

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

No. 14 CR 588

Judge Charles R. Norgle

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

1. This Plea Agreement between the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, ZACHARY T. FARDON, and defendant STEPHANIE LEWIS, and her attorney, RAYMOND G. WIGELL, is made pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and is governed in part by Rule 11(c)(1)(A), as more fully set forth below. The parties to this Agreement have agreed upon the following:

**Charges in This Case**

2. The indictment in this case charges defendant with conspiracy to commit federal program bribery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 (Count 1); conspiracy to commit extortion, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a) (Count 4); conspiracy to access and cause to be accessed a protected computer without authorization and exceeding authorized access to obtain information from a department or agency of the United States in furtherance of a conspiracy to commit extortion, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1030(b) and 2 (Count 5); and accessing and causing to be accessed a protected computer without authorization and exceeding authorized

access to obtain information from a department or agency of the United States and in furtherance of a conspiracy to commit extortion, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(2)(B) (Count 6).

3. Defendant has read the charges against her contained in the indictment, and those charges have been fully explained to her by her attorney.

4. Defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the crimes with which she has been charged.

#### **Charge to Which Defendant Is Pleading Guilty**

5. By this Plea Agreement, defendant agrees to enter a voluntary plea of guilty to the following count of the indictment: Count 4, which charges defendant with conspiracy to commit extortion, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a).

#### **Factual Basis**

6. Defendant will plead guilty because she is in fact guilty of the charge contained in Count 4 of the indictment. In pleading guilty, defendant admits the following facts and that those facts establish her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt:

Beginning in or about June 22, 2013, and continuing until in or about July 2013, at Chicago, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, and elsewhere, defendant STEPHANIE LEWIS conspired with Thadieus Goods, Lavangelist Powell, Prince Johnson, Pearlisa Stevenson, and Natosha McCollum to affect commerce, and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by

extortion, as “commerce” and “extortion” are defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951.

Specifically, defendant was employed by the City of Chicago as a Supervisor Police Operations in the Police Dispatch workgroup of the City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications. In her capacity as a Supervisor Police Operations, defendant had computer access to various law enforcement databases, including the Illinois State Police Law Enforcement Agencies Database.

Defendant was in a romantic relationship with Prince Johnson, who used the nickname “Primo” and was an inmate in Cook County Jail in Chicago, Illinois. Defendant frequently received calls from Johnson on her cellular telephone. At Johnson’s direction and for his benefit, defendant also placed three-way calls to other individuals outside of Cook County Jail so that Johnson could speak to those individuals. Defendant also provided funds to Johnson’s commissary account at Cook County Jail.

In June of 2013, Johnson called defendant on her cellular telephone and told her that he would be doing business with another inmate at Cook County Jail in order to make money. Defendant came to learn that the other inmate was Thadieus Goods, who used the nickname “Big Weasy.” During the call, Johnson told defendant that he would call her to let her know how to assist him with his business. Defendant agreed to assist Johnson by providing contraband, including tobacco, to be smuggled into Cook County Jail for Johnson to sell to other inmates. Defendant understood that tobacco and other contraband sold at significantly

inflated prices within Cook County Jail. Defendant also understood that such contraband was prohibited within Cook County Jail and included any items not obtained from the jail's commissary. At Johnson's direction, defendant placed three-way calls to Pearlisa Stevenson, who used the nickname "Wayne Wayne" and who defendant understood was Goods's wife, to coordinate the arrangements.

On or about June 18, 2013, Johnson called defendant and asked her to bring two bags of "hot air balloons," referring to loose tobacco, and \$100 to Stevenson. Defendant then purchased tobacco in Indiana, which she delivered to Stevenson with \$100. Defendant understood that the \$100 was a bribe payment for the Cook County Jail corrections officer who would smuggle the contraband into the jail. From her conversations with Johnson, defendant understood that Stevenson concealed the contraband in sandwiches to smuggle into Cook County Jail.

On or about June 22, 2013, Johnson called defendant and told her that Goods had informed him that the corrections officer claimed to have thrown everything, including the contraband, away. Defendant later came to understand that the corrections officer was Jason Marek. Johnson told defendant that Goods had a reputation in Cook County Jail for setting people up and that he thought that Marek may have learned of Goods' reputation and, as a result, did not want to deal with Goods. Johnson told defendant that because Marek had taken the bribe, Marek had to continue the relationship. Johnson told defendant that he told Goods, "I don't care who it come from. Somebody got to foot the bill, or it is going to be some real fucked up situations around here." Defendant understood Johnson to

mean that he told Goods that someone needed to reimburse Johnson for the money he would have earned from having the contraband smuggled into the jail or provide contraband or there would be consequences, including possible violence. Defendant agreed with Johnson stating, “Hell yeah. That’s money wasted.”

Defendant and Johnson then discussed using defendant’s position at the OEMC and access to law enforcement databases in Johnson’s effort to get repaid by Goods or Marek. Johnson told defendant that he was going to send her a license plate and that she already knew what to do. Defendant understood that she needed to run the license plate number through the law enforcement databases and to provide that information to Johnson. Defendant also understood from her conversation with Johnson that Goods and Johnson intended to use the information from defendant to send their associates to Marek’s residence in order to threaten and intimidate him into smuggling new contraband, including tobacco, into Cook County Jail or providing payment for the contraband that he failed to deliver. Defendant agreed to run the license plate.

On or about June 24, 2013, defendant spoke with Johnson and Natosha McCollum in a three-way call. Defendant understood that McCollum was the girlfriend of Lavangelist Powell, an inmate at Cook County Jail who used the nickname “Ju Ju.” During the call, Johnson told McCollum to text the license plate information to defendant. Defendant understood that McCollum had the license plate number to Marek’s vehicle. Johnson then told defendant to provide him with all of the information connected with the license plate. While speaking to Johnson

over the phone, defendant, who was working at the OEMC, accessed the Illinois State Police Law Enforcement Agencies Database and ran Marek's license plate number. Defendant then provided Marek's full name, the name of Marek's father, and the registered address of Marek's vehicle, including the street number, street name, and city, to Johnson.

Defendant acknowledges that her co-conspirators used the information that she provided to Johnson to threaten Marek with physical harm unless he smuggled additional contraband, including tobacco, into Cook County Jail or provided payment for the contraband that Marek purportedly discarded in the trash. Defendant acknowledges that the acquisition of tobacco in Illinois affects interstate commerce.

### **Maximum Statutory Penalties**

7. Defendant understands that the charge to which she is pleading guilty carries the following statutory penalties:

a. A maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment. This offense also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. Defendant further understands that the judge also may impose a term of supervised release of not more than three years.

b. In accord with Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, defendant will be assessed \$100 on the charge to which she has pled guilty, in addition to any other penalty imposed.

## Sentencing Guidelines Calculations

8. Defendant understands that in imposing sentence the Court will be guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory, but that the Court must consider the Guidelines in determining a reasonable sentence.

9. For purposes of calculating the Sentencing Guidelines, the parties agree on the following points:

a. **Applicable Guidelines.** The Sentencing Guidelines to be considered in this case are those in effect at the time of sentencing. The following statements regarding the calculation of the Sentencing Guidelines are based on the Guidelines Manual currently in effect, namely the November 2015 Guidelines Manual.

b. **Offense Level Calculations.**

i. The base offense level is 18, pursuant to Guideline § 2B3.2.

ii. It is the government's position that, pursuant to Guideline § 2B3.2(b)(1), the offense level is increased by 2, because the offense involved an express or implied threat of bodily injury. Defendant reserves the right to argue this enhancement does not apply.

iii. It is the government's position that, pursuant to Guideline § 2B3.2(b)(3)(B), the offense level is increased by 3, because the offense

involved preparation to carry out a threat of serious bodily injury. Defendant reserves the right to argue this enhancement does not apply.

iv. Pursuant to Guideline §3B1.3, the offense level is increased by 2, because the defendant abused a position of public trust in a manner that significantly facilitated the commission of the offense.

v. Defendant has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for her criminal conduct. If the government does not receive additional evidence in conflict with this provision, and if defendant continues to accept responsibility for her actions within the meaning of Guideline § 3E1.1(a), including by furnishing the United States Attorney's Office and the Probation Office with all requested financial information relevant to her ability to satisfy any fine that may be imposed in this case, a two-level reduction in the offense level is appropriate.

vi. In accord with Guideline § 3E1.1(b), defendant has timely notified the government of her intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently. Therefore, as provided by Guideline § 3E1.1(b), if the Court determines the offense level to be 16 or greater prior to determining that defendant is entitled to a two-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, the government will move for an additional one-level reduction in the offense level.

c. **Criminal History Category.** With regard to determining defendant's criminal history points and criminal history category, based on the facts



now known to the government, defendant's criminal history points equal zero and defendant's criminal history category is I.

**d. Anticipated Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Range.**

Therefore, based on the facts now known to the government, it is the government's position that the anticipated offense level is 22, which, when combined with the anticipated criminal history category of I, results in an anticipated advisory sentencing guidelines range of 41 to 51 months' imprisonment, in addition to any supervised release and fine the Court may impose.

e. Defendant and her attorney and the government acknowledge that the above guidelines calculations are preliminary in nature, and are non-binding predictions upon which neither party is entitled to rely. Defendant understands that further review of the facts or applicable legal principles may lead the government to conclude that different or additional guidelines provisions apply in this case. Defendant understands that the Probation Office will conduct its own investigation and that the Court ultimately determines the facts and law relevant to sentencing, and that the Court's determinations govern the final guideline calculation. Accordingly, the validity of this Agreement is not contingent upon the probation officer's or the Court's concurrence with the above calculations, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw her plea on the basis of the Court's rejection of these calculations.

10. Both parties expressly acknowledge that this Agreement is not governed by Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), and that errors in applying or interpreting

any of the sentencing guidelines may be corrected by either party prior to sentencing. The parties may correct these errors either by stipulation or by a statement to the Probation Office or the Court, setting forth the disagreement regarding the applicable provisions of the guidelines. The validity of this Agreement will not be affected by such corrections, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw her plea, nor the government the right to vacate this Agreement, on the basis of such corrections.

### **Agreements Relating to Sentencing**

11. Each party is free to recommend whatever sentence it deems appropriate.

12. It is understood by the parties that the sentencing judge is neither a party to nor bound by this Agreement and may impose a sentence up to the maximum penalties as set forth above. Defendant further acknowledges that if the Court does not accept the sentencing recommendation of the parties, defendant will have no right to withdraw her guilty plea.

13. Defendant agrees to pay the special assessment of \$100 at the time of sentencing with a cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court.

14. After sentence has been imposed on the count to which defendant pleads guilty as agreed herein, the government will move to dismiss the remaining counts of the indictment as to defendant.

## Acknowledgments and Waivers Regarding Plea of Guilty

### **Nature of Agreement**

15. This Agreement is entirely voluntary and represents the entire agreement between the United States Attorney and defendant regarding defendant's criminal liability in case 14 CR 588.

16. This Agreement concerns criminal liability only. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, nothing herein shall constitute a limitation, waiver, or release by the United States or any of its agencies of any administrative or judicial civil claim, demand, or cause of action it may have against defendant or any other person or entity. The obligations of this Agreement are limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois and cannot bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

### **Waiver of Rights**

17. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty she surrenders certain rights, including the following:

a. **Trial rights.** Defendant has the right to persist in a plea of not guilty to the charges against her, and if she does, she would have the right to a public and speedy trial.

i. The trial could be either a jury trial or a trial by the judge sitting without a jury. However, in order that the trial be conducted by the judge

sitting without a jury, defendant, the government, and the judge all must agree that the trial be conducted by the judge without a jury.

ii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be composed of twelve citizens from the district, selected at random. Defendant and her attorney would participate in choosing the jury by requesting that the Court remove prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or by removing prospective jurors without cause by exercising peremptory challenges.

iii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be instructed that defendant is presumed innocent, that the government has the burden of proving defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and that the jury could not convict her unless, after hearing all the evidence, it was persuaded of her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and that it was to consider each count of the indictment separately. The jury would have to agree unanimously as to each count before it could return a verdict of guilty or not guilty as to that count.

iv. If the trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and determine, after hearing all the evidence, and considering each count separately, whether or not the judge was persuaded that the government had established defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

v. At a trial, whether by a jury or a judge, the government would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against defendant. Defendant would be able to confront those government witnesses and her attorney would be able to cross-examine them.

vi. At a trial, defendant could present witnesses and other evidence in her own behalf. If the witnesses for defendant would not appear voluntarily, she could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court. A defendant is not required to present any evidence.

vii. At a trial, defendant would have a privilege against self-incrimination so that she could decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from her refusal to testify. If defendant desired to do so, she could testify in her own behalf.

b. **Appellate rights.** Defendant further understands she is waiving all appellate issues that might have been available if she had exercised her right to trial, and may only appeal the validity of this plea of guilty and the sentence imposed. Defendant understands that any appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days of the entry of the judgment of conviction.

18. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty she is waiving all the rights set forth in the prior paragraphs, with the exception of the appellate rights specifically preserved above. Defendant's attorney has explained those rights to her, and the consequences of her waiver of those rights.

**Presentence Investigation Report/Post-Sentence Supervision**

19. Defendant understands that the United States Attorney's Office in its submission to the Probation Office as part of the Pre-Sentence Report and at sentencing shall fully apprise the District Court and the Probation Office of the nature, scope, and extent of defendant's conduct regarding the charges against her,

and related matters. The government will make known all matters in aggravation and mitigation relevant to sentencing.

20. Defendant agrees to truthfully and completely execute a Financial Statement (with supporting documentation) prior to sentencing, to be provided to and shared among the Court, the Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office regarding all details of her financial circumstances, including her recent income tax returns as specified by the probation officer. Defendant understands that providing false or incomplete information, or refusing to provide this information, may be used as a basis for denial of a reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Guideline § 3E1.1 and enhancement of her sentence for obstruction of justice under Guideline § 3C1.1, and may be prosecuted as a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 or as a contempt of the Court.

21. For the purpose of monitoring defendant's compliance with her obligations to pay a fine during any term of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced, defendant further consents to the disclosure by the IRS to the Probation Office and the United States Attorney's Office of defendant's individual income tax returns (together with extensions, correspondence, and other tax information) filed subsequent to defendant's sentencing, to and including the final year of any period of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced. Defendant also agrees that a certified copy of this Agreement shall be sufficient evidence of defendant's request to the IRS to disclose the returns and return information, as provided for in Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103(b).

### **Other Terms**

22. Defendant agrees to cooperate with the United States Attorney's Office in collecting any unpaid fine for which defendant is liable, including providing financial statements and supporting records as requested by the United States Attorney's Office.

23. Defendant understands that, if convicted, a defendant who is not a United States citizen may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

### **Conclusion**

24. Defendant understands that this Agreement will be filed with the Court, will become a matter of public record, and may be disclosed to any person.

25. Defendant understands that her compliance with each part of this Agreement extends throughout the period of her sentence, and failure to abide by any term of the Agreement is a violation of the Agreement. Defendant further understands that in the event she violates this Agreement, the government, at its option, may move to vacate the Agreement, rendering it null and void, and thereafter prosecute defendant not subject to any of the limits set forth in this Agreement, or may move to resentence defendant or require defendant's specific performance of this Agreement. Defendant understands and agrees that in the event that the Court permits defendant to withdraw from this Agreement, or defendant breaches any of its terms and the government elects to void the Agreement and prosecute defendant, any prosecutions that are not time-barred by

the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this Agreement may be commenced against defendant in accordance with this paragraph, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this Agreement and the commencement of such prosecutions.

26. Should the judge refuse to accept defendant's plea of guilty, this Agreement shall become null and void and neither party will be bound to it.

27. Defendant and her attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made, nor agreements reached, other than those set forth in this Agreement, to cause defendant to plead guilty.

28. Defendant acknowledges that she has read this Agreement and carefully reviewed each provision with her attorney. Defendant further acknowledges that she understands and voluntarily accepts each and every term and condition of this Agreement.

AGREED THIS DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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ZACHARY T. FARDON  
United States Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHANIE LEWIS  
Defendant

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MEGAN CUNNIFF CHURCH  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

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RAYMOND G. WIGELL  
Attorney for Defendant