

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CRIMINAL NO.: 17-41

v.

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SECTION: "F"

**JOSE GUADALUPE CERVANTES
-MARRON**

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FACTUAL BASIS

If this case was to proceed to trial the Government would present credible testimony and reliable evidence to prove the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

On November 4, 2016, Task Force Officer Shelly Liner, a Terrebonne Parish Narcotics Task Force ("TNTF") officer assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), New Orleans Field Division ("NOFD") and Agent Richard Hunter, a Houma Police Department officer assigned to the TNTF, debriefed a confidential informant ("CI") regarding a conspiracy to transport multiple kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride from Houston, Texas to Louisiana. The CI identified Manuel Serrata as a broker to conduct transactions of multiple kilogram quantities of cocaine hydrochloride.

From November 18, 2016, through November 30, 2016, Agent Hunter, acting in an undercover capacity, conducted several telephone conversations with Serrata to coordinate the purchase of multiple kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride. These conversations were conducted between Agent Hunter's cellular telephone number and Serrata's cellular telephone number. The conversations were audio recorded via a digital audio recording device and later downloaded onto a compact disc.

SC
BW
DJA

On November 21, 2016, Agent Hunter and Investigator Michael Garner with the Louisiana State Police ("LSP") acting in an undercover capacity, met with Serrata and Adrian Robles, Jr. at the Buffalo Wild Wings, 1783 Martin Luther King Blvd., Houma, Louisiana. During the meeting, Agent Hunter, Inv. Garner, Serrata and Robles, Jr., physically met and coordinated a fifteen (15) kilogram transaction of cocaine hydrochloride for November 29, 2016 and established a price of \$33,000.00 in United States currency per kilogram.

From November 28, 2016 through November 29, 2016, Agent Hunter conducted several telephone conversations with Robles, Jr., to coordinate the purchase of the fifteen (15) kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride. These conversations were conducted between Agent Hunter's cellular telephone number and Robles, Jr., cellular telephone number. The conversations were audio recorded via a digital audio recording device and later downloaded onto compact disc.

On November 28, 2016, at approximately 8:00 a.m., Agents with the Terrebonne Parish Narcotics Task Force, Louisiana State Police, Homeland Security, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Houma Police Department, and Customs Border Patrol Agents were able to obtain physical surveillance on Robles, Jr. Robles, Jr., was identified driving a Silver 2003 Ford F-150 (Texas license plate number CTH 4534) and staying at the Quality Inn Room #107, 210 South Hollywood Road, in Houma, Louisiana. Law Enforcement Agents continued to maintain surveillance on Robles, Jr., the 2003 Silver Ford F-150, and Room #107 at the Quality Inn throughout November 28, 2016, and November 29, 2016, when Robles, Jr., was observed exiting Room #107 Quality Inn and entering the 2003 Silver Ford F-150 with two (2) additional Hispanic males, later identified as Jose Manuel Hinojosa, Jr. and Jesus Hinojosa.

Law enforcement agents monitored the aforementioned subject's actions as they traveled to Raising Canes located at 1723 Martin Luther King Blvd. in Houma, Louisiana. After approximately thirty (30) minutes at this location, law enforcement agents monitored as the aforementioned subjects departed Raising Canes re-entered the Silver Ford F-150 and drove to Ichiban Restaurant (in the same parking lot) to meet with two (2) additional Hispanic males, later identified as Francisco Ruiz and **JOSE GUADALUPE CERVANTES-MARRON** in a white 2009 Freightliner Tractor (Texas license plate number R281689) pulling a silver box trailer (Texas license plate number 076B027). At this location, agents observed Ruiz, the driver of the 2009 Freightliner, go into the sleeper unit of the tractor for a short period of time. Meanwhile, Robles, Jr., parked the 2003 Silver Ford F-150 on the driver's side of the 2009 Freightliner. The passenger of the 2009 Freightliner, **CERVANTES-MARRON**, exited and opened the hood of the 2009 Freightliner. Robles, Jr., drove to the passenger side of the 2009 Freightliner, Ruiz exited the driver's side of the 2009 Freightliner and began speaking with **CERVANTES-MARRON** near the engine compartment of the 2009 Freightliner. Robles, Jr., exited the driver's side of the 2003 Silver Ford F-150 and began speaking with Ruiz and **CERVANTES-MARRON**. Ruiz returned to the driver's side of the 2009 Freightliner and entered the cab of the tractor. Ruiz returned to the passenger side of the 2003 Silver Ford F-150 and handed a large light brown colored bag containing bulky items to the front passenger through the open front passenger window of the 2003 Silver Ford F-150. Robles, Jr., began to drive the Silver Ford F-150 forward as the arrest teams were initiated and all subjects were apprehended without incident. Robles, Jr., was removed from the driver's seat of the Silver Ford F-150, Jesus Hinojosa was removed from the passenger front

seat of the Silver Ford F-150, and Jose Hinojosa was removed from the rear seat driver's side of the extra-cab of the Silver Ford F-150.

Ground surveillance video from the event captures Robles, Jr., (in a tan, long sleeve shirt) and **CERVANTES-MARRON** (in a black t-shirt) opening the hood of the Freightliner and talking for several minutes. After a few minutes of talking, Ruiz (wearing a white hat) exits the Freightliner driver side and hands a bag to the passenger of the F-150 who was Jesus Hinojosa. When agents did the search, the bag with the narcotics in it was in the back seat extended cab portion by Jose Hinojosa.

Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office and Houma Police Department K-9 units were deployed on both the 2003 Silver Ford F-150 and the 2009 Freightliner for a free air sniff around both vehicles. Both K-9's indicated a positive alert for narcotics on both the 2003 Silver Ford F-150 and the 2009 Freightliner.

Terrebonne Parish Search Warrants were obtained on the Quality Inn Room #107, the 2003 Silver Ford F-150, and the 2009 White Freightliner. Agents recovered approximately 5,533.82 gross grams of cocaine hydrochloride inside the Ford F-150, which was in plain view. The 5,533.82 gross grams were separated in five (5) individually wrapped bundles inside a brown sac type bag, which was located on the rear driver's floorboard. In the cab of the 2009 Freightliner behind the sleeper berth wall, agents located approximately 10,886.2 gross grams of cocaine hydrochloride, which was secreted into an aftermarket hydraulic hidden compartment. The 10,886.2 gross grams of cocaine hydrochloride were separated in 10 individually wrapped bundles. Ultimately, a total of 16,420.02 gross grams of suspected cocaine hydrochloride was seized with

a value of or \$495,000.00 in U.S. currency. All of the defendants were arrested on state charges, which were ultimately adopted for federal prosecution.

CERVANTES-MARRON acted as an assistant driver for Francisco Ruiz. **CERVANTES-MARRON** acknowledges that he was aware that they were transporting cocaine, but was unaware of the specific amount being transported.

At trial the Government would introduce the cocaine hydrochloride that was seized as described above, lab reports, phone records including historical cell site information, and the testimony of the investigating agents, a forensic chemist, and other witnesses.

AUSA 
Defendant 
Defense Counsel 

Limited Nature of Factual Basis

This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by **CERVANTES-MARRON**, 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 and factual basis for **CERVANTES-MARRON**'s plea of guilty to the charged offense in Count 1 of the Bill of Information.




David Haller
Assistant United States Attorney

4/11/18
(Date)



Jose Guadalupe Cervantes-Marron (Date)
Defendant



Bruce Whittaker (Date)
Attorney for the Defendant