

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CRIMINAL NO.: 19-175

v.

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SECTION: "E"

TAURUS RUSSELL

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a/k/a "Scrappy"

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FACTUAL BASIS

Defendant **TAURUS RUSSELL**, a/k/a "Scrappy," ("RUSSELL") has decided to enter a plea of guilty to the Superseding Bill of Information in the above-captioned matter. Should this matter have proceeded to trial, the United States would have proven the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt through credible testimony and reliable evidence. The facts outlined herein occurred within the jurisdiction of the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") conducted an investigation into the drug distribution activities of a group of individuals located in and around the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard. Agents identified the following individuals, among others, who were members of a drug distribution conspiracy: **RUSSELL**, Thomas Landry, Corey Dunn, Bobby Franklin, a/k/a "B-Trey," a/k/a "Trey," Corey Enclarde, a/k/a "Murda," Demarco Ford, Christopher Harris, a/k/a "Grove," Romalis Harris, Michael Lewis, a/k/a "Michael Louis," and others.

During the course of this investigation, agents obtained court-authorized Title III wiretap orders on four telephones: a telephone used by Franklin, a/k/a "B-Trey," a/k/a "Trey," telephone number [REDACTED] ("the 327 Wiretap"), a telephone used by Corey Dunn, telephone number [REDACTED] ("the 439 Wiretap"), a telephone used by Corey Dunn, telephone number [REDACTED] ("the 351 Wiretap"), and a telephone used by Corey Dunn, telephone number [REDACTED] ("the 228 Wiretap").

Through this investigation, agents learned that Franklin and Dunn were a cocaine base (crack cocaine) and cocaine hydrochloride distribution organization. Upon information and belief, the Franklin and Dunn drug trafficking organization ("DTO") began operating on or about October 2018, and continued to do so until on or about August 2, 2019. DEA agents were able to develop information about the charged conspiracy based on controlled purchases and intercepted communications between Franklin and Dunn and their co-conspirators.

Should this matter have proceeded to trial, DEA agents would testify that intercepted hundreds of telephone calls during his investigation of the Dunn/Franklin drug trafficking organization. During that time, DEA agents heard members of the drug trafficking organization use code words to thwart law enforcement from intercepting communications related to drug trafficking/dealing. Additionally, DEA agents would testify that based on their training and experience in narcotics, they have become familiar with the code language that drug dealers will often use to disguise conversations about narcotics activity. DEA agents are familiar with the code words used to refer to different types of controlled substances distributed and possessed with the intent to distribute by the organization, as well as quantities used distributed/possessed by the organization.

AUSA BUP
 Defendant JK
 Defense Counsel RST

June 2019 purchase between Dunn and Russell

During the 439 Wiretap, DEA agents intercepted a telephone conversation between Dunn and **RUSSELL**. On June 10, 2019, at approximately 3:43 p.m., Dunn contacted **RUSSELL** at his telephone number [REDACTED]. During the call, **RUSSELL** told Dunn that he was “waiting for his podnuh” to find out if he could “buy one of those things from last time.” Dunn told **RUSSELL** that he had “at least six of them, maybe seven.” In response, **RUSSELL** asked Dunn if he was “going to serve him proper.” DEA agents correctly interpreted this communication to mean that **RUSSELL** was setting up the purchase of either six or seven ounces of a controlled substance, now known to be cocaine hydrochloride from Dunn.

At approximately 11:37 p.m., **RUSSELL** called Dunn and stated, “seven stacks” meaning that **RUSSELL** was negotiating the purchase of seven ounces of cocaine hydrochloride worth \$7,000.00 in U.S. currency. Dunn replied, “Alright.” After intercepting the communication, DEA elected to conduct surveillance at Dunn’s residence. At approximately 12:26 a.m., **RUSSELL** arrived at Dunn’s residence carrying what appeared to be a small square object in his left hand. At approximately 12:28 a.m., **RUSSELL** exited Dunn’s apartment carrying a white object containing seven ounces (196 grams) of cocaine hydrochloride from Dunn.

July 2019 purchases between Dunn and Russell

During the 228 Wiretap, DEA intercepted a communication between Dunn and **RUSSELL** in which **RUSSELL** negotiated the purchase of cocaine hydrochloride from Dunn. On July 24, 2019, at approximately 12:55 p.m., Dunn contacted **RUSSELL** at his telephone number [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] At the beginning of the communication, **RUSSELL** told Dunn that he heard that “B-Trey”

made parole. DEA agents identified “B-Trey” as co-conspirator Bobby Franklin. Dunn acknowledged knowing Franklin and recently having sold **RUSSELL** cocaine hydrochloride.

As the conversation continued, **RUSSELL** stated, “Oh yeah. I’m coming down there later on. Get me a four and a half so you can get it ready.” Dunn replied, “Yeah, you told me. I got you.” DEA agents correctly interpreted this communication to mean that **RUSSELL** was negotiating the purchase of four and a half ounces of cocaine hydrochloride from Dunn. Dunn and **RUSSELL** agreed to meet later that night. At approximately 9:48 p.m., **RUSSELL** contacted Dunn to tell him that he was “pulling into the parking lot baby.” Agents established surveillance and confirmed the meeting between **RUSSELL** and Dunn. At approximately 9:50 p.m., **RUSSELL** arrived at Dunn’s residence. **RUSSELL** exited his vehicle and went up the stairs to Dunn’s apartment. **RUSSELL** entered the building. Upon exiting the apartment, **RUSSELL** was in possession of four and a half ounces (126 grams) of cocaine hydrochloride.

The following day, **RUSSELL** contacted Dunn and stated, “Hey bruh, I just wanted to tell you this. You hear me?” Man that shit was so good, dog...” Boy every dollar I get bxxxxh you gonna get it.” **RUSSELL** was complimenting Dunn on the quality of the cocaine hydrochloride purchased the previous day.

During the month of July 2019, DEA agents intercepted two additional communications between **RUSSELL** and Dunn. On July 28, 2019 and July 31, 2019 **RUSSELL** contacted Dunn and negotiated the purchase of four and a half ounces (126 grams) of cocaine hydrochloride from Dunn. These transactions occurred in a similar manner to the previous communications between **RUSSELL** and Dunn.

Sentencing Stipulation

For the purposes of sentencing only, the parties stipulate and agree that the defendant, **RUSSELL**, is responsible for the following drug quantities through his own actions and the reasonably foreseeable actions of his co-conspirators. The parties agree that **RUSSELL** is responsible for conspiring to distribute and/or possess with the intent to distribute at least 500 grams, but less than 2 kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride.

AUSA BUP
Defendant JK
Defense Counsel KST

Limited Nature of Factual Basis

This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by **RUSSELL**. Rather, it is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for his guilty plea. The limited purpose of this proffer is to demonstrate that there exists a sufficient legal basis for **RUSSELL**'s plea of guilty to the charged offenses.

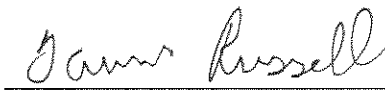
READ AND APPROVED:


ROBERT S. TOALE
Counsel for Taurus RUSSELL

6/21/21
Date


BRITTANY L. REED
Assistant United States Attorney

Date


TAURUS RUSSELL
Defendant

6/21/21
Date