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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BY s/soniad DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

November 2019 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 11 Plaintiff, 12 ∇ . 13 TRI MINH VO, (1), TIEN HONG HONG LE (2), 14 aka "Mr. Le," 15 DONG VAN NGUYEN (3), DANG VAN NGUYEN (4), 16 MICHELLE SALVADORE EDWARDS (5), KHANG DINH NGUYEN (6), 17 aka "K-Y," LEETRI DANG (7), 18 KE VAN TRAN (8), aka "Kevin," 19 KIARA PORSHA EASLEY (9), 20 TO VAN LAI (10), aka "Took," 21 CU VAN HUYN (11), aka "Cucu," 22 DAPHNE NICOLE RIVERA (12), WILLIAM VANNA BOUNSAVATH (13), 23 aka "Ray Ray," ALMA SOCORRO SILVA (14), 24 TONY NGUYEN (15), aka "Lucky," 25

Defendants.

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Case No. <u>'21 CR1111 H</u>

INDICIMENT

Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 371 -Conspiracy; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 1955 - Illegal Gambling Business; Title 21, U.S.C., Sec. 856(a)(1) - Maintaining a Drug-Involved Premises; Title 21, U.S.C., Sec. 841(a)(1) - Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent Distribute; Title 18, U.S.C., Sec. 2 - Aiding and Abetting; Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 924(d) and 981(a)(1)(C), Title 21, U.S.C., Section 853, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 981(a)(1)(C) and 1955(d), and Title 28, U.S.C., Sec. 2461(c) - Criminal Forfeiture

ADBL:cms:San Diego 4/9/21

The grand jury charges:

Count 1

CONSPIRACY

[18 U.S.C. § 371]

- 1. Beginning at a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing up to on or about the date of this Indictment, within the Southern District of California, and elsewhere, defendants TRI MINH VO, TIEN HONG HOMG LE, aka "Mr. Le", DONG VAN NGUYEN, DANG VAN NGUYEN, MICHELLE SALVADORE EDWARDS, KHANG DINH NGUYEN, aka "K-Y", LEETRI DANG, KE VAN TRAN, aka "Kevin", KIARA PORSHA EASLEY, TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", CU VAN HUYN, aka "Cucu", (collectively hereinafter "Defendants"), and others known and unknown to the grand jury, did knowingly and intentionally conspire to commit offenses against the United States as set forth below:
- a. Operating an Illegal Gambling Business, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1955, and,
- b. Maintaining a Drug-Involved Premises, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 856(a)(1) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

MANNER AND MEANS OF CONSPIRACY

- 2. In furtherance of this conspiracy and to effect the objects thereof, Defendants and other co-conspirators utilized the following manner and means, among others:
- a. It was a part of the conspiracy that the Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in the business of operating illegal gambling establishments in violation of California Penal Code, Sections 330a and 330.1.
- b. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in business of operating illegal

gambling establishments and maintaining drug involved premises by equipping the illegal gambling establishments with electronic gambling machines which were programmed with several games of chance such as poker, blackjack, keno, jacks or better, and slot games.

- c. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in the business of operating illegal gambling establishments and maintaining drug involved premises by operating the gambling establishments 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with some shutting down in the early morning hours and starting up again in the afternoons.
- d. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in the business of operating illegal gambling establishments and maintaining drug involved premises by outfitting the illegal gambling establishments with exterior and interior video surveillance cameras, which were often monitored remotely by the establishment owners and managers. Those locations equipped with surveillance equipment often contain monitors showing live feed of the video surveillance.
- e. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in the business of operating illegal gambling establishments and maintaining drug involved premises by conducting audits of the gambling machines, which often took in more than \$3000 per day. Such audits were often carried out several times in a twenty-four hour period when the bank roll reached a specified amount, such as \$2,000. This was done to reduce potential losses to the business from robbery and law enforcement seizures. The employees kept the patrons at a distance or directed them to step outside during the audits to reduce the risk of patrons robbing the business. The audits were

conducted by trusted employees who used a key to unlock and open the gambling machines, retrieved the money from inside of the machines, photographed the master audit screen of each machine showing the cash in, cash out (winnings), and net gain/profit per machine, and clearing the screen after each audit. Employees provided the master audit screen photographs with the owners/managers. The employees would also document the cash in, cash out, net gain, loans to customers, and other information in paper ledgers.

- f. It was further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in the business of operating illegal gambling establishments and maintaining drug involved premises by taking actions to conceal the identity of the true owners of the gambling establishments. In order to conceal their identities, the owners would frequently avoid physically entering their own establishments, but instead relied on trusted associates to open, operate and maintain the illegal gambling dens, and to rent property and obtain utilities for these establishments, to reduce the likelihood that the true owners would be identified by law enforcement.
- g. It was further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in the business of operating illegal gambling establishments and maintaining drug involved premises by employing individuals in specific roles to operate the illegal gambling establishments. The roles included:
- h. A doorman who acted as an enforcer to handle disturbances within the illegal gambling establishment, screened patrons for entry into the illegal gambling establishment, monitored the video surveillance equipment, and reacted to law enforcement presence.

- i. A "banker" who carried the "bank roll," meaning the money to provide change and winnings to customers. One or two bankers worked inside each establishment at any given time.
- j. A money courier who brought additional cash to employees working inside the establishments, collected money from the regular audits, and transported profits to the owners. The money courier also acted as a manager who directed employees' actions and made decisions on behalf of the owners at these locations.
- k. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators communicated by electronic means, such as cellular telephones and messaging applications, and discussed the operation of illegal gambling establishments.
- 1. It was further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in the business of operating illegal gambling establishments and maintaining drug involved premises by allowing patrons to possess and use controlled substances, typically methamphetamine, while gambling. The ability to consume controlled substances while gambling enticed the patrons to frequent the illegal gambling establishments.
- m. It was further part of the conspiracy that Defendants and other co-conspirators engaged in the business of operating illegal gambling establishments and maintaining drug involved premises by allowing the distribution of controlled substances inside the illegal gambling establishments patrons were enticed to frequent the illegal gambling establishment.
- n. It was further part of the conspiracy that from at least as early as November 2019 until February 6, 2020, defendants TRI VO, TIEN LE, aka "Mr. Le", DONG VAN NGUYEN, MICHELLE EDWARDS, KHANG NGUYEN,

aka "K-Y", and LEETRI DANG, operated an illegal gambling establishment at 2575 Fairmount Ave, a two-bedroom single detached residence just south of Hamilton Elementary School, with 4-12 electronic gambling machines ("Gaming Den #1").

- o. It was further part of the conspiracy that from at least as early as October 2019 until February 14, 2020, defendants TRI VO, KE TRAN, aka "Kevin", and KIARRA EASLEY, operated an illegal gambling establishment at 4065 Thorn Street, San Diego, California, a three-bedroom residence, with 18 electronic gambling machines ("Gaming Den #2").
- p. It was further part of the conspiracy that from on or about March 2020 until May 20, 2020, defendants DONG VAN NGUYEN, DANG NGUYEN, TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", CU VAN HUYN, aka "Cucu", operated an illegal gambling establishment at 4212 43rd Street, San Diego, California, a two-bedroom residence, with 14 electronic gambling machines ("Gaming Den #3").

OVERT ACTS

- 3. In furtherance of this conspiracy and to effect the objects thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed within the Southern District of California, and elsewhere:
- a. On December 23, 2019, defendant MICHELLE EDWARDS stated that she is on a probationary period as an employee and "Dong" is her boss at Gaming Den #1 and paid winnings to patrons at Gaming Den #1.
- b. On December 23, 2019, defendants MICHELLE EDWARDS and DAPHNE NICOLE RIVERA sold methamphetamine to a cooperating individual inside Gaming Den #1 while patrons consumed methamphetamine and gambled on electronic gambling machines.

- c. On December 30, 2019, defendants TIEN LE, aka "Mr. Le", and MICHELLE EDWARDS conducted an audit of the electronic gambling machines at Gaming Den #1, while defendants DONG NGUYEN and TRI VO monitored their audit.
- d. On December 30, defendant KHANG NGUYEN, aka "K-Y", worked at Gaming Den #1.
- e. On December 31, 2019, defendants TIEN LE, aka "Mr. Le", and MICHELLE EDWARDS audited and removed cash from the electronic gambling machines at Gaming Den #1.
- f. On January 15, 2020, defendant TRI VO provided \$40.00 to a cooperating individual to gamble on electronic gambling machines at Gaming Den #2.
- g. On January 15, 2020, defendant KIARA EASLEY worked as a doorman and monitored surveillance cameras at Gaming Den #2.
- h. On January 15, 2020, defendant TRI VO distributed approximately two ounces (55 grams) of methamphetamine to a cooperating individual at Gaming Den #2.
- i. On January 28, 2020, defendant KE TRAN, aka "Kevin", worked as a doorman and paid winnings to patrons at Gaming Den #2.
- j. On January 31, 2020, defendant TRI VO sold approximately two ounces (61.6 grams) of methamphetamine to a cooperating individual at Gaming Den #2.
- k. On January 24, 2020, defendant LEETRI DANG obtained money from defendant TIEN LE, aka "Mr. Le", to pay winnings to patrons at Gaming Den #1.
- 1. On February 12, 2020, defendant KE TRAN, aka "Kevin", pain winnings to patrons at Gaming Den #2.

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- m. On February 12. 2020, defendant KIARA EASLEY worked as a doorman at Gaming Den #2.
- n. On April 3, 2020, defendant DONG VAN NGUYEN was present at Gaming Den #3.
- o. On April 23, 2020, defendant DANG NGUYEN provided bankroll money to defendant TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", so that he could pay gambling winnings and provide to change to customers at Gaming Den #3.
- p. On April 23, 2020, defendant DANG NGUYEN provided a small bindle of methamphetamine to a patron at Gaming Den #3.
- q. On April 30, 2020, TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", paid gambling winnings to patrons at Gaming Den #3.
- r. On April 30, 2020, defendant CU VAN HUYNH, aka "Cucu", audited an electronic gambling machine, took money out of an electronic gambling machine, and negotiated a methamphetamine sale to a cooperating individual at Gaming Den #3.
- s. On May 14, 2020, defendant TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", sold approximately one ounce (28.3 grams) of methamphetamine to a cooperating individual at Gaming Den #3.
- All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

Count 2

ILLEGAL GAMBLING BUSINESS

[18 U.S.C. § 1955]

- 4. The allegations set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 5. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury and continuing up to on or about the date of this indictment, within the Southern District of California and elsewhere, defendants TRI MINH VO, TIEN HONG

HONG LE, aka "Mr. Le", DONG VAN NGUYEN, DANG VAN NGUYEN, MICHELLE SALVADORE EDWARDS, KHANG DINH NGUYEN, aka "K-Y", LEETRI DANG, KE VAN TRAN, aka "Kevin", KIARA PORSHA EASLEY, TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", CU VAN HUYN, aka "Cucu", and others, knowingly and intentionally conducted, financed, managed, supervised, directed, and owned all and part of an illegal gambling business involving the operation of electronic gambling machines, which gambling business was a violation of the law of the State of California in which it was conducted (that is, in violation of California Penal Code, Sections 330a, and 330.1) and which involved at least five persons who conducted, financed, managed, supervised, directed, and owned all and part of the illegal gambling business, and which remained in substantially continuous operation for a period in excess of thirty days and had a gross revenue of at least \$2,000 in any single day; in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1955 and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Count 3

MAINTAINING A DRUG INVOLVED PREMISES

[21 U.S.C. \S 856(a)(1)]

- 6. The allegations set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 7. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, but at least as early as November 2019, and continuing up to on or about February 6, 2020, within the Southern District of California, defendants TRI MINH VO, TIEN HONG HONG LE, aka "Mr. Le", DONG VAN NGUYEN, MICHELLE SALVADORE EDWARDS, KHANG DINH NGUYEN, aka "K-Y", LEETRI DANG, and others known and unknown to the grand jury knowingly opened, leased, rented, used and maintained any place, permanently and temporarily, namely: 2575 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, California; for the purpose of

manufacturing, distributing, and using controlled substances; all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 856(a)(1).

Count 4

MAINTAINING A DRUG INVOLVED PREMISES

[21 U.S.C. § 856(a)(1)]

- 8. The allegations set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 9. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, but at least as early as October 2019, and continuing up to on or about February 14, 2020, within the Southern District of California, defendants TRI MINH VO, KE VAN TRAN, aka "Kevin", KIARA PORSHA EASLEY, and others known and unknown to the grand jury knowingly opened, leased, rented, used and maintained any place, permanently and temporarily, namely: 4065 Thorn Street, San Diego, California; for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, and using controlled substances; all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 856(a)(1).

Count 5

MAINTAINING A DRUG INVOLVED PREMISES

[21 U.S.C. \S 856(a)(1)]

- 10. The allegations set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 are realleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 11. Beginning on a date unknown to the grand jury, but at least as early as December 2019, and continuing up to on or about October 15, 2020, within the Southern District of California, defendants DONG VAN NGUYEN, DANG VAN NGUYEN, TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", CU VAN HUYN, aka "Cucu", and others known and unknown to the grand jury knowingly opened, leased, rented, used and maintained any place, permanently and temporarily, namely: 4212 43rd Street, San Diego, California; for the

purpose of manufacturing, distributing, and using controlled substances; all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 856(a)(1) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Count 6

DISTRIBUTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

[21 U.S.C. \$ 841(a)(1)]

12. On or about, December 23, 2019, within the Southern District of California, defendants MICHELLE SALVADORE EDWARDS and DAPHNE NICOLE RIVERA, did knowingly and intentionally distribute 50 grams and more, to wit: approximately 79.9 grams of methamphetamine (actual), a Schedule II Controlled Substance; in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Count 7

DISTRIBUTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

[21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)]

13. On or about January 31, 2020, within the Southern District of California, defendant TRI MINH VO did knowingly and intentionally distribute 50 grams and more, to wit: approximately 61.6 grams of methamphetamine (actual), a Schedule II Controlled Substance; in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

Count 8

DISTRIBUTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

[21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)]

14. On or about April 23, 2020, within the Southern District of California, defendant WILLIAM VANNA BOUNSAVATH, aka "Ray Ray", did knowingly and intentionally distribute 5 grams and more, to wit: approximately 12.8 grams of methamphetamine (actual), a Schedule II

Controlled Substance; in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Count 9

DISTRIBUTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

[21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)]

15. On or about April 30, 2020, within the Southern District of California, defendants ALMA SOCORRO SILVA and TONY NGUYEN, aka "Lucky", did knowingly and intentionally distribute 5 grams and more, to wit: approximately 45 grams of methamphetamine (actual), a Schedule II Controlled Substance; in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Count 10

DISTRIBUTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

[21 U.S.C. \$841(a)(1)]

16. On or about May 14, 2020, within the Southern District of California, defendants TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", and TONY NGUYEN, aka "Lucky" did knowingly and intentionally distribute 5 grams and more, to wit: approximately 28.3 grams of methamphetamine (actual), a Schedule II Controlled Substance; in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

Count 11

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE

[21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)]

17. On or about February 24, 2021, within the Southern District of California, defendant WILLIAM VANNA BOUNSAVATH, aka "Ray Ray", did knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute 5 grams and more, to wit: approximately 22.0 grams of methamphetamine (actual),

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a Schedule II Controlled Substance; in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

18. The allegations contained in Counts 1 through 11 are realleged and by their reference fully incorporated herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture to the United States of America pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(c) and 1955(d), Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), and Title 21, United States Code, Section 853.

Forfeiture Allegation as to Count 1

Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count 1 of this Indictment, and pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(c) and 1955, and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), defendants TRI VO, TIEN LE, aka "Mr. Le", DONG VAN NGUYEN, DANG NGUYEN, MICHELLE EDWARDS, KHANG NGUYEN, aka "K-Y", LEETRI DANG, KE TRAN, aka "Kevin", KIARA EASLEY, TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", CU VAN HUYN, aka "Cucu", shall forfeit to the United States all their rights, title and interest in any and all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds, traceable to the offense, and any property, including but not limited to, currency used in the violation of the offense.

Forfeiture Allegation as to Count 2

20. Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count 2 of this Indictment, and pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(c) and 1955, and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), defendants TRI VO, TIEN LE, aka "Mr. Le", DONG VAN NGUYEN, DANG NGUYEN, MICHELLE EDWARDS, KHANG NGUYEN, aka "K-Y", LEETRI DANG, KE TRAN, aka "Kevin", KIARA EASLEY, TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", CU VAN HUYN,

aka "Cucu", shall forfeit to the United States all their rights, title and interest in any and all property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds, traceable to the offense, and any property, including but not limited to, currency used in the violation of the offense.

Forfeiture Allegation as to Counts 3 through 11

21. Upon conviction of any of the felony offenses alleged in Counts 3 through 11 of this Indictment, said violations being punishable by imprisonment for more than one year and pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(a)(1) and 853(a)(2), defendants TRI VO, TIEN LE, aka "Mr. Le", DONG VAN NGUYEN, MICHELLE EDWARDS, KHANG NGUYEN, aka "K-Y", LEETRI DANG, KE TRAN, aka "Kevin", KIARA EASLEY, DANG VAN NGUYEN, TO VAN LAI, aka "Took", CU VAN HUYN, aka "Cucu", DAPHNE NICOLE RIVERA, WILLIAM BOUNSAVATH, aka "Ray Ray", ALMA SOCORRO SILVA, and TONY NGUYEN, aka "Lucky", shall forfeit to the United States all rights, title and interest in any and all property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds the defendants obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of the offenses, and any and all property used or intended to be used in any manner or part to commit and to facilitate the commission of the violations alleged in Counts 3 through 11 of this Indictment.

Specific Property

22. Based on the above forfeiture allegations for Counts 1 through 11, the property to be forfeited includes, but is not limited to: one gambling machine labeled #5, one gambling machine labeled #7, one gambling machine labeled #8, and one stand up gambling machine numbered 9 seized from 2575 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego, CA; twenty-four electronic gambling machines seized from 4065 Thorn Street, San Diego, CA; and twenty-one electronic gambling machines seized from

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Assistant U.S. Attorney

4212 43rd Street, San Diego, CA. // If any of the above-described forfeitable property, result of any act or omission of the defendants: cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a b. third party; c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; d. has been substantially diminished in value; or has been commingled with other property which cannot be e. divided without difficulty; it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendants up to the value of the forfeitable property described above as being subject to forfeiture. All pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(C) and 1955(d), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c). DATED: April 9, 2021. RANDY S. GROSSMAN Acting United States Attorney Ву: BLANKENSKIP Assistant \U.S. Attorney