



U.S. Department of Justice

District of Nebraska

1620 Dodge Street

Suite 1400

Omaha, NE 68102

Phone: (402) 661-3701

Fax: (402) 345-1166

March 22, 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: United States v. Defendant(s) Austin Thomas
Case Number 2020R00147 and Court Docket Number 20-CR-00139

Dear [REDACTED]:

The enclosed information is provided by the United States Department of Justice Victim Notification System (VNS). As a victim witness professional, my role is to assist you with information and services during the prosecution of this case. I am contacting you because you were identified by law enforcement as a victim or potential victim during the investigation of the above criminal case.

The change of plea previously scheduled for defendant(s) Austin Thomas on March 23, 2021, 02:00 PM at in Courtroom 4, Roman L. Hruska Federal Courthouse, 111 South 18th Plaza, Omaha, NE has been rescheduled by the court. VNS will continue to provide you with updated case scheduling and event information.

A hearing before Judge Robert Rossiter is scheduled on April 9, 2021, 09:00 AM at in Courtroom 4, Roman L. Hruska Federal Courthouse, 111 South 18th Plaza, Omaha, NE for the case which involves defendant(s) Austin Thomas. The purpose of this hearing is for the defendant(s) to enter a plea of guilty. Your attendance is not required. If you are a victim of the charged offense(s) and wish to speak at the plea hearing, please call our office well in advance of the scheduled hearing date.

Because of the Court's schedule, hearing dates could change on very short notice. If you plan on attending, you may want to call the VNS Call Center or check the website to confirm the date and time. Please note, there is a 24-hour delay in information transfer to the website.

Reminder: Please contact our office prior to appearing for this proceeding. It is not uncommon for the court schedule to change before we can notify you of the change in a timely manner. Your contact may save you an unnecessary trip to court. Email notification is a way to eliminate the delay in time of waiting for regular mail service. Through the Victim Notification System (VNS) we will continue to provide you with updated scheduling and event information as the case proceeds through the criminal justice system. You may obtain current information about this case on the VNS website at <https://www.notify.usdoj.gov> or from the VNS Call Center at 1-866-DOJ-4YOU (1-866-365-4968) (TDD/TTY: 1-866-228-4619) (International: 1-502-213-2767). In addition, you may use the Call Center or Internet to update your contact information and/or change your decision about participation in the notification program.

For many VNS registrants email will provide the most timely notification. VNS does not currently have an email address for you. You can provide VNS an email address by accessing the VNS Internet Web page using the login information provided below. By entering your email as part of the VNS registration process future notifications will be delivered by email, except in rare circumstances when you might also receive a letter from VNS. In order to continue to receive notifications, it is your responsibility to keep your contact information current.

You will use your Victim Identification Number [REDACTED]' and Personal Identification Number (PIN) [REDACTED] anytime you contact the Call Center and the first time you log into VNS on the website. If you are receiving notifications with multiple victim ID/PIN codes please contact the VNS Call Center. In addition, the first time you access the VNS website, you will be prompted to enter your last name (or business name) as currently contained in VNS. The name you should enter is [REDACTED]

Remember, VNS is an automated system and cannot answer questions. If you have other questions which involve this matter, please contact this office at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Jan W. Sharp
United States Attorney

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MaKayla Heard', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

MaKayla Heard
Victim Witness Specialist