

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

FILED
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

FEB 13 2024

MITCHELL R. ELFERS
CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Cr. No. 23-cr-01471-MLG

KENNETH LEE BEGAY,

Defendant.

PLEA AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Rule 11, Fed. R. Crim. P., the parties notify the Court of the following agreement between the United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, the Defendant, Kenneth Lee Begay, and the Defendant's counsel, Dennis Candelaria:

REPRESENTATION BY COUNSEL

1. The Defendant understands the Defendant's right to be represented by an attorney and is so represented. The Defendant has thoroughly reviewed all aspects of this case with the Defendant's attorney and is fully satisfied with that attorney's legal representation.

RIGHTS OF THE DEFENDANT

2. The Defendant further understands the Defendant's rights:
- a. to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea;
 - b. to have a trial by jury; and
 - c. at a trial:
 - i. to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses,
 - ii. to be protected from compelled self-incrimination,

- iii. to testify and present evidence on the Defendant's own behalf, and
- iv. to compel the attendance of witnesses for the defense.

WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND PLEA OF GUILTY

3. The Defendant agrees to waive these rights and to plead guilty to **Count 2** of the indictment, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 111(a) and (b), that being Assault Upon a Federal Officer Inflicting Bodily Injury and **Count 3** of the indictment, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1153 and 113(a)(6), that being Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury.

SENTENCING

4. The Defendant understands that the maximum penalties provided by law for these offenses are:

- a. **Count 2**—Assault Upon a Federal Officer Inflicting Bodily Injury, 18 U.S.C. §§ 111(a) and (b)
 - i. imprisonment for a period of not more than 20 years;
 - ii. a fine not to exceed the greater of \$250,000.00 or twice the pecuniary gain to the Defendant or pecuniary loss to the victim;
 - iii. a term of supervised release of not more than three years to follow any term of imprisonment. (If the Defendant serves a term of imprisonment, is then released on supervised release, and violates the conditions of supervised release, the Defendant's supervised release could be revoked — even on the last day of the term — and the Defendant could then be returned to another period of incarceration and a new term of supervised release.);
 - iv. a mandatory special penalty assessment of \$100.00; and

v. restitution as may be ordered by the Court.

b. **Count 3**—Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1153 and 113(a)(6)

- i. imprisonment for a period of not more than 10 years;
- ii. a fine not to exceed the greater of \$250,000.00 or twice the pecuniary gain to the Defendant or pecuniary loss to the victim;
- iii. a term of supervised release of not more than three years to follow any term of imprisonment. (If the Defendant serves a term of imprisonment, is then released on supervised release, and violates the conditions of supervised release, the Defendant's supervised release could be revoked — even on the last day of the term — and the Defendant could then be returned to another period of incarceration and a new term of supervised release.);
- iv. a mandatory special penalty assessment of \$100.00; and
- v. restitution as may be ordered by the Court.

5. The parties recognize that the federal sentencing guidelines are advisory, and that the Court is required to consider them in determining the sentence it imposes. The Defendant further recognizes that while the Defendant's attorney may have made a prediction or estimate of the sentence that the Court may impose, the Defendant understands that the Court is not bound by any such estimate or prediction.

ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSES

6. If this matter proceeded to trial, the Defendant understands that the United States would be required to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, the following elements for violations of the charges listed below:

Count 2—Assault Upon a Federal Officer Inflicting Bodily Injury, 18 U.S.C. §§ 111(a) and (b)

- First:* Begay forcibly assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, or interfered with Jane Doe;
- Second:* Doe was a federal officer who was then engaged in the performance of her official duty, as charged;
- Third:* Begay did such acts intentionally; and
- Fourth:* In doing such acts, Begay inflicted bodily injury upon Doe.

Count 3—Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1153 and 113(a)(6)

- First:* Begay assaulted Jane Doe;
- Second:* Begay's assault caused Doe serious bodily injury (SBI). SBI means bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty;
- Third:* The crime occurred in Indian Country; and
- Fourth:* Begay is an Indian.

DEFENDANT'S ADMISSION OF FACTS

7. By my signature on this plea agreement, I am acknowledging that I am pleading guilty because I am, in fact, guilty of the offenses to which I am pleading guilty. I recognize and accept responsibility for my criminal conduct. Moreover, in pleading guilty, I acknowledge that if I chose to go to trial instead of entering this plea, the United States could prove facts sufficient

to establish my guilt of the offenses to which I am pleading guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, including any facts alleged in the indictment that increase the statutory minimum or maximum penalties. I specifically admit the following facts related to the charges against me, and declare under penalty of perjury that all of these facts are true and correct:

On June 4, 2023, I was placed under arrest by Jane Doe, an SLEC-certified federal law-enforcement officer formally employed by the Navajo Nation Police Department. I agree Doe was acting as a federal officer commissioned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and that Doe was acting in the lawful scope of her duties. I unlawfully resisted Doe's efforts to arrest me, which resulted in various injuries to her, to include cuts, abrasions, and a shoulder injury that persists to the present day.

The location that I assaulted Jane Doe was outside my residence, which is within the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Nation. I am an "Indian" under Federal law because I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.

8. By signing this agreement, the Defendant admits that there is a factual basis for each element of the crimes to which the Defendant is pleading guilty. The Defendant agrees that the Court may rely on any of these facts, as well as facts in the presentence report, to determine the Defendant's sentence, including, but not limited to, the advisory guideline offense level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B), the United States and the Defendant recommend as follows:

- a. The United States agrees that a sentence at the low-end of the applicable sentencing-guideline range is an appropriate disposition in this case.

- b. As of the date of this agreement, the Defendant has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the Defendant's criminal conduct. Consequently, pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(a), so long as the Defendant continues to accept responsibility for the Defendant's criminal conduct, the Defendant is entitled to a reduction of two levels from the base offense level as calculated under the sentencing guidelines, and if applicable, a reduction of an additional offense level pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(b). Further, the United States is free to withdraw this recommendation if the Defendant engages in any conduct that is inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility between the date of this agreement and the sentencing hearing. Such conduct would include committing additional crimes, failing to appear in Court as required, and/or failing to obey any conditions of release that the Court may set.
- c. The Defendant understands that the above recommendations are not binding on the Court and that whether the Court accepts these recommendations is a matter solely within the discretion of the Court after it has reviewed the presentence report. Further, the Defendant understands that the Court may choose to vary from the advisory guideline sentence. If the Court does not accept any one or more of the above recommendations and reaches an advisory guideline sentence different than expected by the Defendant, or if the Court varies from the advisory guideline range, the Defendant will not seek to withdraw the Defendant's plea of guilty. In other words, regardless of any of

the parties' recommendations, the Defendant's final sentence is solely within the discretion of the Court.

10. Apart from the recommendations set forth in this plea agreement, the United States and the Defendant reserve their rights to assert any position or argument with respect to the sentence to be imposed, including but not limited to the applicability of particular sentencing guidelines, adjustments under the guidelines, departures or variances from the guidelines, and the application of factors in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

11. Regardless of any other provision in this agreement, the United States reserves the right to provide to the United States Pretrial Services and Probation Office and to the Court any information the United States believes may be helpful to the Court, including but not limited to information about the recommendations contained in this agreement and any relevant conduct under USSG § 1B1.3.

DEFENDANT'S ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT

12. The Defendant understands the Defendant's obligation to provide the United States Pretrial Services and Probation Office with truthful, accurate, and complete information. The Defendant represents that the Defendant has complied with and will continue to comply with this obligation.

13. The Defendant agrees that any financial records and information provided by the Defendant to the Probation Office, before or after sentencing, may be disclosed to the United States Attorney's Office for use in the collection of any unpaid financial obligation.

14. The Defendant agrees that, upon the Defendant's signing of this plea agreement, the facts that the Defendant has admitted under this plea agreement as set forth above, as well as any facts to which the Defendant admits in open court at the Defendant's plea hearing, shall be

admissible against the Defendant under Federal Rule of Evidence 801(d)(2)(A) in any subsequent proceeding, including a criminal trial, and the Defendant expressly waives the Defendant's rights under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(f) and Federal Rule of Evidence 410 with regard to the facts the Defendant admits in conjunction with this plea agreement.

15. By signing this plea agreement, the Defendant waives the right to withdraw the Defendant's plea of guilty pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(d) unless (1) the court rejects the plea agreement pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(5) or (2) the Defendant can show a fair and just reason as those terms are used in Rule 11(d)(2)(B) for requesting the withdrawal. Furthermore, the Defendant understands that if the court rejects the plea agreement, whether or not the Defendant withdraws the guilty plea, the United States is relieved of any obligation it had under the agreement and the Defendant shall be subject to prosecution for any federal, state, or local crime(s) which this agreement otherwise anticipated would be dismissed or not prosecuted.

RESTITUTION

16. The parties agree that, as part of the Defendant's sentence, the Court will enter an order of restitution pursuant to the Mandatory Victim's Restitution Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3663A, if applicable; if § 3663A is not applicable, the Court will enter an order of restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C §§ 3663 and 3664.

WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS

17. The Defendant is aware that 28 U.S.C. § 1291 and 18 U.S.C. § 3742 afford the right to appeal a conviction and the sentence imposed. Acknowledging that, the Defendant knowingly waives the right to appeal the Defendant's convictions and sentence, as well as any order of restitution entered by the Court. This waiver extends to any challenge to the manner in

which the sentence was determined or imposed, including the district court's authority to make findings supporting the sentence.

18. The Defendant also waives the right to appeal any sentence imposed below or within the Guideline range upon a revocation of supervised release in this cause number but may nonetheless appeal the determination of the revocation Guideline range.

19. The Defendant also waives the right to appeal the denial of any motion filed under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) where such denial rests upon the court's determination that a sentence reduction is not warranted under the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

20. In addition, the Defendant agrees to waive any collateral attack to the Defendant's conviction(s) and any sentence, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241, 2255, or any other extraordinary writ, except on the issue of defense counsel's ineffective assistance.

GOVERNMENT'S ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT

21. Provided that the Defendant fulfills the Defendant's obligations as set out above, the United States agrees that:

- a. Following sentencing, the United States will move to dismiss Count 1.
- b. The United States will not bring additional criminal charges against the Defendant arising out of the facts forming the basis of the present indictment.

22. This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico and does not bind any other federal, state, or local agencies or prosecuting authorities.

VOLUNTARY PLEA

23. The Defendant agrees and represents that this plea of guilty is freely and voluntarily made and is not the result of force, threats, or promises (other than the promises set

forth in this agreement and any addenda). There have been no promises from anyone as to what sentence the Court will impose. The Defendant also represents that the Defendant is pleading guilty because the Defendant is in fact guilty.

VIOLATION OF PLEA AGREEMENT

24. The Defendant agrees that if the Court finds that the Defendant has violated any provision of this agreement, the United States may declare this agreement null and void, and the Defendant will thereafter be subject to prosecution for any criminal violation, including but not limited to any crime(s) or offense(s) contained in or related to the charges in this case, as well as perjury, false statement, obstruction of justice, and any other crime committed by the Defendant during this prosecution.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

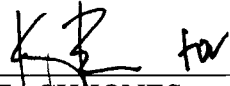
25. At the time of sentencing, the Defendant will tender to the United States District Court, District of New Mexico, 333 Lomas Blvd. NW, Suite 270, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102, a money order or certified check payable to the order of the **United States District Court** in the amount of \$200.00 in payment of the special penalty assessment described above.

ENTIRETY OF AGREEMENT

26. This document and any addenda are a complete statement of the agreement in this case and may not be altered unless done so in writing and signed by all parties. This agreement is effective upon signature by the Defendant and an Assistant United States Attorney.


AGREED TO AND SIGNED this 13th day of February, 2024.

ALEXANDER M.M. UBALLEZ
United States Attorney



ZACH JONES
Assistant United States Attorney
Post Office Box 607
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
(505) 346-7274

I have carefully discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of my client's rights, of possible defenses, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of the relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. In addition, I have explained to my client the elements to each offense to which she/he is pleading guilty. To my knowledge, my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one.



DENNIS CANDELARIA
Attorney for the Defendant

I have carefully discussed every part of this agreement with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. My attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible defenses, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of the relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement.



KENNETH LEE BEGAY
Defendant