

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JOSE MARRERO,

Defendant.

Criminal Case No. 23-CR-112 JJM

GOVERNMENT’S SENTENCING MEMORANDUM

Defendant Jose Marrero is a violent, machine gun-trafficking, kilogram-level drug dealer whose history of criminal conduct and vicious behavior threatens us all. The defendant set up and led a kilogram-level drug trafficking operation in Rhode Island, used others to obtain multiple firearms for him without detection, accepted firearms for payment in drug deals, sought out and trafficked machinegun conversion devices, drove around the streets of Rhode Island with fully automatic firearms in broad daylight, and possessed high capacity, fully automatic weapons in furtherance of his drug trafficking activities. The United States recommends that this Court sentence the defendant to 204 months’ imprisonment, as the community is not safe from this shooter – someone who, after multiple previous drug trafficking convictions, is not interested in pursuing a non-violent, responsible lifestyle at this point in his life.¹

NATURE AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE OFFENSE

The contents of Marrero’s cell phone not only convey his leadership but also just how active, eager, and dangerous of a trafficker he is.

In December 2022, Marrero discussed with “Adrian” – a drug supplier who obtains product from New York and Puerto Rico – how Marrero had started to organize people for

¹ It is entirely within the discretion of the Court after considering the Guidelines and the factors listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1)-(7), to fashion an appropriate sentence. United States v. Martin, 520 F.3d 87 (1st Cir. 2008).

moving 2 kilograms in a week, how the supplier could trust him with 2 of 3 kilograms at a time, and how Marrero could charge \$21,000 per kilogram to lower-level drug distributors. *See* Exhibit 1 @ slide 3 (conversation with drug supplier). Videos from the defendant's phone indeed exhibit his possession of multiple kilograms at a time (*see* Ex. 1 @ slide 2) (video showing the defendant manipulating 4 kilograms in a black bag). Around the same timeframe, Marrero did market his drug trafficking services to other drug suppliers, describing his product as "raw not no garbage shit // solid and stamped // let me know // it's at 30 a gram // anything ova a 100g it's 26 a gr // same shit u been getting stamped // no bullsjit the real deal" *See id.* @ slide 4.

Marrero is an organized, experienced, and demanding drug trafficker. His actual exercise of control over "one or more participants"² in the drug trafficking operation is evidenced in numerous ways. In cell phone conversations, he admits to having runners and complains about their behavior. (*Id.* @ slide 4.) His text message exchanges with different runners show him directing them to certain addresses to serve specific quantities of drugs to customers (*id.* @ slide 5), discussing drug debts owed to him by the runner, (*id.* @ slide 6), and demanding higher productivity from them (*id.* @ slide 7). He also kept detailed drug ledgers demonstrating his widespread distribution network. *See id.* @ slide 2 (photographs of drug ledger & crack cocaine in plastic baggies). Given the totality of the circumstances, the leader/organizer enhancement under U.S.S.G. § 3B1.1(c)³ is properly applied in this case.

² U.S.S.G. § 3B1.1, Application Note 2.

³ In order for this guideline enhancement to apply, a Court should consider factors including "exercise of decision-making authority, the nature of participation in the commission of the offense, the recruitment of accomplices, the claimed right to a larger share of the fruits of the crime, the degree of participation in planning or organizing the offense, the nature and scope of

The violence inherent in Marrero's drug trafficking operation is palpable. Just one week after Marrero discussed moving 2-3 kilograms of cocaine, the supplier informed Marrero that he had been robbed for \$15,000. The supplier needed money from Marrero to pay back Puerto Rico, and he explained that they would need to split the profit on the next drug supply:

From: +14013896419 Adrian Other Number
To: +15075732122 (owner)

Bro shit hit the fan bro I'm trying to get the info on some ppl out in NY niggas set me up Rob me for 15k I still got away with 5 k had 20 in todel now I got ppl I got to pay and I'm backed up on shit bro this shit got me pessed off I got to get 6 k of u this week to pay p.r and grab more shit now from out there shit cost me 20 on the cuff wii going have to split a point ich give it at 22 sucks but I'll call u and explain tomorrow bro

The violence then escalated. After another month, the supplier informed Marrero that people on "Brode St" (who supposedly had firearms) were "acting up," and he needed Marrero to give him whichever gun Marrero could spare:

From: +14013896419 Adrian Other Number
To: +15075732122 (owner)

U now this niggas on brode st niggas acting up with my uncle I'm goin to pull up niggas suposble got guns so I'm going to need wich ever one u can sper u now anybody fron that aria

Marrero made it well known, to his drug trafficking counterparts and otherwise, that he possessed numerous firearms. He prominently displayed himself and others with an array of firearms on his social media account, which he held open for all the world to see. *See, e.g.*, Ex.1 @ slides 9, 11, 14 (Snapchat videos).

The numerous excerpts from Marrero's text messages in the PSR at paragraph 31 clearly demonstrate how Defendant Marrero, a felon with previous drug trafficking convictions,

the illegal activity, and the degree of control and authority exercised over others." U.S.S.G. § 3B1.1, Application Note 4.

obtained his firearms: by enlisting his girlfriend and other acquaintances to purchase them for him. In January 2023, he also began accepting firearms as payment for drug sales from runners:

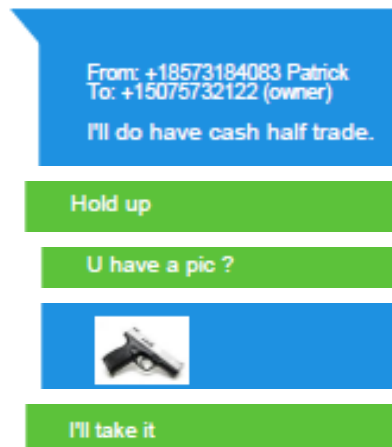
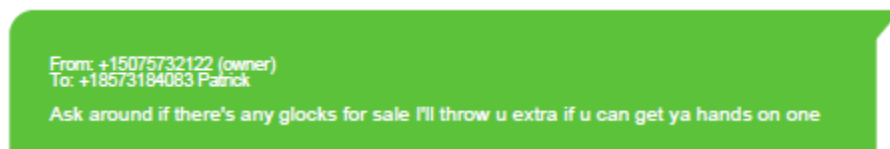


Exhibit 1 @ slide 8. Not two months later, Marrero solicited more guns, notably “any glocks” that the associate could get his “hands on”:



The defendant illegally amassed a significant collection of firearms, many of which the United States has never recovered. He also obtained machinegun conversion devices (MCDs) and affixed them to semi-automatic pistols to illegally convert them to fire automatically. In his various social media posts, he displayed himself and others manipulating and surrounded by the firearms, including a glock-style pistol and a privately manufactured pistol each with MCDs affixed to them (making them fully automatic). He arrogantly displayed himself and others in possession of the weapons in his apartment, while watching TV, playing video games, drinking alcohol, smoking, and driving around the streets of Rhode Island. *See* Exhibit 1 @ slides 11, 12, & 14. He also made social media posts demonstrating himself and others actively firing the fully automatic weapons outside. *See, e.g., id.* @ slide 14.

When agents recovered Marrero's privately manufactured firearm with an affixed MCD along with another firearm and various narcotics, the privately manufactured firearm was loaded with a 50-round capacity drum-style magazine containing 46 rounds of 9mm-ammunition – meaning he was posed, on his next drug deal, to fire 46 bullets in a matter of seconds with a single pull of the trigger.



HISTORY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEFENDANT & THE NEED FOR DETERRENCE & RESPECT FOR THE LAW

The nature and circumstances of the offense and characteristics of this defendant are not the only factors behind the government's sentencing recommendation. Defendant's history of multiple prior drug trafficking convictions at ages 19 and 25 demonstrates the need for a sentence that will protect society from this 36-year-old defendant's repetitive and escalating illegal behavior. The prior cases against him (involving controlled purchases, and search and

arrest warrants) and the sentences he received (6 months and 2 years of imprisonment) did nothing to prevent him from re-engaging in a life of crime.

Defendant Marrero is drawn to drug and gun trafficking and the violence that that life entails. Given his father's path in prison, the defendant knows full well what risks he runs, and what human suffering those risks involve. Despite growing up with their father in prison as well, the defendant's siblings have maintained legitimate work, PSR at ¶ 74; the defendant, in contrast, has repeatedly chosen the drug trafficking world – a choice that endangers those around him, most notably his own minor children. As text messages with one of his runners demonstrates, the defendant – feeling somehow “disrespected” at his daughter's birthday party – “just snapped” and admitted to “shooting at” the runner. *See id.* @ slide 17. Such an incident demonstrates the defendant's chilling penchant for violence that must be curbed by the sentence he receives today. This is especially so, given that the defendant shows no hesitation driving around Rhode Island with a fully automatic pistol and extended magazine in his cupholder, *id.* @ slide 12, actively practices shooting automatic weapons, *id.* @ slide 14, feels the need to own bulletproof vests, *id.*, and has searched the Internet over 200 times for the word “glock,” *id.* @ slides 10 & 12, including searches for “drive by” shootings, “full auto glock,” and “glock with a drum.” *Id.*

Searched Items (212)

| # | Timestamp | Source | Value |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 3/5/2023 10:24:38 PM(UTC+0) | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Data/Applications/B5F6929D-BASC-483A-8D26-FFE0657F2788/Library/ImageCache/Favicons/Favicon.s.db : 0xBA1B42 (Size: 49504256 bytes) | metal glock switches |
| 2 | 3/5/2023 10:24:38 PM(UTC+0) | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Data/Applications/B5F6929D-BASC-483A-8D26-FFE0657F2788/Library/ImageCache/Favicons/Favicon.s.db : 0xB97684 (Size: 49504256 bytes) | metal glock switches |
| 3 | 3/5/2023 10:24:38 PM(UTC+0) | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Data/Applications/B5F6929D-BASC-483A-8D26-FFE0657F2788/Library/ImageCache/Favicons/Favicon.s.db : 0xB97976 (Size: 49504256 bytes) | metal glock switches |
| 4 | 3/5/2023 10:24:38 PM(UTC+0) | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Data/Applications/B5F6929D-BASC-483A-8D26-FFE0657F2788/Library/ImageCache/Favicons/Favicon.s.db : 0xB97C5F (Size: 49504256 bytes) | metal glock switches |
| 5 | | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Data/Applications/B5F6929D-BASC-483A-8D26-FFE0657F2788/Library/ImageCache/Favicons/Favicon.s.db : 0x226FDAC (Size: 49504256 bytes) | drive by glock with a drum |
| 6 | | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Data/Applications/B5F6929D-BASC-483A-8D26-FFE0657F2788/Library/ImageCache/Favicons/Favicon.s.db : 0x226F806 (Size: 49504256 bytes) | driveby in a car glock with a drum |

| | | | |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 30 | | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_fil | glock switch auto sears |
| 37 | | Safari Source file: 00008120- | glock auto switch in us |
| 40 | | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_fil | cheap glock auto switch metals |
| 44 | | Safari Source file: 00008120- | full auto glock |
| 50 | | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_fil | glock auto sears STL (3D printable files) |
| 52 | | Safari Source file: 00008120- | switch glock auto sear blueprints |
| 57 | | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_fil | glock auto switch china guarantee delivery |
| 128 | | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_fil | glock switch 2 pc 3d pring |
| 129 | | Safari Source file: 00008120-001E1D3E029B401E_fil | glock full auto switch 3d print |
| 132 | | Safari Source file: 00008120- | how to make a glock switch |

Ex. 1 @ slides 10 & 12.

As openly conveyed in his social media, Defendant Marrero is simply undeterred by authority. *See* Exhibit 1 @ slide 11 (video post in which the defendant records a nearby police car and shows off a firearm in the cupholder of his car). As discussed above, the defendant illegally amassed a significant collection of firearms, the whereabouts of many of which remain unknown. He has a cavalier attitude towards possessing and firing incredibly dangerous, fully automatic weapons. He has a complete disregard for the law prohibiting him from possessing and firing such weapons. He has knowledge and experience in 3D printing of machinegun conversion devices. He has an undeniable eagerness to use such weapons in furtherance of drug

trafficking. He has an interest in “glocks with a switch,” “murder on my mind,” and “driveby” shootings. *See* Exhibit 1 @ slides 14 & 15. A harsh sentence that will both specifically deter him and promote respect for the law in this country is absolutely necessary for Jose Marrero.

CONCLUSION

Despite his numerous arrests and experience in the criminal justice system, Defendant Jose Marrero’s criminal history screams of a 36-year-old man unphased by the violence he is prepared to inflict on others. The defendant is a danger to society and to his own family as both as a drug dealer and a violent criminal. The nature and circumstances of his offense, the defendant’s history and characteristics, and the need to deter him from and garner his respect for the law all weigh heavily in favor of a hefty sentence of imprisonment. The government therefore recommends a sentence of 204-months’ imprisonment, a term of supervised release of at least four years, and a special assessment of \$100. Such a sentence is a sentence “sufficient, but not greater than necessary” to comply with an important statutory purpose of sentencing: to protect the public from this violent defendant. See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2)(C).

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 20th day of May, 2025, I caused the within Government's Sentencing Memorandum to be filed on CM/ECF and viewable to the attorney of record.

/s/ Christine D. Lowell.

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