

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Richmond Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	<b><u>UNDER SEAL</u></b>
	)	
	)	Criminal No. 3:20-cr- <b>125</b>
v.	)	
	)	18 U.S.C. § 371
	)	Conspiracy
STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR,	)	(Count 1)
(Counts 1-7)	)	
	)	18 U.S.C. §§ 201(b)(2)(C) and 2
SHANICE NICOLE BULLOCK,	)	Solicitation and Acceptance of Bribe
(Counts 1 & 3-5)	)	By Public Official
	)	(Counts 2-7)
DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX,	)	
(Counts 1 & 8-16)	)	18 U.S.C. §§ 201(b)(1)(C) and 2
	)	Offering and Giving Bribe to Public
KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS,	)	Official
(Counts 1, 8-12 & 14)	)	(Counts 8-14)
	)	
TRAVIAN TAYLOR,	)	18 U.S.C. §§ 1791(a)(2), (b)(3)
(Count 1)	)	Possession of Contraband in Prison
	)	(Counts 15 & 16)
and	)	
	)	
RAMEESHA NOKIA SMITH,	)	
(Count 1)	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**INDICTMENT**

NOVEMBER 2020 TERM—at Richmond, Virginia

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

At all times relevant to this indictment:

1. Defendant STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR was employed by the United States Bureau of Prisons (a component of the United States Department of Justice) as a correctional

officer and case manager at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) in Petersburg, Virginia from on or about December 19, 2008 to on or about March 3, 2019. STEPHEN TAYLOR was a case manager in the F-North Unit at the Medium Security institution in the FCI.

2. Defendant SHANICE NICOLE BULLOCK was employed by the United States Bureau of Prisons (a component of the United States Department of Justice) as a correctional officer at FCI Petersburg from on or about July 27, 2015 to on or about December 3, 2019. During her time as a correctional officer at FCI Petersburg, BULLOCK patrolled and monitored the North Unit, including the F-North Unit at the Medium Security institution in the FCI.

3. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1791 and BOP regulations prohibited inmates' possession of "prohibited objects," including controlled substances, cigarettes, and cellular telephones. BOP regulations also prohibited inmates from gambling. STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK's duties as BOP employees included the enforcement of federal law and BOP regulations pertaining to inmates' possession of prohibited objects and engaging in gambling.

4. Defendants DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX and TRAVIAN TAYLOR, as well as Co-Conspirators 1 and 2, were inmates at FCI Petersburg. COX began his period of incarceration at FCI Petersburg on or about January 23, 2014, and remained incarcerated at FCI Petersburg until on or about July 18, 2019. TRAVIAN TAYLOR was incarcerated at FCI Petersburg from on or about July 19, 2017 until on or about December 2, 2019. At various times during their incarceration, COX and TRAVIAN TAYLOR were housed in the F-North Unit at the Medium Security institution in the FCI and shared a cell together.

5. Defendant KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS is COX's mother.

6. Defendant RAMEESHA NOKIA SMITH was a girlfriend of COX's.
7. Co-Conspirator 3 was also a girlfriend of COX's.

**COUNT ONE**  
(Conspiracy)

1. Paragraphs One through Seven of the "General Allegations" in this indictment are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth here.

2. Beginning before at least 2015 and continuing through on or about July 18, 2019, the exact dates being unknown to the grand jury, in the Eastern District of Virginia and within the jurisdiction of the Court, as well as elsewhere, defendants STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR, SHANICE NICOLE BULLOCK, DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX, TRAVIAN TAYLOR, KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS, and RAMEESHA NOKIA SMITH did unlawfully, knowingly, and intentionally, combine, conspire, confederate and agree with Co-Conspirators 1-3, as well with others, both known and unknown to the grand jury to commit the following offenses against the United States, to wit:

- a. paying bribes to BOP employees, that is, to directly, indirectly, and corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to a public official, with intent to induce a public official to do and omit to do an act in violation of the public official's lawful duty, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b)(1)(C);
- b. receiving bribes as BOP employees, that is, to directly, indirectly, and corruptly demand, seek, receive, and accept, and agree to receive and accept anything of value as a public officials in return for being induced to do or omit to do any act in violation of the public official's lawful duties, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b)(2)(C);

- c. providing prohibited objects to inmates of a federal prison, that is, to knowingly provide and attempt to provide inmates of a federal prison, that is, FCI Petersburg, prohibited objects as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1791(d)(1)(A), (d)(1)(B), (d)(1)(C), (d)(1)(F), (d)(1)(G), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1791(a)(1);
- d. possessing prohibited objects as an inmate of a federal prison, that is, to knowingly possess and to attempt to obtain as an inmate of a federal prison, that is, FCI Petersburg, prohibited objects as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1791(d)(1)(A), (d)(1)(B), (d)(1)(C), (d)(1)(F), (d)(1)(G), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1791(a)(2)

**PURPOSE OF THE CONSPIRACY**

3. A purpose of the conspiracy was for defendants STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK to use their positions as public officials, specifically employees of the Bureau of Prisons, to solicit and accept payments, gifts, and other things of value from COX and TRAVIAN TAYLOR through their associates, WILLIAMS, SMITH, and Co-Conspirator 3, in exchange for STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK doing or omitting to do any act in violation of their lawful duties as BOP employees, including obtaining prohibited objects through WILLIAMS, SMITH, and Co-Conspirator 3 to then provide to COX and TRAVIAN TAYLOR for distribution to inmates within FCI Petersburg.

**MANNER AND MEANS OF THE CONSPIRACY**

The manner and means by which the defendants would and did carry out the conspiracy included, but were not limited to, the following:

4. STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK agreed with COX to provide, among other things, controlled substances to COX for distribution to other inmates at FCI Petersburg and to not interfere with him doing so.

5. STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK further agreed not to interfere with COX's poker table and sports book gambling operation commonly known as a "parlay ticket." COX ran this poker table and a sports book gambling operation in violation of BOP regulations.

6. In return for their agreement to facilitate COX's introduction of prohibited objects into FCI Petersburg by smuggling in the contraband and for not interfering with either his distribution scheme or "parlay ticket," STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK were promised and did receive, among other things, payments from associates of COX. In addition, COX assisted STEPHEN TAYLOR in avoiding conflict and violence among inmates in the F-North Unit.

7. COX then recruited individuals close to him who were not incarcerated at FCI Petersburg, including SMITH, WILLIAMS, and Co-Conspirator 3, to facilitate his scheme.

8. SMITH, WILLIAMS, and Co-Conspirator 3 agreed to provide the prohibited objects and payment to STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK who, in turn, provided the contraband to COX to, among other things, sell to other inmates at FCI Petersburg.

9. COX worked alongside other inmates inside FCI Petersburg, including TRAVIAN TAYLOR and Co-Conspirator 1, to obtain and distribute the prohibited objects within FCI Petersburg. Once the FCI Petersburg inmates obtained the prohibited objects, the inmates, either directly or through associates, would then, using a variety of methods, remit payment to COX, SMITH, WILLIAMS, and Co-Conspirator 3.

10. The funds obtained from these FCI Petersburg inmates and their associates as well as other proceeds from the distribution scheme were used by COX, WILLIAMS, SMITH, Co-Conspirator 3, and TRAVIAN TAYLOR to further their distribution scheme by, among other things, purchasing additional prohibited objects for introduction into FCI Petersburg and paying bribes to STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK in return for the acts and omissions described above.

11. Co-Conspirator 3, SMITH, and WILLIAMS, acting at COX's direction, delivered funds to STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK, either personally or via wire transfer.

12. SMITH, WILLIAMS, and Co-Conspirator 3 regularly traveled to FCI Petersburg to visit COX. During these visits, SMITH, WILLIAMS, and Co-Conspirator 3 delivered contraband to STEPHEN TAYLOR and BULLOCK and also paid them bribes in return for the acts and omissions described above.

13. COX and TRAVIAN TAYLOR would obtain and then distribute to other FCI Petersburg inmates a variety of prohibited objects over the course of the conspiracy, including marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance, K-2, a Schedule I controlled substance, Suboxone, a narcotic drug, cigarettes, and cellular telephones.

#### **OVERT ACTS**

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to affect its objects, the defendants and the other co-conspirators committed at least one of the following acts in the Eastern District of Virginia and elsewhere:

14. At some point during 2015, Co-Conspirator 1 and COX approached Inmate A at FCI Petersburg and asked Inmate A to partner with them in the sale of suboxone strips and marijuana.

15. In or around March 2017, at FCI Petersburg, STEPHEN TAYLOR provided suboxone strips, cell phones, marijuana, and tobacco to COX. In or around May 2017, STEPHEN TAYLOR provided marijuana to COX.

16. In or around November 2017, at FCI Petersburg, BULLOCK provided a carton of cigarettes to COX. In or around May 2018, at FCI Petersburg, BULLOCK provided suboxone strips, cellular telephones, and cigarettes to COX.

17. At various times between on or about October 8, 2017 and April 7, 2019, near FCI Petersburg, Co-Conspirator 3, acting the direction of COX and WILLIAMS, delivered sums of cash (often provided by WILLIAMS) in the aggregate amount of approximately \$10,000 to BULLOCK.

18. At various times between on or about October 8, 2017 and March 3, 2019, near FCI Petersburg, Co-Conspirator 3, acting the direction of COX and WILLIAMS, delivered sums of cash (often provided by WILLIAMS) in the aggregate amount of approximately \$20,000 to STEPHEN TAYLOR.

19. In addition to delivering cash in person, STEPHEN TAYLOR AND BULLOCK received bribes via wire transfer.

20. Between on or about December 8, 2017, and on or about February 18, 2018, Co-Conspirator 3 wired STEPHEN TAYLOR \$800 via Western Union.

21. On or about February 1, 2018, Co-Conspirator 3 wired STEPHEN TAYLOR \$600 via Walmart-2-Walmart.

22. Between on or about March 23, 2018, and on or about July 22, 2018, WILLIAMS wired STEPHEN TAYLOR \$4,250 via Walmart-2-Walmart.

23. Between on or about August 17, 2018, and on or about December 12, 2018, WILLIAMS wired STEPHEN TAYLOR \$8,350 via Walmart-2-Walmart.

24. Between on or about January 14, 2019, and on or about March 10, 2019, WILLIAMS wired STEPHEN TAYLOR \$4,806 via Walmart-2-Walmart.

25. Between on or about November 6, 2018, and on or about December 22, 2018, WILLIAMS wired BULLOCK \$3,300 via Walmart-2-Walmart.

26. Between in or around December 2017 and February 15, 2018, WILLIAMS provided Co-Conspirator 3 with an Apple iPhone to deliver to STEPHEN TAYLOR, with the understanding that TAYLOR would deliver the iPhone, a prohibited object, to COX.

27. Between in or around December 2017 and February 15, 2018, near FCI Petersburg, Co-Conspirator 3 delivered the Apple iPhone to STEPHEN TAYLOR with the understanding that STEPHEN TAYLOR would deliver the iPhone to COX. At that time, STEPHEN TAYLOR told Co-Conspirator 3 to advise COX that it was unwise for COX to use an iPhone because the signals made it more likely that his use of the phone would be detected.

28. On or about February 28, 2019, SMITH sent \$50 to TRAVIAN TAYLOR's commissary account at FCI Petersburg via Western Union wire transfer.

29. STEPHEN TAYLOR was reassigned to FCC Butner in Butner, North Carolina on or about March 3, 2019. On or about March 9, 2019, STEPHEN TAYLOR sent a text message

to WILLIAMS asking, “what time are u sending?” WILLIAMS, on or about March 10, 2019, then wired STEPHEN TAYLOR \$1,750 via Walmart-2-Walmart.

30. Shortly after STEPHEN TAYLOR’s reassignment to FCC Butner, and on or about April 23, 2019, COX approached another Correctional Officer. After engaging the Correctional Officer about the Correctional Officer’s age, tenure with BOP, and salary, COX asked whether Correctional Officer had ever violated the law or prison regulations. COX then asked whether Correctional Officer could bring something in to FCI Petersburg for COX. COX also asked Correctional Officer if he knew any individuals who lived in or near Emporia, Virginia. COX advised Correctional Officer that Correctional Officer could triple his monthly income by helping COX.

31. In additional letters dated from on or about June 30, 2019, and continuing through July 17, 2019, COX continued to coax Correctional Officer into working with WILLIAMS, SMITH, and TRAVIAN TAYLOR to introduce contraband into FCI Petersburg, including through the receipt of bribes paid by WILLIAMS and SMITH.

32. On or about July 16, 2019, TRAVIAN TAYLOR obtained a bag containing a cellular telephone, and provided it to the Correctional Officer.

33. On or about July 17, 2019, COX provided Correctional Officer two letters telling Correctional Officer that “Poodie” was going send the \$2,350 and that the Correctional Officer’s position was safe as it could be with COX and COX’s family. COX further advised that the Correctional Officer could meet SMITH prior to coming into FCI Petersburg and that she would be awaiting the Correctional Officer’s call.

34. On or about July 17, 2019, an associate of Correctional Officer then received \$2,350 through Walmart-2-Walmart from WILLIAMS.

35. On or about July 19, 2019, COX was transferred to FCC Butner. Upon arriving at FCC Butner, COX inquired with a FCC Butner correctional officer about whether STEPHEN TAYLOR worked at FCC Butner.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371).

**COUNTS TWO THROUGH SEVEN**  
(Solicitation and Acceptance of Bribe by Public Official)

On or about the following dates, in the Eastern District of Virginia and within the jurisdiction of this Court, the defendants set forth below, being public officials, and aided, abetted, counseled, induced, and encouraged by each other, did directly, indirectly, and corruptly, demand, seek, receive, accept, and agree to personally receive and accept something of value, in return for being induced to do acts and omit to do acts in violation of their official duties, that is, introduction of contraband into FCI Petersburg and for refraining from interference with COX's prohibited gambling operation:

<b>Count</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Thing of Value</b>
2	2/1/2018	STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR	\$600 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart from Co-Conspirator 3
3	11/6/2018	SHANICE NICOLE BULLOCK STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR	\$1,500 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart from WILLIAMS
4	12/12/2018	SHANICE NICOLE BULLOCK STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR	\$700 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart from WILLIAMS
5	12/22/2018	SHANICE NICOLE BULLOCK STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR	\$800 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart from WILLIAMS
6	1/14/2019	STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR	\$1,100 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart from WILLIAMS
7	2/15/2019	STEPHEN ANDRE TAYLOR	\$1,750 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart from WILLIAMS

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(2)(C) & 2).

**COUNTS EIGHT THROUGH FOURTEEN**

(Payment of Bribe to Public Official)

On or about the following dates, in the Eastern District of Virginia and within the jurisdiction of this Court, the defendants set forth below, aided, abetted, counseled, induced, and encouraged by each other, did, directly, indirectly, and corruptly give, offer, and promise a thing of value to public officials, with intent to induce the public official to do and omit to do acts in violation of their official duties, all as set forth below:

<b>Count</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Defendant</b>	<b>Thing of Value</b>
8	11/6/2018	KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX	\$1,500 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart to BULLOCK
9	12/12/2018	KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX	\$700 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart from BULLOCK
10	12/22/2018	KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX	\$800 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart from BULLOCK
11	1/14/2019	KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX	\$1,100 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart to STEPHEN TAYLOR
12	2/15/2019	KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX	\$1,750 delivered via Walmart-2-Walmart to STEPHEN TAYLOR
13	4/23/2019	DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX	Offer of unspecified sum to Correctional Officer for assisting COX with introduction of contraband to FCI Petersburg
14	7/17/2019	KIM LESLIE WILLIAMS DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX	\$2,350 to associate of Correctional Officer for assisting COX with introduction of contraband to FCI Petersburg

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(C) & 2).

**COUNT FIFTEEN**

(Possession of Contraband by an Inmate)

On or about July 16, 2019, in the Eastern District of Virginia and within the jurisdiction of this Court, DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX, an inmate at FCI Petersburg, a federal prison, in violation of a statute, namely, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1791(d) and rules and regulations issued thereunder, did knowingly, intentionally, and unlawfully possess and obtain a prohibited object, to wit: marijuana, a scheduled I controlled substance.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1791(a)(2), 1791(b)(3)).

**COUNT SIXTEEN**

(Possession of Contraband by an Inmate)

On or about July 18, 2019, in the Eastern District of Virginia and within the jurisdiction of this Court, DONTAY LEROY DOUGLASS COX, an inmate at FCI Petersburg, a federal prison, in violation of a statute, namely, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1791(d) and rules and regulations issued thereunder, did knowingly, intentionally, and unlawfully possess and obtain a prohibited object, to wit: marijuana, a scheduled I controlled substance.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1791(a)(2), 1791(b)(3)).

**FORFEITURE ALLEGATION**

Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the defendants are hereby notified that upon conviction of any of the offenses set forth in Counts One through Fourteen of the Indictment, they shall forfeit to the United States any property real or personal which constitutes, or is derived from, proceeds traceable to such violations.

If the property subject to forfeiture cannot be located, the United States will seek an order forfeiting substitute assets.

(All in accordance with Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c) and Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p)).

A TRUE BILL:

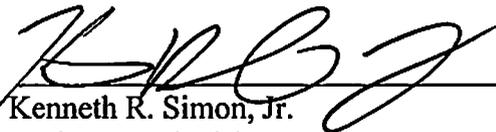
[REDACTED]

FOREPERSON

G. ZACHARY TERWILLIGER  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

**Pursuant to the E-Government Act,  
the original of this page has been filed  
UNDER SEAL in the Clerk's Office.**

By:

  
Kenneth R. Simon, Jr.

Assistant United States Attorney



Michael C. Moore

Assistant United States Attorney