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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATHENS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	**CASE NO. 3:25-CR-_11__**
v.	**INDICTMENT**
STEVEN EHIZOJIE OBOITE, **ERIC XAVIER BECHET,** **JABARI AYINDE COOPER,** **RASHAD CORTESE KINLOCH,** **MYRON NED STODGHILL,** **REGINALD TYRONE DOUGLAS, and** **JOSHUA JAMAL CHARLES,**	**VIOLATIONS:** **21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)** **21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)(vi)** **21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)(viii)** **21 U.S.C. § 846** **21 U.S.C. § 853**
Defendants.	

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

At all times material to this Indictment:

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

A. The Fentanyl Epidemic in America

1. Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid, is the deadliest drug threat facing the United States. Not only is fentanyl 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, a dose of as little as 2 milligrams, equal to approximately 10 to 15 grains of salt, can kill an adult human.

2. Synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, are now the most common drugs involved in drug overdose deaths in the United States. Users often take these drugs without knowing they contain fentanyl, which greatly increases the risk of poisoning. In Georgia alone, a total of 4,375 deaths occurred from fentanyl overdoses between 2022 and 2023.

3. Fake prescription pills containing fentanyl present an extreme danger. Most of these fake pills are made to look nearly identical to real prescription pills, such as oxycodone (M30,

Percocet); hydrocodone (Vicodin); or alprazolam (Xanax) – the fentanyl content in these fake pills is known only after laboratory analysis. In 2023 alone, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's forensic laboratory analysis showed that approximately 7 in 10 fake pills contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl.

4. Illicit shipments of fentanyl are often sent via the United States Postal Service and other parcel delivery services. The introduction of fentanyl into the stream of mail endangers postal service workers and recipients of packages shipped alongside the packages of fentanyl. In the event a package is torn or damaged while in transit, its contents could contaminate other items in the mail stream.

B. Background on the Darknet

5. The surface web, also referred to as the clear web or Clearnet, is the part of the internet we use every day that's accessible by using a regular web browser and does not require login credentials. It refers to the publicly accessible internet, or the traditional World Wide Web, where most websites identify users by their Internet Protocol, or IP, address.

6. Deep web websites are accessible through regular web browsers, but they require a login or subscription to access. The Darknet is a subset of the deep web that is a more private part of the internet that is built on anonymity networks like Tor, short for The Onion Router, and requires a specific browser to access.

7. Tor is an open-source privacy network that enables anonymous web browsing. Initially developed by the United States Navy to protect sensitive government communications, the network was later made available to the public as an open-source platform, meaning that Tor's source code is now accessible to everyone. The worldwide Tor computer network uses secure, encrypted protocols to ensure that users' online privacy is protected. Tor users' digital data and

communications are shielded using a layered approach that resembles the nested layers of an onion.

8. A Darknet market is a hidden commercial website that operates on Darknet. A Darknet market operates as a black market, selling or brokering transactions involving legal products as well as drugs, weapons, counterfeit currency, stolen credit card details, forged documents, unlicensed pharmaceuticals, steroids, and other illicit goods. Individuals typically purchase narcotics through Darknet markets from vendors, who accept digital currency, such as Bitcoin and Monero, for payment which is intended to further obscure the true identity of the seller and purchaser.

9. Vendors are the Darknet's sellers of goods and services, often of an illicit nature, and they do so through the creation and operation of vendor accounts on Darknet markets. Customers, meanwhile, operate customer accounts. Vendor and customer accounts are not identified by numbers, but rather monikers or handles, much like the username one would use on a clear web site. If a moniker on a particular marketplace has not already been registered by another user, vendors and customers can use the same moniker across multiple marketplaces. Based on customer reviews, vendors can become well known as trusted vendors.

10. Dread is a Darknet forum that can only be accessed via privacy networks like Tor or The Invisible Internet Project (I2P). The forum, which was launched in early 2018, is designed similarly to the popular Clearnet forum Reddit. It is considered to be one of the most prolific forums for illicit content on the Darknet, with topics that range from hacking guides, drug trafficking, stolen personal identifying information, Darknet news, and more.

11. Just as Darknet markets resemble legitimate markets such as Ebay or Amazon, Dread is based on the Reddit model. Anyone can make their own subreddit (or subdread). Moderators

control what type of posts are allowed, and they can ban users from their subreddit or subdread if they think their pre-established protocols are being broken. Subreddits and subdreads are often based on subjects of interest.

C. Background on Cryptocurrency

12. Virtual currency, or cryptocurrency, is a form of online payment that uses cryptography to secure financial transactions. Cryptocurrency transactions may be recorded on a "blockchain," which is a cryptographically verified ledger of every transaction that occurs in a particular currency. Cryptocurrency transactions can be conducted with multiple inputs and multiple outputs to a single transaction. Cryptocurrency transactions take place between "addresses" on a blockchain, and a transfer of funds from a sender to a recipient may be broken into multiple transactions that follow different paths to the same destination. One individual may control multiple "addresses," sometimes all as part of a single account or "wallet" which they can use to hold, send and receive cryptocurrency.

13. Bitcoin, or BTC, is a common form of cryptocurrency. The BTC blockchain, or ledger, is publicly available. Users can view the movement of BTC from one address to another on the BTC blockchain. The BTC blockchain identifies the addresses and BTC amounts involved in transactions but does not identify who owned or controlled a particular address at any particular time. A BTC Transaction ID number uniquely identifies a particular BTC transaction. A BTC deposit address is a unique identifier that serves as a virtual location to which BTC can be sent.

14. The passcodes that allow users to access a particular cryptocurrency wallet, and transfer the cryptocurrency contained within it, may be stored on mobile devices, external or removable media, or computers. These passcodes can also be represented as long strings of characters, machine readable bar codes (QR codes) or hidden within other innocuous looking data such as

image files. Private keys and "seed keys" (specialized passphrases that can be used to regenerate private keys), can also be stored on paper. Passwords for access to electronic wallets are typically complex and are often written down or saved in an accessible manner on paper or on some electronic device.

15. Monero, or XMR, is another type of cryptocurrency. Unlike the bitcoin blockchain, the Monero blockchain is not publicly viewable. As described on the website getmonero.org, Monero is a "Private, decentralized cryptocurrency that keeps your finances confidential and secure." Monero includes a variety of features that help to obscure the true origins and destinations of transactions. Due to these enhanced security features, Monero is sometimes classified as a "privacy coin." Monero can be used to obfuscate the origins and destinations of cryptocurrency transactions by exchanging one cryptocurrency for Monero, where cryptocurrency transactions cannot be readily observed, and then exchanging from Monero back into another cryptocurrency, such as bitcoin, which can then be converted back into fiat currency.

D. Darknet vendor WallstreetBets

16. Beginning sometime before March 2021, the exact date being unknown to the Grand Jury, a Darknet vendor operating under the name WallstreetBets on the Darknet market called White House Market began distributing controlled substances by shipping parcels of drugs from Georgia to many other states within the United States.

17. Packages shipped by WallstreetBets shared common characteristics: utilized padded or bubble-wrap lined mailing envelopes of varying colors, displayed prepaid shipping labels generated by third-party postage provider that accepts cryptocurrency as a form of payment, the sender's name was a business name that did not exist, the return address was the address of

seemingly random single-family residences in Georgia and the packages typically contained pieces of candy in addition to the controlled substances.

18. A Dread page named "/d/backstreet" operated as a forum for WallstreetBets customer reviews and contained the following banner:



19. After the closure of White House Market in October 2021, "wallstreetbets" began operating on the Darknet market called Darkode. The Darkode page's "Previous Vendor Feedback" section, displayed the same banner that had been observed on the WallstreetBets vendor page on White House Market, reporting 2,777 previous sales with a 95% vendor rating.



20. Around December 27, 2021, the conspirators slightly changed the vendor name from "wallstreetbets" to "wallstreetbet." The vendor page "wallstreetbet" offered multiple products for

sale similar to what had been offered on "wallstreetbets", including purported oxycodone pills, Adderall pills, and Percocet pills as depicted below.

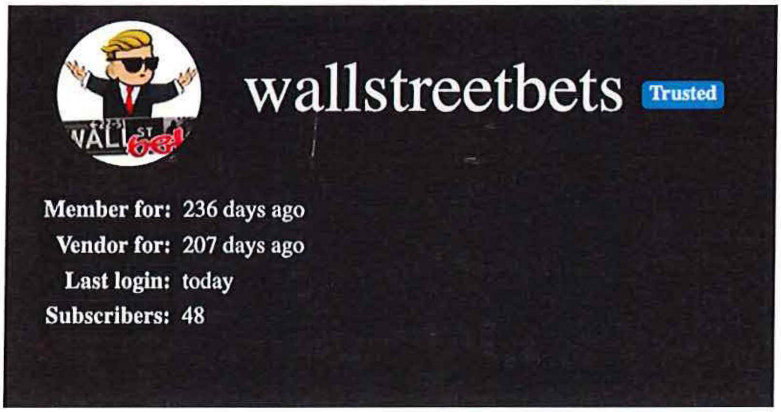


21. During the relevant timeframe **STEVEN EHIZOJIE OBOITE and ERIC XAVIER BECHET** controlled the WallstreetBets vendor accounts across several Darknet markets, including Darkode, Bohemia and Dark Matter.

22. A phone belonging to **STEVEN EHIZOJIE OBOITE** in 2022 contained the following images:



23. The WallstreetBets vendor page located on the Darknet market Dark Matter included the following vendor information:



24. **STEVEN EHIZOJIE OBOITE and ERIC XAVIER BECHET** obtained controlled substances on behalf of WallstreetBets from several sources, including **MYRON NED STODGHILL.**

25. **STEVEN EHIZOJIE OBOITE and ERIC XAVIER BECHET** directed **JABARI AYINDE COOPER, RASHAD CORTESE KINLOCH, REGINALD TYRONE DOUGLAS, JOSHUA JAMAL CHARLES** and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury to package the orders, print shipping labels and ship the parcels via the United States Postal Service to customer addresses throughout the United States, including addresses in the Middle District of Georgia.

26. During the relevant timeframe **STEVEN EHIZOJIE OBOITE, ERIC XAVIER BECHET, JABARI AYINDE COOPER, RASHAD CORTESE KINLOCH, MYRON NED STODGHILL, REGINALD TYRONE DOUGLAS, JOSHUA JAMAL CHARLES,** collectively as WallstreetBets, shipped thousands of packages containing controlled substances to addresses around the United States, including the Middle District of Georgia.

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy to Distribute Fentanyl and Methamphetamine)

Paragraphs 1 to 22 are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

Beginning on or about March 1, 2021, the exact date being unknown to the Grand Jury, and continuing until on or about March 4, 2025, the exact date being unknown to the Grand Jury, in the Athens Division of the Middle District of Georgia, and elsewhere within the jurisdiction of this Court, the defendants,

STEVEN EHIZOJIE OBOITE,
ERIC XAVIER BECHET,
JABARI AYINDE COOPER,
RASHAD CORTESE KINLOCH,
MYRON NED STODGHILL,
REGINALD TYRONE DOUGLAS, and
JOSHUA JAMAL CHARLES,

did knowingly and intentionally combine, conspire, and agree together and with each other, and with other persons both known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to distribute a mixture and a substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a schedule II controlled substance, in an amount over 400 grams, and a mixture and a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, a schedule II controlled substance, in an amount over 500 grams; all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, in connection with Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A)(vi) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii).

FORFEITURE NOTICE
(21 U.S.C. § 853 - Criminal Forfeiture)

1. The allegation contained in Count One of the Indictment is hereby re-alleged and incorporated by reference into this Notice for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America, pursuant to the provisions of Title 21, United States Code, Section 853.

2. Upon conviction of an offense in violation of Title 21, United States Code,

Section 846, in connection with Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A)(vi) and 841(b)(1)(A)(viii), set forth in Count One of the Indictment, the Defendant(s),

STEVEN EHIZOJIE OBOITE,
ERIC XAVIER BECHET,
JABARI AYINDE COOPER,
RASHAD CORTESE KINLOCH,
MYRON NED STODGHILL,
REGINALD TYRONE DOUGLAS, and
JOSHUA JAMAL CHARLES,

shall forfeit to the United States of America pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly and indirectly, as a result of such offense(s), and any property, real or personal, used, or intended to be used in any manner or part to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, the offense(s).

3. The specific property subject to forfeiture as to Defendant Steven Ehizojie Oboite, includes, but is not limited to the following, to wit:

VEHICLES

A. One (1) 2021 Tesla, Model: S, VIN: 5YJSA1E63MF452413;

B. One (1) 2020 Jeep Wrangler, VIN: 1C4HJXFG7LW311231;

REAL PROPERTY

A. The real property located at 1395 Fall River Drive, Conyers, Rockdale County, Georgia 30013, including any appurtenances and improvements thereon, more particularly described as:

> ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 180, 10TH DISTRICT, ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING LOT 128, FOUNTAIN CREST SUBDIVISION, UNIT ONE, AS PER PLAT RECORDED AT PLAT BOOK 31, PAGES 38-42, ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA RECORDS, WHICH PLAT IS INCORPORATED

HEREIN BY THIS REFERENCE AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

4. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

(a) cannot be located upon exercise of due diligence;

(b) has been transferred, sold to or deposited with, a third person;

(c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;

(d) has been substantially diminished in value; or

(e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty,

the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p).

All pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853.

A TRUE BILL.

/s/Foreperson of the Grand Jury
FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY

PRESENTED BY:

C. SHANELLE BOOKER
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Daniel Peach
DANIEL W.A. PEACH
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Filed in open court this 14 *day of*
May *A.D. 20* 25 .

C Allston
Deputy Clerk