



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

*The Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza, 37th Floor
New York, New York 10278*

March 7, 2025

By Email

Amy Gallicchio, Esq.
Assistant Federal Defender
52 Duane Street, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Email: Amy_Gallicchio@fd.org

Re: United States v. Nicole Torres, 24 Cr. 499 (MKV)

Dear Ms. Gallicchio:

On the understandings specified below, the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York ("this Office") will accept a guilty plea from Nicole Torres ("the defendant") to Counts One and Five of the above-referenced Indictment.

Count One charges the defendant with conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and carries a maximum term of imprisonment of twenty years, a maximum term of supervised release of three years, a maximum fine, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3571, of the greatest of \$250,000, twice the gross pecuniary gain derived from the offense, or twice the gross pecuniary loss to persons other than the defendant resulting from the offense, and a \$100 mandatory special assessment.

Count Five charges the defendant with conspiracy to commit mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, and carries a maximum term of imprisonment of twenty years, a maximum term of supervised release of three years, a maximum fine, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3571, of the greatest of \$250,000, twice the gross pecuniary gain derived from the offense, or twice the gross pecuniary loss to persons other than the defendant resulting from the offense, and a \$100 mandatory special assessment. In addition to the foregoing, the Court must order restitution as specified below.

The total maximum term of imprisonment on Counts One and Five is forty years.

In consideration of the defendant's plea to the above offenses, the defendant will not be further prosecuted criminally by this Office (except for criminal tax violations, if any, as to which this Office cannot, and does not, make any agreement) for (i) from 2019 up to and including August 2024, agreeing with others to, under color of official right, obtain money from prospective poll workers, with their consent, that was not due to Torres or her office, as charged in Count One of

the Indictment; and (ii) from 2018 up to and including August 2024, agreeing with others to falsify New York City Board of Election records to make it appear that certain individuals had worked as poll workers on particular dates when, in truth and fact, they had not, in order to fraudulently obtain the salary checks of those no-show poll workers, including those that had been transmitted by the United States mail, and split the fraud proceeds with other participants in the scheme, as charged in Count Five of the Indictment, it being understood that this agreement does not bar the use of such conduct as a predicate act or as the basis for a sentencing enhancement in a subsequent prosecution including, but not limited to, a prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961 *et seq.* In addition, at the time of sentencing, the Government will move to dismiss any open Counts against the defendant. The defendant agrees that with respect to any and all dismissed charges the defendant is not a “prevailing party” within the meaning of the “Hyde Amendment,” Section 617, P.L. 105-119 (Nov. 26, 1997), and will not file any claim under that law.

The defendant hereby admits the forfeiture allegations with respect to Counts One and Five of the Indictment and agrees to forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28 United States Code, Section 2461(c), a sum of money equal to \$40,970.00 in United States currency, representing the amount of proceeds traceable to the commission of said offenses. It is further understood that any forfeiture of the defendant’s assets shall not be treated as satisfaction of any fine, restitution, cost of imprisonment, or any other penalty the Court may impose upon the defendant in addition to forfeiture. The defendant consents to the entry of the Consent Order of Forfeiture annexed hereto as Exhibit A and agrees that the Consent Order of Forfeiture shall be final as to the defendant at the time it is ordered by the Court.

The defendant further agrees to make restitution in the amount of \$149,845.59, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663, 3663A, and 3664. The restitution amount shall be paid according to a plan established by the Court. The defendant will be given credit against this restitution amount for any payments made prior to sentencing, as verified by the Office. The defendant consents to the entry of the Consent Order of Restitution annexed hereto as Exhibit B.

In consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to United States Sentencing Guidelines (“U.S.S.G.” or “Guidelines”) Section 6B1.4, the parties hereby stipulate to the following:

A. Offense Level

1. The applicable Guidelines manual is the November 1, 2024 edition.

Count One

2. The Guideline applicable to Count One is U.S.S.G. § 2C1.1.

3. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2C1.1(a)(1), because the defendant was a public official, the base offense level is 14.

4. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2C1.1(b)(1), because the offense involved more than one bribe or extortion, the offense level is increased by two levels to 16.

5. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. §§ 2C1.1(b)(2) and 2B1.1(b)(1)(D), because the value of the payments obtained or to be obtained by a public official or others acting with a public official was more than \$40,000 but not more than \$95,000, the offense level is increased by six levels to 22.

6. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2C1.1(b)(3), because the offense involved an elected public official, the offense level is increased by four levels to 26.

Count Five

7. The Guideline applicable to Count Five is U.S.S.G. § 2X1.1.

8. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2X1.1, the base offense level is the Guideline for the substantive offense, plus any adjustments from such Guideline for any intended offense conduct that can be established with reasonable certainty.

9. U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1 is the Guideline for the substantive offense underlying the conspiracy.

10. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(a)(1), because the offense of conviction has a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more, the base offense level is 7.

11. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)(E), because the loss was more than \$95,000 but not more than \$150,000, the offense level is increased by eight levels to 15.

Combined Offense Level

12. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. §§ 3D1.1 and 3D1.2, Count One does not group with Count Five, and thus Count One ("Group One") and Count Five ("Group Two") each constitutes its own group.

13. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3D1.4(a), the combined offense level is determined by taking the offense level applicable to the group with the highest level (in this case, Group One, which has an offense level of 26) and increasing the offense level by the amount indicated in the table located in U.S.S.G. § 3D1.4(a). Here, one unit applies, because Group Two has an offense level that is 9 or more levels less than Group One, resulting in a zero-level increase to the combined offense level.

14. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3B1.1, because the defendant was an organizer or leader of a criminal activity that involved five or more participants, the offense level is increased by four levels to 30.

15. Assuming the defendant clearly demonstrates acceptance of responsibility, to the satisfaction of the Government, through the defendant's allocution and subsequent conduct prior to the imposition of sentence, a two-level reduction will be warranted, pursuant to U.S.S.G.

§ 3E1.1(a). Furthermore, assuming the defendant has accepted responsibility as described in the previous sentence, the Government will move at sentencing for an additional one-level reduction, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b), because the defendant gave timely notice of the defendant's 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.

In accordance with the above, the applicable Guidelines offense level is 27.

B. Criminal History Category

Based upon this Office's current understanding (including from representations by the defense), the defendant has zero criminal history points, calculated as follows:

1. On or about November 9, 1999, the defendant was adjudicated a youthful offender following a plea of guilty to attempted assault in the first degree with intent to cause serious injury with a weapon, in violation of New York Penal Law § 120.10. On or about January 5, 2000, the defendant was sentenced to one year of imprisonment. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 4A1.2(d), the defendant receives zero criminal history points for this conviction.

2. On or about December 1, 1998, the defendant was adjudicated a youthful offender following a plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance in the fifth degree, in violation of New York Penal Law § 220.06. On or about the same day, the defendant was sentenced to three years' probation. Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 4A1.2(d), the defendant receives zero criminal history points for this conviction.

In accordance with the above, the defendant's Criminal History Category is I.

C. Sentencing Range

Based upon the calculations set forth above, the defendant's stipulated Guidelines range is 70 to 87 months' imprisonment (the "Stipulated Guidelines Range"). In addition, after determining the defendant's ability to pay, the Court may impose a fine pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5E1.2. At Guidelines level 27, the applicable fine range is \$25,000 to \$250,000.

The parties agree that neither a downward nor an upward departure from the Stipulated Guidelines Range set forth above is warranted. Accordingly, neither party will seek any departure or adjustment pursuant to the Guidelines that is not set forth herein. Nor will either party in any way suggest that the Probation Office or the Court consider such a departure or adjustment under the Guidelines.

The parties agree that either party may seek a sentence outside of the Stipulated Guidelines Range based upon the factors to be considered in imposing a sentence pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a).

Except as provided in any written Proffer Agreement(s) that may have been entered into between this Office and the defendant, nothing in this Agreement limits the right of the parties

(i) to present to the Probation Office or the Court any facts relevant to sentencing; (ii) to make any arguments regarding where within the Stipulated Guidelines Range (or such other range as the Court may determine) the defendant should be sentenced and regarding the factors to be considered in imposing a sentence pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a); (iii) to seek an appropriately adjusted Guidelines range if it is determined based upon information not contained in this Agreement that the defendant's criminal history category is different from that set forth above; and (iv) to seek an appropriately adjusted Guidelines range or mandatory minimum term of imprisonment if it is subsequently determined that the defendant qualifies as a career offender under U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1. Nothing in this Agreement limits the right of the Government to seek denial of the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, *see* U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, regardless of any stipulation set forth above, if the defendant fails clearly to demonstrate acceptance of responsibility, to the satisfaction of the Government, through the defendant's allocution and subsequent conduct prior to the imposition of sentence. Similarly, nothing in this Agreement limits the right of the Government to seek an enhancement for obstruction of justice, *see* U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1, regardless of any stipulation set forth above, should it be determined that the defendant has either (i) engaged in conduct, unknown to the Government at the time of the signing of this Agreement, that constitutes obstruction of justice or (ii) committed another crime after signing this Agreement.

It is understood that pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 6B1.4(d), neither the Probation Office nor the Court is bound by the above Guidelines stipulation, either as to questions of fact or as to the determination of the proper Guidelines to apply to the facts. In the event that the Probation Office or the Court contemplates any Guidelines adjustments, departures, or calculations different from those stipulated to above, or contemplates any sentence outside of the stipulated Guidelines range, the parties reserve the right to answer any inquiries and to make all appropriate arguments concerning the same.

It is understood that the sentence to be imposed upon the defendant is determined solely by the Court. It is further understood that the Guidelines are not binding on the Court. The defendant acknowledges that the defendant's entry of a guilty plea to the charged offenses authorizes the sentencing court to impose any sentence, up to and including the statutory maximum sentence. This Office cannot, and does not, make any promise or representation as to what sentence the defendant will receive. Moreover, it is understood that the defendant will have no right to withdraw the defendant's plea of guilty should the sentence imposed by the Court be outside the Guidelines range set forth above.

It is agreed that the defendant will not file a direct appeal or otherwise challenge, by petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 or any other provision, the defendant's conviction. In addition to any other claims the defendant might raise, the defendant waives the right to challenge the conviction based on (1) any non-jurisdictional defects in the proceedings before entry of this plea, (2) a claim that the statute(s) to which the defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and (3) a claim that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute. It is further agreed that (i) the defendant will not file a direct appeal or otherwise challenge, by petition pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 or any other provision, any sentence within or below the Stipulated Guidelines Range of 70 to 87 months' imprisonment and (ii) that the Government will not appeal any sentence within or above the Stipulated Guidelines Range. This provision is binding on the parties even if the Court

employs a Guidelines analysis different from that stipulated to herein. Furthermore, it is agreed that any appeal as to the defendant's sentence that is not foreclosed by this provision will be limited to that portion of the sentencing calculation that is inconsistent with (or not addressed by) the above stipulation. The parties agree that this waiver applies regardless of whether the term of imprisonment is imposed to run consecutively to or concurrently with the undischarged portion of any other sentence of imprisonment that has been imposed on the defendant at the time of sentencing in this case. The defendant further agrees not to appeal or bring a collateral challenge of any term of supervised release that is less than or equal to the statutory maximum or any condition of supervised release imposed by the Court for which he had notice, including from a recommendation by the Probation Office in the presentence investigation report, and an opportunity to object. The defendant also agrees not to appeal or bring a collateral challenge of any fine that is less than or equal to \$250,000 and the Government agrees not to appeal any fine that is greater than or equal to \$25,000. The defendant also agrees not to appeal or bring a collateral challenge of any forfeiture amount that is less than or equal to \$40,970.00, and the Government agrees not to appeal any forfeiture amount that is greater than or equal to \$40,970.00. The defendant also agrees not to appeal or bring a collateral challenge of any restitution amount that is less than or equal to \$149,845.59, and the Government agrees not to appeal any restitution amount that is greater than or equal to \$149,845.59. The defendant also agrees not to appeal or bring a collateral challenge to any special assessment that is less than or equal to \$200. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to be a waiver of whatever rights the defendant may have to assert claims of ineffective assistance of counsel, whether on direct appeal, collateral review, or otherwise. Rather, it is expressly agreed that the defendant reserves those rights.

The defendant hereby acknowledges that the defendant has accepted this Agreement and decided to plead guilty because the defendant is in fact guilty.

By entering this plea of guilty, the defendant waives any and all right to withdraw the defendant's plea or to attack the defendant's conviction or sentence, either on direct appeal or collaterally, on the ground that the Government has failed to produce any discovery material (other than information establishing the factual innocence of the defendant), including *Jencks* Act material, material pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and impeachment material pursuant to *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150 (1972), that has not already been produced as of the date of the signing of this Agreement.

The defendant recognizes that, if the defendant is not a citizen of the United States, the defendant's guilty plea and conviction make it very likely that the defendant's removal from the United States is presumptively mandatory and that, at a minimum, the defendant is at risk of being removed or suffering other adverse immigration consequences. If the defendant is a naturalized citizen of the United States, the defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to the defendant's immigration status. Under federal law, an individual may be subject to denaturalization and removal if the defendant's naturalization was procured by concealment of a material fact or by willful misrepresentation, or otherwise illegally procured. The defendant acknowledges that the defendant has discussed the possible immigration consequences (including removal or denaturalization) of the defendant's guilty plea and conviction with defense counsel. The defendant affirms that the defendant wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration or

denaturalization consequences that may result from the guilty plea and conviction, even if those consequences include denaturalization and/or removal from the United States. The defendant understands that denaturalization and other immigration consequences are typically the subject of a separate proceeding, and the defendant understands that no one, including the defendant's attorney or the District Court, can predict with certainty the effect of the defendant's conviction on the defendant's immigration or naturalization status. It is agreed that the defendant will have no right to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea based on any actual or perceived adverse immigration consequences (including removal or denaturalization) resulting from the guilty plea and conviction. It is further agreed that the defendant will not challenge the defendant's conviction or sentence on direct appeal, or through litigation under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255 and/or Section 2241, on the basis of any actual or perceived adverse immigration consequences (including removal or denaturalization) resulting from the defendant's guilty plea and conviction.

It is further agreed that should the conviction(s) following the defendant's plea(s) of guilty pursuant to this Agreement be vacated for any reason, then any prosecution that is not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this agreement (including any counts that the Government has agreed to dismiss at sentencing pursuant to this Agreement) may be commenced or reinstated against the defendant, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this Agreement and the commencement or reinstatement of such prosecution. It is the intent of this Agreement to waive all defenses based on the statute of limitations with respect to any prosecution that is not time-barred on the date that this Agreement is signed.

It is further understood that this Agreement does not bind any federal, state, or local prosecuting authority other than this Office.

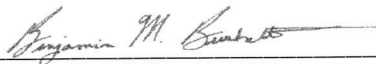
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Apart from any written Proffer Agreement(s) that may have been entered into between this Office and defendant, this Agreement supersedes any prior understandings, promises, or conditions between this Office and the defendant. No additional understandings, promises, or conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this Agreement, and none will be entered into unless in writing and signed by all parties.

Very truly yours,

MATTHEW PODOLSKY
Acting United States Attorney


By:


Benjamin M. Burkett / Rebecca T. Dell
Assistant United States Attorneys
(212) 637-2455 / - 2198

APPROVED:


/s/ Robert B. Sobelman
Robert B. Sobelman
Co-Chief, Public Corruption Unit

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:


Nicole Torres

3/7/25
DATE

APPROVED:


Amy Gallicchio, Esq.
Attorney for Nicole Torres

3/7/25
DATE