agrees that provided the defendant pays \$200,000 toward his restitution prior to the date of his sentencing hearing, and pays the remaining balance of restitution owed and the \$200,000 fine no later than six months prior to the expiration of his supervised release, the government will not initiate any enforcement proceedings related to the remaining debt owed while the defendant is serving a term of supervised release. The defendant agrees he will not sell, hide, waste, spend, destroy, transfer or otherwise devalue any assets or property while he owes any remaining monetary penalties in this case without the permission of the U.S. Attorney's Office. The government may initiate financial investigation at any point.
- 23. All monetary penalties shall be submitted to the Treasury Offset Program so that any federal payment or transfer of returned property the defendant receives may be offset and applied to federal debts (which offset will not affect any periodic payment schedule). If the defendant is incarcerated, the defendant agrees to participate in the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, regardless of whether the Court specifically directs participation or imposes a schedule of payments. The defendant understands that any schedules of payments imposed by the court, including

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schedules imposed while the defendant is incarcerated, on supervised release, or on probation, are merely minimum schedules of payments and not the only method, nor a limitation on the methods, available to the government to enforce the judgment. The government agrees that there will be no post-judgment interest on the amount of restitution set by the court.

Assets and Financial Responsibility

24. The defendant shall (i) make a full accounting of all assets, including real and personal property in which the defendant has/had any legal or equitable interest in the last five years; (ii) permit the U.S. Attorney's Office to immediately obtain the defendant's credit reports in order to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation that is or might be imposed by the court; (iii) make full disclosure of all current and projected assets to the U.S. Probation Office immediately and prior to the expiration and/or termination of the defendant's supervised release or probation, such disclosures to be shared with the U.S. Attorney's Office, including the Financial Litigation Unit, for any purpose [as well as the financial condition of all household members (including but not limited to that of a spouse or child)]; (iv) cooperate fully with the government and the probation officer to execute such documentation as may be necessary to secure assets to be applied to the restitution and fine owed by the defendant. The defendant agrees to permit the probation officer to provide to the U.S. Attorney's Office copies of any and all financial information provided by the defendant to the U.S. Probation Office; (v) not (and shall not aid and abet any other party to) sell, hide, waste, spend, destroy, transfer or otherwise devalue any such assets or property before sentencing, without the prior approval of the United States (provided, however, that no prior approval will be required for routine, day-to-day expenditures); and (vi) submit to an interview in which the defendant will fully and truthfully answer all questions regarding the defendant's past and present financial condition. The defendant agrees that any failure to comply with the provisions in this paragraph that occurs prior to sentencing will constitute a violation of this plea agreement.

25. If the Court, after reviewing this plea agreement, concludes any provision is inappropriate, it may reject the plea agreement pursuant to Rule 11(c)(5), Fed. R. Crim. P., giving the defendant, in accordance with Rule 11(d)(2)(A), Fed. R. Crim. P., an opportunity to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea.

Forfeiture, Civil, and Administrative Proceedings

26. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to protect the defendant from civil forfeiture proceedings or prohibit the United States from proceeding with and/or initiating an action for civil forfeiture. Further, this agreement does not preclude the United States from instituting any civil proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.

Breach of the Agreement

- 27. If the defendant fails to comply with any obligation or promise pursuant to this agreement, or if the defendant commits any new criminal offense while this case is pending, including the failure to appear at sentencing, the United States:
 - a. may, in its sole discretion, declare any provision of this agreement null and void and the defendant understands that he shall not be permitted to withdraw the plea of guilty made in connection with this agreement;
 - b. may prosecute the defendant for any offense known to the United States for which the defendant is responsible, and the defendant waives any statute of limitations, Speedy Trial Act, and constitutional restrictions for bringing charges after the execution of this agreement; and/or
 - c. may argue and the defendant may receive up to the maximum statutory sentence for the offense to which the defendant has pled guilty.

Waiver of Defenses and Appeal Rights

28. The defendant waives (l) any and all motions, defenses, probable cause determinations, and objections that the defendant could assert to the indictment or information; and (2) any right to file an appeal, any collateral attack, and any other writ or motion that challenges the conviction, an order of restitution or forfeiture, the entry of judgment

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against the defendant, or any aspect of the defendant's sentencing-including the manner 2 in which the sentence is determined, and any sentencing guideline determinations. The 3 sentence is consistent with this plea agreement provided the defendant receives a sentence of six months' incarceration, a restitution judgment of \$305,371.20, and a fine of \$200,000.

- 29. The defendant further waives: (1) any right to appeal the Court's entry of judgment against defendant; (2) any right to appeal the imposition of sentence upon defendant under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 (sentence appeals); (3) any right to appeal the district court's refusal to grant a requested variance; (4) any right to collaterally attack the defendant's conviction and sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, or any other collateral attack; and (5) any right to file a motion for modification of sentence, including under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c).
- 30. The defendant acknowledges that this waiver shall result in the dismissal of any appeal or collateral attack the defendant might file challenging his conviction or sentence in this case. If the defendant files a notice of appeal or a habeas petition, notwithstanding this agreement, the defendant agrees that this case shall, upon motion of the government, be remanded to the district court to determine whether the defendant is in breach of this agreement and, if so, to permit the government to withdraw from the plea agreement. This waiver shall not be construed to bar an otherwise-preserved claim of ineffective assistance of counsel or of "prosecutorial misconduct" (as that term is defined by Section II.B of Ariz. Ethics Op. 15-01 (2015)).

Perjury and Other False Statement Offenses and Other Offenses

31. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to protect the defendant in any way from prosecution for perjury, false declaration or false statement, or any other offense committed by the defendant after the date of this agreement. In addition, if the defendant commits any criminal offense between the date of this agreement and the date of sentencing, the government will have the right to withdraw from this agreement. Any information, statements, documents and evidence which the defendant provides to the

United States pursuant to this agreement may be used against the defendant in all such proceedings.

Reinstitution of Prosecution

32. If the defendant's guilty plea is rejected, withdrawn, vacated, or reversed by any court in a later proceeding, the government will be free to prosecute the defendant for all charges as to which it has knowledge, and any charges that have been dismissed because of this plea agreement will be automatically reinstated. In such event, the defendant waives any objections, motions, or defenses based upon the Speedy Trial Act or the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution as to the delay occasioned by the later proceedings. The defendant agrees that the stipulated sentencing range or sentence set forth under "Agreements Regarding Sentence" will not be offered if prosecution is reinstituted. The defendant understands that any statements made at the time of the defendant's change of plea or sentencing may be used against the defendant in any subsequent hearing, trial or proceeding as permitted by Fed R. Crim. P. 11(f).

Disclosure of Information to U.S. Probation Office

- 33. The defendant understands the United States' obligation to provide all pertinent information in its file regarding the defendant to the U.S. Probation Department.
- 34. The defendant understands and agrees to cooperate fully with the United States Probation Office in providing (a) all criminal history information, i.e., all criminal convictions as defined under the Sentencing Guidelines; (b) all financial information, i.e., present financial assets or liabilities that relate to the ability of the defendant to pay a fine or restitution; (c) all history of drug abuse which would warrant a treatment condition as part of sentencing; and (d) all history of mental illness or conditions which would warrant a treatment condition as part of sentencing.

Plea Addendum

35. This written plea agreement, and any written addenda filed as attachments to this plea agreement, contain all the terms and conditions of the plea. Any additional agreements, if any such agreements exist, shall be recorded in a separate document and may be filed

with the Court under seal. Accordingly, additional agreements, if any, may not be in the public record.

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WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS AND FACTUAL BASIS

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Waiver of Rights

5 36. I have read each of the provisions of the entire plea agreement with the assistance of 6 counsel and understand its provisions. I have discussed the case and my constitutional 7 and other rights with my attorney. I understand that by entering my plea of guilty I will 8 be giving up my right to plead not guilty; to trial by jury; to confront, cross-examine, 9 and compel the attendance of witnesses; to present evidence in my defense; to remain 10 silent and refuse to be a witness against myself by asserting my privilege against self-11 incrimination; all with the assistance of counsel; to be presumed innocent until proven

12 guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; and to appeal.

37. I fully understand that, if I am granted probation or placed on supervised release by the court, the terms and conditions of such probation/supervised release are subject to modification at any time.

16 38. I further understand that, if I violate any of the conditions of my probation/supervised 17 release, my probation/supervised release may be revoked and upon such revocation, 18

notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, I may be required to serve a

term of imprisonment or my sentence may otherwise be altered.

39. I agree to enter my guilty plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement.

40. I have been advised by my attorney of the nature of the charge to which I am entering my guilty plea. I have been advised by my attorney of the nature and range of the possible sentence, and that I will not be able to withdraw my guilty plea if I am dissatisfied with the sentence the court imposes.

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41. My guilty plea is not the result of force, threats, assurance or promises other than the promises contained in this agreement. I agree to the provisions of this agreement as a voluntary act on my part, rather than at the direction of or because of the

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- recommendation of any other person, and I agree to be bound according to its provisions.
- 42. I agree that this written plea agreement contains all the terms and conditions of my plea and that promises made by anyone (including my attorney) that are not contained within this written plea agreement are without force and effect and are null and void.
- 43. I am satisfied that my defense attorney has represented me in a competent manner.
- 44. I am fully capable of understanding the terms and conditions of this plea agreement.
- 45.I am not now on or under the influence of any drug, medication, liquor, or other intoxicant or depressant, which would impair my ability to fully understand the terms and conditions of this plea agreement.

Factual Basis and Relevant Conduct

- 46. I further agree that the following facts accurately describe my conduct in connection with the offense to which I am pleading guilty and that if this matter were to proceed to trial the government could prove these facts and the elements of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt:
 - In August 2002, I, the defendant Kevin Jon Cummings, was involved in a motor vehicle accident. In October 2002, I applied for disability benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA) relating to the injuries sustained from my accident. In my application for disability, I acknowledged that I was required to report to SSA: (1) improvement in my medical condition such that I could go back to work; and (2) any work that I was doing. I was also informed and aware via this application that improvement in my medical condition and work that I was doing were conditions that could affect my continued right to collect disability benefits from SSA.

In my application for disability benefits, I informed the SSA that I had the following health-related conditions: (1) inability to concentrate; (2) daily debilitating headaches; (3) inability to multitask; (4) sensitivity to light requiring the need to be in a dark room; (5) inability to drive; (6) often confused; (7) light-headed, blurred vision; (8) seizure activity and depression; (9) loss of taste and smell; (10) irritable and cranky; and (11) problems with memory such that I needed constant reminders to conduct simple tasks such as showering, eating or taking medications.

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Based on my representations and my medical evaluation, SSA determined that I qualified for disability benefits, concluding that I had an organic mental disorder/post-concussion syndrome and a major depressive disorder relating to the accident.

I began receiving SSA disability benefits in February 2003.

In 2006, SSA learned that I had employee wages from 2005 and 2006. When SSA inquired into those wages, I, through my companies, responded by completing SSA forms about those wages. On, September 13, 2007, I caused one of my employees to submit an SSA Form 821 representing my status with one of my plumbing companies as "shop help" with limited job duties when, in fact, I was running the company as its owner. Similarly, on January 25, 2008, I caused one of my employees to submit an earnings report (Form SSA L725) stating that I earned \$7,692.00 for that company. I failed to disclose on this form that I was the owner of the company and taking draws from the company in amounts substantially higher than my salary. Likewise, on September 13, 2007, I caused one of my employees to submit an SSA Form 821 stating I tried to work as a plumber for my other plumbing company but I could not remember the simplest task. During the reported time on the form (October 2005-January 2006), I was working as the president of that company.

I acknowledge that given the statements in the Forms 821 and L725 referenced above, which I knew to be false, I caused a false representation to be made to the Social Security Administration. The false representation was material in that I was required to report the work I was doing for my companies since I was receiving SSA disability benefits.

I concealed the fact that I was working from the SSA while continuing to collect disability benefits from 2005 through January 2014 resulting in a loss to SSA of approximately \$305,371.20.

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<u>5/1/20</u>.

Kevin Jon Cummings

Defendant

DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S APPROVAL