UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
	:	
v.	:	**Case No. 21-cr-156-2 (JDB)**
	:	
MATTHEW PERNA,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

STATEMENT OF OFFENSE

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, the United States of America, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and the defendant, Matthew PERNA, with the concurrence of his attorney, agree and stipulate to the below factual basis for the defendant's guilty plea—that is, if this case were to proceed to trial, the parties stipulate that the United States could prove the below facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

The Attack at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021

1. The U.S. Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C., is secured 24 hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by U.S. Capitol Police. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol.

2. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the U.S. Capitol was closed to members of the public.

3. On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the United States Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the United States Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on November 3, 2020. The joint session began at

approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

4. As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

5. At approximately 2:00 p.m., certain individuals in the crowd forced their way through, up, and over the barricades, and officers of the U.S. Capitol Police, and the crowd advanced to the exterior façade of the building. The crowd was not lawfully authorized to enter or remain in the building and, prior to entering the building, no members of the crowd submitted to security screenings or weapons checks by U.S. Capitol Police Officers or other authorized security officials.

6. At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the U.S. Capitol Police attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, shortly after 2:00 p.m., individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of law enforcement, as others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts. The riot resulted in substantial damage to the U.S. Capitol, requiring the expenditure of more than $1.4 million dollars for repairs.

7. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m., members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, all proceedings of the United States Congress, including the joint session, were effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. the same day. In light of the dangerous circumstances caused by the unlawful entry to the U.S. Capitol, including the danger posed by individuals who had entered the U.S. Capitol without any security screening or

weapons check, Congressional proceedings could not resume until after every unauthorized occupant had left the U.S. Capitol, and the building had been confirmed secured. The proceedings resumed at approximately 8:00 p.m. after the building had been secured. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the session resumed.

PERNA's Participation in the January 6, 2021, Capitol Riot

8. On or about January 6, 2021, Perna traveled from Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C. He attended the "Stop the Steal" rally and then marched to the Capitol. At approximately 2:47 p.m., Perna entered the Capitol through the Senate Wing door after the barriers set up by U.S. Capitol police officers outside the Capitol were breached. Perna was wearing a red hooded sweatshirt with white lettering, "Make America Great Again." Perna remained inside the building for approximately twenty minutes. He held a cellular device in his right hand and filmed and chanted ("U.S.A.! U.S.A.!") with the crowd. While inside the Capitol, Perna remained in the Senate Wing Lobby.

9. On or about January 6, 2021, Perna posted an 8-minute video to his Facebook account. At the beginning of the video, co-defendant Stephen Ayres introduced himself, defendant Perna, and a female. The three individuals are sitting in a hotel room. Defendant Perna claims that individuals with Antifa were "chiefly" responsible for breaking doors and windows at the Capitol. Defendant Perna further stated that: "It's not over, trust me. The purpose of today was to expose Pence as a traitor."

10. The defendant knew at the time he entered the U.S. Capitol Building that that he did not have permission to enter the building and the defendant did so with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress.

11. The defendant knew at the time he entered the U.S. Capitol Building that he did not have permission to enter the building. The defendant, in concert with others, obstructed, influenced, and impeded an official proceeding, that is, a proceeding before Congress, specifically, Congress's certification of the Electoral College vote as set out in the Twelfth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and 3 U.S.C. §§ 15-18.

Respectfully submitted,
MATTHEW GRAVES
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

BY: _____
NIHAR MOHANTY
Assistant United States Attorney

DEFENDANT'S ACCEPTANCE

I, Matthew Perna, have read this Statement of the Offense, and I have discussed it with my attorney. I fully understand this Statement of the Offense. I agree and acknowledge by my signature that this Statement of Offense is true and accurate. I do this voluntarily and of my own free will. No threats have been made to me nor am I under the influence of anything that could impede my ability to understand this Statement of Offense fully.

Date 12/9/2021

Matthew Perna
Defendant

ATTORNEY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read this Statement of Offense and have reviewed it with my client fully. I concur in my client's desire to adopt this Statement of Offense as true and accurate.

Date: 12-9-2021

J. Gerald Ingram, Esq.
Attorney for Defendant