UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | * | CRIMINAL NO. 21-115 |
| v. | * | SECTION: "H" |
| DONMONICK MARTIN a/k/a "Dommonick Martin" | * | |

* * *

## FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter have gone to trial, the Government would have proved through the introduction of reliable testimony and admissible tangible exhibits, including documentary evidence, the following to support the allegation charged by the Government in Count 1 of the Bill of Information now pending against the defendant, **DONMONICK MARTIN a/k/a Dommonick Martin ("MARTIN")**, which charges him with conspiracy to commit mail fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. Both the Government and the defendant, **MARTIN**, do hereby stipulate and agree that the following facts set forth a sufficient factual basis for the crimes to which the defendant is pleading guilty. Unless otherwise specified, the following acts took place within the Eastern District of Louisiana.

On or about January 30, 2020, **MARTIN's** co-conspirator, [redacted], flew from O'Hare International Airport ("ORD") in Chicago, Illinois to Louis International Airport ("MSY") in Kenner, Louisiana on American Airlines ("American") flight number 3460 under the fictitious identity [redacted], utilizing a fraudulent identification. [redacted] obtained a baggage ticket for flight number 3460 but did not check a bag. When [redacted] arrived in Louisiana, **MARTIN** went to pick up [redacted] from MSY. [redacted] asked **MARTIN** if he would go into the airport and make a false claim for lost baggage under the fictitious identity [redacted], and **MARTIN** agreed. [redacted] provided **MARTIN** with



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the baggage ticket that [redacted] had obtained from American and P.J. wrote down an email address and phone number that **MARTIN** should say belonged to him.

That same day, on or about January 30, 2020, **MARTIN** went into MSY and pretended to look for a bag at the baggage claim carousel for American flight number 3460. **MARTIN** then approached the American service counter at MSY and falsely reported that his name was [redacted] and that his bag for American flight 3460 was delayed or lost. Based on information given to him by [redacted] **MARTIN** provided American with a description of the purportedly lost bag and a list of items that were inside of it. The American employee was aware that American had recently received a number of fraudulent claims for lost baggage that had a similar *modus operandi* to the [redacted] claim and the employee was suspicious. The American employee took photographs and a video of **MARTIN** making the claim and American provided these materials to law enforcement.

On or about February 19, 2020, [redacted] filled out an American Passenger Property Questionnaire form stating that the value of the lost items was $3,975 and signed the name [redacted] posing as [redacted], requested that American mail him a reimbursement check to compensate him for the lost luggage. This claim, however, was flagged as fraudulent and American did not send a reimbursement check.

Evidence obtained from, *inter alia,* subpoenas and search warrants revealed that [redacted] routinely took flights with commercial airlines under fictitious names, falsely claimed that his baggage had been lost, and requested reimbursement to compensate him for this baggage. To obscure his identity, [redacted] would communicate with the airlines by phone utilizing phone numbers created with a burner application and by email utilizing email addresses that were created to match the fictitious identities. Claim data obtained from airlines further revealed that [redacted] generally used addresses of his friends and associates to receive the reimbursement checks from commercial



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airlines so as to evade detection. FBI agents observed that three fraudulent reimbursement checks were mailed via the United States Postal Service ("USPS") from American to [redacted] Chalmette, Louisiana. This address belonged to **MARTIN**. The envelopes had "American Airlines" printed on the outside and had a window from which the words "to the order of" were visible. The checks that were sent to **MARTIN's** address totaled approximately $10,500. These checks were cashed by [redacted] who kept the funds.

For example, records from American evidenced that, on or about September 3, 2019, [redacted] flew from MSY to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport ("DFW") in Texas on American flight number 2257 under the fictitious identity [redacted] On or about September 9, 2019, [redacted] filled out an American Passenger Property Questionnaire form in which he falsely reported that his baggage for American flight number 2257 was lost and signed the name [redacted] On or about October 16, 2019, American mailed an envelope via USPS from 1 Skyview Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76115 to G.W. at **MARTIN's** home address, [redacted] Chalmett(sic), St. Bernard Parrish(sic), LA 70043, containing check number [redacted] in the amount of approximately $3,500.00 in reimbursement for the fraudulent G.W. claim. Search warrant results for P.J.'s phone revealed that [redacted] created a document in the Notepad application with a title of [redacted] and with **MARTIN's** address. When **MARTIN** received this envelope, he notified [redacted] that it had arrived, and [redacted] came to retrieve it. Bank records show that, on or about October 24, 2019, [redacted] endorsed and cashed check number [redacted] from American.

Records obtained from PayPal also showed that, on or about February 21, 2020, JetBlue deposited approximately $2,966.89 with a memo of [redacted] into a PayPal account under **MARTIN's** name. This PayPal account was associated with **MARTIN's** contact information. On or about February 21, 2020, minutes after JetBlue deposited the funds, approximately $2,950 was



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transferred from **MARTIN's** PayPal account to [redacted] Search warrant results from [redacted] phone indicate that, at around the same time, **MARTIN** confirmed the transaction by text with PayPal and then texted a screenshot of the PayPal transaction confirmation to [redacted] FBI's investigation revealed that JetBlue had paid a fraudulent request for reimbursement for lost baggage under the name [redacted] to **MARTIN's** PayPal account.

On or about May 7, 2021, Special Agents with the FBI interviewed **MARTIN**. **MARTIN** confessed that he had agreed with [redacted] to go into the airport to falsely claim that he had lost a bag under a fake name on one occasion. **MARTIN** admitted that he was the individual in the photographs that were taken by the American employee on or about January 30, 2020. **MARTIN** also admitted to allowing [redacted] to use his address to receive a piece of mail in another person's name, which **MARTIN** believed was "ID fraud related" and that he notified [redacted] when the mail arrived. **MARTIN** stated that [redacted] never paid him for receiving mail on [redacted] behalf. **MARTIN** was aware that [redacted] possessed fake identification cards that he used for scams, that [redacted] had numerous fake email addresses, and that [redacted] used a burner app to create fake phone numbers. **MARTIN** also admitted that [redacted] had used **MARTIN's** PayPal account to move money around so as to not leave a paper trail. **MARTIN** further stated that he had allowed [redacted] to use his printing/fax machine.

In sum, the Government would present evidence that, through the above-described scheme, **MARTIN** agreed with [redacted] to commit an unlawful conspiracy, the object of which was to defraud commercial airlines between on or about October 2019 and on or about March 2020 and that the loss and intended loss that was foreseeable to **MARTIN** was approximately $17,441.89.



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**Limited Nature of Factual Basis and Conclusion**

This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by **MARTIN**, and/or the government. 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 the plea of guilty to the charged offense by **MARTIN**.

The above facts come from an investigation conducted by, and would be proven at trial through, *inter alia*, credible testimony from witnesses including Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Agents with the Department of Homeland Security, employees of American Airlines, and Deputies with Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office; and the introduction of bank records, photographs, video footage, flight records, and other admissible tangible exhibits in the custody of the FBI.

READ AND APPROVED:

DONMONICK MARTIN
Defendant

ANNALISA MIRON
Counsel for Defendant

MARIA M. CARBONI
Assistant United States Attorney