

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*

CRIMINAL NO. 19-148

v.

*

SECTION: "R"(2)

SHEON COPPRUE

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* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

The defendant, **SHEON COPPRUE** ("COPPRUE"), has agreed to plead guilty as charged to the Indictment pending against him. Should this matter have gone to trial, the government would have proven, through the introduction of competent testimony and other admissible evidence, the following facts, beyond a reasonable doubt, to support the allegations in the indictment now pending against the defendant:

In September 2017, the United States Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS"), Louisiana State Police ("LSP"), and the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") began an investigation into the trafficking of methamphetamine in the New Orleans area supplied from California, primarily through the U.S. Mail. Through intercepted drug parcels, shipping records, undercover methamphetamine purchases utilizing confidential informants, and physical and electronic surveillance, the investigation established that COPPRUE was a New Orleans area drug trafficker. Throughout the course of the investigation agents have seized and/or purchased over 23 pounds of methamphetamine from COPPRUE and his California based suppliers through the use of various confidential sources and a wiretap.

AUSA NDM
Defendant S.C.
Defense Counsel [Signature]

On January 5, 2018, an LSP confidential source ("CS") arranged to buy two ounces of methamphetamine from COPPRUE. COPPRUE agreed to mail the two ounces of methamphetamine to a P.O. Box in Mississippi, controlled by New Orleans Postal Inspectors. Agents had previously instructed the CS to tell COPPRUE the CS had a friend that lived in the Biloxi, Mississippi area who was looking for methamphetamine, and that the CS trusted them. COPPRUE told the CS that he used the mail all the time to mail money and receive drugs, and that it would not be a problem. COPPRUE texted the CS that he had just mailed out the methamphetamine, and wanted to meet up to collect the money, \$1,040 (\$500 per ounce, and an additional \$40 for shipping fees). Agents gave the CS the money and a recording device. The CS and COPPRUE met, and the CS gave COPPRUE the \$1,040. COPPRUE then mailed the package to the Mississippi address. Agents seized the package from the mail system and found approximately 68 grams (approximately 99% pure) of a white crystalline substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine.

On February 26, 2018, postal inspectors identified an outbound package from COPPRUE, sent to an address in Moreno Valley, California. Postal records showed 26 prior packages to that same Moreno Valley address from the New Orleans area. Agents obtained a search warrant to open the package and found \$8,360 in cash. This package was a payment destined for Allen EDGERSON.

The CS arranged to purchase 14 ounces of methamphetamine from COPPRUE on March 1, 2018, for \$6,000. They met in New Orleans, and COPPRUE gave the CS approximately 391 grams of methamphetamine (approximately 98% pure). During the deal, COPPRUE offered to sell the CS up to 5 pounds of methamphetamine at a time.

The CS contacted COPPRUE on March 10, 2018, to set up a 3-pound purchase. On March 12, 2018, agents obtained a search warrant for a stash house on Wainwright Drive that COPPRUE was believed to use, based on prior surveillance. COPPRUE quoted a price of \$6,000 per pound. The CS and COPPRUE agreed to meet. The morning of March 14, 2018, agents saw COPPRUE leave the Wainwright Drive address about an hour before he told the CS he was ready to meet. Agents pulled COPPRUE's vehicle over en route to the meeting. A drug dog alerted to the odor of narcotics, then agents found three bags containing approximately 1.332 kilograms of methamphetamine (approximately 99% pure).

COPPRUE consented to a search of his residence on Franklin Avenue. COPPRUE accompanied the agents to his residence, where they found approximately 29.4 grams of methamphetamine, approximately 27 grams of marijuana, a Glock Model 26, 9 mm caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number CCU494US, loaded with a 15-round magazine, another loaded 31-round magazine, 91 Tramadol doses, one digital scale, and a marijuana grinder.

At the Wainwright Drive Address, agents also found a bag of marijuana in the dishwasher, a Glock Model 22, .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number ABKU701, loaded with a 22-round magazine under the sofa, Del-Ton, Model AR, .223 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number DTI-S134853, in a backpack behind a chair, a pound of marijuana in a closet, over \$20,000 in cash inside of various items of clothing, a pistol-to-carbine-conversion kit, and a Glock Model 27, .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number BFBR576, with 15 rounds in the magazine.

On November 6, 2018, USPIS agents saw a heavily wrapped parcel from Moreno Valley (where EDGERSON lives) that a drug dog alerted to, destined for a house in COPPRUE's

neighborhood. They obtained a federal search warrant, but because the package only contained marijuana, agents did not arrest anyone.


On November 27, 2018, agents followed postal delivery employee Tonya CALVIN, who was scheduled to deliver a package to one of the addresses previously associated with COPPRUE, on Port Street in New Orleans. LSP conducted surveillance during the scheduled delivery and saw CALVIN pass the Port Street address and drive around the corner, where CALVIN delivered a package to COPPRUE. LSP then followed COPPRUE, who exited his car smoking marijuana, walking into his known stash house on Franklin Ave. When LSP approached him, he was holding a sealed shoe box, as well as marijuana and a bottle of 9 Tramadol pills. COPPRUE gave consent to search the box, which had approximately 2.5 pounds of methamphetamine. COPPRUE had been paying CALVIN fees totaling several hundred dollars for the delivery of the parcels containing narcotics.

COPPRUE acknowledges that he possessed the firearms charged in Count 6 of the indictment. COPPRUE further acknowledges that the firearms were manufactured outside the state of Louisiana and thus had to travel through interstate commerce to enter into the state of Louisiana. COPPRUE also acknowledges that at the time that he possessed either firearm, he had a prior felony conviction that precluded him from possessing a firearm. Specifically, he was convicted on September 18, 1990, in case number 90-cr-17, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, for bank robbery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2113; on April 5, 1994, in case number 369005-G, in the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, for forgery, in violation of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:72; on April 18, 2001, in case number 419631-F, in the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, for simple burglary, in violation of

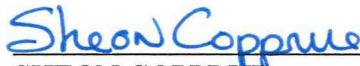
Louisiana Revised Statute 14:62; and on July 3, 2001, in case number 421926-L, in the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, for forgery, in violation of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:72.

This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by COPPRUE, 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 COPPRUE's plea of guilty to these crimes.

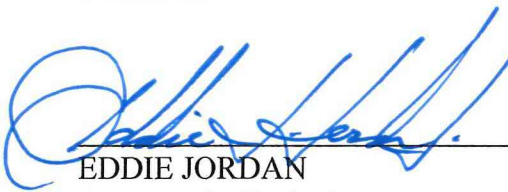
READ AND APPROVED:


NICHOLAS MOSES
Assistant United States Attorney

3/3/20
Date


SHEON COPPRUE
Defendant

2-28-20
Date


EDDIE JORDAN
Attorney for Defendant

2/28/20
Date