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NOV 02 2023
CLERK US DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA
BY: DEPUTY

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
**FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

SHAVONTE HILL,

Defendant.

No. 2:23-cr-00119-APG-VCF

**Plea Agreement for Defendant Shavonte Hill Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A) and (B)**

This plea agreement between Shavonte Hill ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada (the "USAO") sets forth the parties' agreement regarding the criminal charges referenced herein and the applicable sentences, fines, and restitution in the above-captioned case. This agreement binds only defendant and the USAO and does not bind the district court, the U.S. Probation Office, or any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities. This agreement does not prohibit the USAO or any agency or third party from seeking any other civil or administrative remedies, including administrative forfeiture or civil forfeiture *in rem* actions, directly or indirectly against defendant or defendant's property.

This agreement becomes effective upon signature by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

## I. DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

1. Defendant agrees to:

a. At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the district court, appear and plead guilty to Counts One and Two of the indictment in this case, which charge defendant with wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 3147;

b. Stipulate to the facts agreed to in this agreement;

c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement;

d. Not seek to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas once they are entered;

e. Not request release or seek to modify the existing pre-trial order of detention;

f. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter;

g. Not commit any federal, state, or local crime;

h. Be truthful at all times with the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the Court;

i. Before and after sentencing, upon request by the Court, the USAO, or the Probation Office, provide accurate and complete financial information, submit sworn statements, and/or give depositions under oath concerning defendant's assets and defendant's ability to pay. As part of the required disclosure, defendant agrees to provide any and all financial information and authorizations requested by the Probation Office for

preparation of the Presentence Report. Defendant further agrees that, upon filing of this agreement, the USAO is authorized to obtain defendant's credit report. Defendant will also complete a financial form provided by the USAO, to include all supporting documentation, and return it to the USAO within ten (10) days from entry of the plea. Defendant agrees that the district court may enter any order necessary to effectuate or facilitate disclosure of defendant's financial information;

j. To facilitate payment of any fine, restitution, or assessment, surrender assets defendant obtained directly or indirectly as a result of defendant's crimes. Defendant agrees to voluntarily release funds and property under defendant's control or in which defendant has any property interest, before and after sentencing, to pay any fine or restitution identified in this agreement, agreed to by the parties, or ordered by the Court; and

k. Defendant agrees that restitution shall be ordered due and payable in full immediately after the judgment is entered, and that the full amount of any restitution ordered is subject to immediate enforcement and collection by the USAO or defendant's victims, or both. Defendant agrees that any schedule of payments entered by the district court is a schedule of the minimum payment due and does not prohibit or limit the methods by which the USAO may immediately enforce and collect the judgment in full. Defendant acknowledges that restitution may not be discharged, in whole or in part, in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding.

## II. THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

2. The USAO agrees to:

a. Stipulate to facts agreed to in this agreement;

b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement;

c. At sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable sentencing guidelines offense level, pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1, and move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section;

d. Not bring any additional charges against defendant arising out of the investigation in the District of Nevada which culminated in this agreement and based on conduct known to the USAO (including the conduct described in paragraphs 12.c and 12.dd, *infra*), including but not limited to, violations of 21 U.S.C. § 841 relating to controlled substance offenses and 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956 and 1957 relating to money laundering. However, the USAO reserves the right to prosecute defendant for (a) any crime of violence as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 16; and (b) any criminal tax violations (including conspiracy to commit such violations chargeable under 18 U.S.C. § 371). Defendant agrees that the district court at sentencing may consider any uncharged conduct in determining the applicable sentencing guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed after consideration of the sentencing guidelines and all other relevant factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

## III. ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE

3. Counts One and Two: The elements of wire fraud under 18 U.S.C. § 1343 are as follows:

First: Defendant knowingly participated in, devised, or intended to devise a scheme or plan to defraud, or a scheme or plan for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises.

Second: The statements made as part of the scheme were material; that is, they had a natural tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing, a person to part with money or property.

Third: Defendant acted with the intent to defraud, that is, the intent to deceive and cheat.

Fourth: Defendant used, or caused to be used, an interstate wire communication to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme.

*See* Ninth Circuit Model Criminal Jury Instruction 15.35 (rev. June 2021).

The elements for an enhanced penalty for committing an offense while on release, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 3147, are:

First: The defendant was released pursuant to the Bail Reform Act of 1966;

Second: The defendant was notified of the effect of committing an offense while on release; and

Third: The defendant committed an offense while on release.

*See* 18 U.S.C. § 3147.

## IV. CONSEQUENCES OF CONVICTION

4. Maximum Statutory Penalties:

a. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence the district court can impose for each violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 as charged in Counts One and Two, is: 20 years imprisonment; a 3-year period of supervised release; a fine of $250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of $100.

b. Defendant understands that because defendant committed the offenses charged in Counts One and Two in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 3147(1), the district court must

impose an additional term of imprisonment on Counts One and Two of up to 10 years that must run consecutive to any other sentence of imprisonment.

c. Defendant understands, therefore, that the total maximum sentence for all offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty is: 60 years imprisonment; a 3-year period of supervised release; a fine of $500,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offenses, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of $200.

5. Restitution: Defendant understands that defendant will be required to pay full restitution to the victims of the offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant agrees that, in return for the USAO's compliance with its obligations under this agreement, the Court may order restitution to persons other than the victims of the offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty and in amounts greater than those alleged in the counts to which defendant is pleading guilty. In particular, defendant agrees that the Court may order restitution to any victim of any of the following for any losses suffered by that victim as a result: (a) any relevant conduct, as defined in USSG § 1B1.3, in connection with the offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty; and (b) any charges not prosecuted pursuant to this agreement as well as all relevant conduct, as defined in USSG § 1B1.3, in connection with those charges. The parties currently believe that the applicable amount of restitution is approximately $42,082 but recognize and agree that this amount could change based on facts that come to the attention of the parties prior to sentencing.

7. Parole Abolished: Defendant acknowledges that defendant's prison sentence cannot be shortened by early release on parole because parole has been abolished.

8. Supervised Release: Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more

of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offenses that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.

9. Factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553: Defendant understands that the district court must consider the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in determining defendant's sentence. However, the statutory maximum sentence limits the district court's discretion in determining defendant's sentence.

10. Potential Collateral Consequences of Conviction: Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. Defendant understands that once the district court accepts defendant's guilty pleas, it will be a federal felony for defendant to possess a firearm or ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

11. Potential Removal/Deportation Consequences of Conviction: Defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United States citizen, the felony conviction in this case may subject defendant to removal, also known as deportation, which may, under some circumstances, be mandatory; denial of citizenship; and denial of admission to the United States in the future. The district court cannot advise defendant fully regarding the immigration consequences of the felony conviction in this case, but defendant's attorney has

advised him about the deportation risks of his guilty plea. Defendant understands that unexpected immigration consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

## V. FACTUAL BASIS

12. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offenses to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant acknowledges that if defendant elected to go to trial instead of pleading guilty, the USAO could prove defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Defendant further acknowledges that defendant's admissions and declarations of fact set forth below satisfy every element of the charged offenses. Defendant waives any potential future claim that the facts defendant admitted below are insufficient to satisfy the elements of the charged offenses. Defendant admits and declares under penalty of perjury that the facts set forth below are true and correct:

Hill's Release Under the Bail Reform Act

a. At all times relevant to the Wire Fraud scheme, defendant Shavonte Hill ("Hill") was a United States citizen residing in Las Vegas, Nevada, who was serving a term of federal supervised release imposed in *United States v. Shavonte Hill*, Case No. 2:17-cr-132 in the District of Nevada.

b. On December 9, 2020, Hill made his initial appearance on a petition for revocation of supervised release in Case No. 2:17-cr-132. The Court released Hill pursuant to the Bail Reform Act on a personal recognizance bond with conditions.

c. Hill's appearance bond expressly advised him that "[w]hile on release, if you commit a federal felony offense the punishment is an additional prison term of not more than ten years . . . . This sentence will be consecutive (i.e., in addition to) to any other

sentence you receive." Hill signed the appearance bond below a statement acknowledging that he was "aware of the penalties and sanctions set forth above."

d. While on release, Hill committed Wire Fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 3147, as charged in Counts One and Two of the Information.

Background Regarding the Paycheck Protection Program

e. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act is a federal law enacted in or around March 2020 and is designed to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of Americans who are suffering the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. One source of relief provided by the CARES Act was the authorization of up to $349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses and sole proprietorships for job retention and certain other expenses, through a program referred to as the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP"). Subsequent legislation provided additional funding for the PPP and extended its duration. Businesses and eligible individuals could apply for PPP loans through May 31, 2021.

f. In order to obtain a PPP loan, a qualifying business, independent contractor/self-employed individual, or sole proprietorship was required to submit a PPP loan application signed by an authorized representative of the business. The PPP loan application required the applicant (through its authorized representative) to acknowledge the program rules and make certain affirmative certifications in order to be eligible to obtain the PPP loan. In the PPP loan application, the applicant (through its authorized representative) was required to state, among other things, its: (a) average monthly payroll expenses; and (b) number of employees. Applicants who did not have employees and who filed an IRS Form 1040, Schedule C could report gross income instead of payroll. These figures were used to calculate the amount of money the applicant was eligible to receive

under the PPP. In addition, businesses or sole proprietorships applying for a PPP loan were required to provide documentation showing their eligibility and qualifying payroll amount.

g. A participating financial institution (the lender) processed a PPP loan application. If the lender approved a PPP loan application, it funded the PPP loan using its own monies, which the Small Business Administration ("SBA") guaranteed 100%. If the lender made a PPP loan to the applicant, the SBA paid the lender a processing fee, which was calculated based on the amount of the loan. The lender transmitted information to the Small Business Administration in the course of processing the loan data from the application, including information about the borrower, the total amount of the loan, and the listed number of employees. The SBA oversees the PPP, which has authority over all loans. Over 5,000 lending institutions, mostly banks and credit unions, have participated in the PPP.

h. The business or individual receiving the PPP loan proceeds must spend the funds on certain permissible expenses, such as payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities. The PPP allows the interest and principal on the PPP loan to be entirely forgiven if the loan proceeds are spent on permissible expense items within a designated period of time and uses a specified portion of the PPP loan proceeds on payroll expenses. When a PPP loan is forgiven, the SBA pays the lender the amount of the forgiven interest and principal.

Background Regarding the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program

i. The Economic Injury Disaster Loan ("EIDL") Program is a SBA program that provides low-interest financing to small businesses, renters, and homeowners in regions affected by declared disasters.

j. Another source of relief provided by the CARES Act was the authorization for the SBA to provide EIDLs of up to $2 million to eligible small businesses experiencing substantial financial disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the CARES Act authorized the SBA to issue advances of up to $10,000 to small businesses within three days of applying for an EIDL. The amount of the advance was determined by the number of employees that the applicant certified it had. The advances did not have to be repaid.

k. In order to obtain an EIDL and advance, a qualifying business is required to submit an application to the SBA and provide information about its operations, such as the number of employees, gross revenues for the 12-month period preceding the disaster, and cost of goods sold in the 12-month period preceding the disaster. In the case of EIDLs for COVID-19 relief, the 12-month period was that preceding January 31, 2020. The applicant must also certify that all the information in the application is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

l. EIDL applications are submitted directly to the SBA and processed by the agency with support from a government contractor, Rapid Finance, via a server in Des Moines, Iowa. The amount of the loan, if the application was approved, was determined based, in part, on the information provided by the application about employment, revenue, and cost of goods, as described above. Any funds issued under an EIDL or advance are issued directly by the SBA. EIDL funds can be used for payroll expenses, sick leave, production costs, and business obligations, such as debts, rent, and mortgage payments. If the applicant also obtained a loan under the PPP, the EIDL funds cannot be used for the same purpose as the PPP funds.

Hill's Scheme to Defraud

m. Beginning on a date unknown, but no later than June 2020, and continuing until on or about June 3, 2021, Hill participated in and devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and for obtaining money and property from the SBA and financial institutions by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, as further set forth below.

n. It was the purpose of the scheme for Hill to unjustly enrich himself and others by fraudulently obtaining loans, to which Hill knew he was not entitled, intended to help small businesses suffering economic harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was part of the scheme that Hill submitted on behalf of businesses that did not exist loan applications that contained materially false and fraudulent information, including but not limited to: (a) false revenue amounts for these non-existent companies; and (b) and false certifications that Hill would spend the loan money as was specified in the Covid relief programs on certain permissible business expenses, such as payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utilities. Hill also provided fake documentation in support of his loan applications purporting to show gross annual receipts in year 2020 for the nonexistent businesses.

o. The actual loss for Hill's scheme to defraud is approximately $42,082.

Hill's Fraudulent EIDL Applications

p. In June 2020 and March 2021, Hill submitted at least three EIDL applications to the SBA by way of interstate wire communications via the internet. These applications contained materially false and fraudulent statements, promises, and misrepresentations, including that these businesses existed, that they had employees, that

they had gross revenues, and that Hill had not been convicted of a felony within the past five years:

| Application Date | Business Name | Type of Business | No. of Employees | Gross Revenues |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| June 24, 2020 | Hillsmen Staffing | Staffing/Temp Agency | 15 | $60,000 |
| June 29, 2020 | Shavonte Hill | Staffing/Temp Agency | 8 | $60,000 |
| March 10, 2021 | Shavonte Hill | Agriculture | 10 | $60,000 |

q. As a result of his June 24, 2020 EIDL application, Hill obtained from the SBA $10,000 in Covid relief funds as an EIDL advance that he was not eligible to receive. The SBA did not grant these EIDL loan applications, other than the $10,000 EIDL advance. Had the SBA approved and funded these loans, Hill would have obtained an additional $35,000 in fraudulent Covid relief proceeds.

Hill's Fraudulent PPP Loan Applications

r. Records from Financial Institutions 1 and 3 show that, on or about April 11, 2021, Hill submitted an online PPP loan application to Financial Institutions 1 and 3 claiming that he was the sole proprietor for a barber business that made $65,000 in gross revenue during the year 2020.

s. Records from Financial Institutions 2 and 3 show that, on or about April 13, 2021, Hill submitted an online PPP loan application to Financial Institutions 2 and 3 that contained those same false claims.

t. To document his claimed revenue, Hill provided a fake 2020 IRS Form 1040 Schedule C along with each application, bearing his name and social security number, purporting to show gross annual receipts of $65,000 for the applicant barber

business. Hill did not have a barber business in 2020, and IRS records show that Hill filed no such IRS Form.

u. As a result of these applications, Hill obtained two PPP loans totaling $27,082 in Covid relief funds that he was not eligible to receive. In addition, the SBA paid another $5,000 in fees to the financial institutions that issued the loans.

v. The two applications requested that the loan proceeds be deposited into a Wells Fargo Bank checking account, number ending in 1275. Wells Fargo records show that this account belonged to Hill.

w. Wells Fargo Bank records show that on or about April 3, 2020, Hill opened Wells Fargo Bank checking account, number ending in 1275, and a saving account, number ending in 9024. At the time Hill opened the accounts, he stated that he was employed through a labor union. Both accounts show deposits of paychecks from construction companies, and United States Treasury tax refunds. Additionally, a Nevada state income tax refund was deposited into the savings account.

x. The balance of the checking account on or about April 27, 2021, was $207.91. The next day, Financial Institutions 2 and 3 deposited the $13,541 Covid relief funds into that checking account. On or about May 3, 2021, about $13,000 was transferred from the checking account into the savings account. On or about June 3, 2021, Financial Institutions 1 and 3 deposited an additional $13,541 in Covid relief funds into that same checking account. The next day, about $12,000 was transferred from the checking account into the savings account. There are no deposits into either account that appear to originate from a barber business. There are no withdrawals from either account that appear to be for payroll costs, operating expenses, interest on mortgages, rent, or utilities for a barber business.

y. Hill has held no state, county, or city business licenses in Nevada. Hill has held no license from the Nevada Barber's Health and Sanitation Board or from the Nevada State Board of Cosmetology.

z. Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) records show that from or about December 2019, to on or about July 2020, Hill received weekly Nevada unemployment benefit payouts after he stated he had been laid off from his fulltime construction jobs through the Union due to a building slow down. Further, the DETR records contain a copy of a Nevada tax document, Form 1099-G, showing that Hill received at least $25,200 in unemployment benefits in 2020. DETR records reflecting Hill's employment history from the first quarter in year 2019 through the third quarter in year 2020 shows Hill employed with construction companies and does not show that Hill had a barber business during that time.

The Charged Wire Communications

aa. Count One. On or about April 11, 2021, Hill, for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud, transmitted and caused to be transmitted, by means of wire communication in interstate commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, that is, a PPP loan application electronically transmitted by Hill from within Nevada to Financial Institutions 1 and 3 outside of Nevada.

bb. Count Two. On or about April 13, 2021, Hill, for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice to defraud, transmitted and caused to be transmitted, by means of wire communication in interstate commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, that is, a PPP loan application electronically transmitted by Hill from within Nevada to Financial Institutions 2 and 3 outside of Nevada.

Hill's Conduct Pending Trial

cc. Hill was initially arrested on a complaint in this case ~~on October 6, 2022.~~ ECF No. 4. Hill was ordered detained and has remained in federal custody pending trial in this case since that time. ECF No. 5.

dd. On June 17, 2023—while in custody pending trial in this case at Nevada Southern Detention Center—a fight broke out between two large groups of detainees. After containing the fight, detention officers searched the detainees, including Hill. The detention officer searching Hill discovered 146 little baggies of illegal narcotics on Hill's person. These baggies contained a mixture of methamphetamine and fentanyl.

## VI. SENTENCING FACTORS

13. Discretionary Nature of Sentencing Guidelines: Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence, the district court is required to calculate the applicable sentencing guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the sentencing guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the sentencing guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated sentencing guidelines range, and that after considering the sentencing guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the district court will be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds appropriate up to the maximum set by statute for the crimes of conviction.

14. Offense Level Calculations: The parties jointly agree and stipulate that, in calculating defendant's advisory guidelines sentencing range, the Court should use the following base offense level and adjustments; acknowledge that these stipulations do not bind the district court; and agree that they will not seek to apply or advocate for the use of

any other base offense level(s) or any other specific offense characteristics, enhancements, or reductions in calculating the advisory guidelines range:

| | |
|---|---|
| Base Offense Level [USSG § 2B1.1(a)(1)]: | 7 |
| Loss Exceeding $40,000 [USSG § 2B1.1(b)(1)(D)]: | +6 |
| Commission of Offense While on Release [USSG § 3C1.3]: | +3 |
| Adjusted Offense Level: | 16 |

15. Reduction for Acceptance of Responsibility: Under USSG § 3E1.1(a), the USAO will recommend that defendant receive a two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility unless defendant (a) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing a factual basis for the guilty pleas when defendant enters the pleas; (b) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the amount of restitution owed when defendant enters the guilty pleas; (c) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the forfeiture allegations when defendant enters the guilty pleas; (d) provides false or misleading information to the USAO, the Court, Pretrial Services, or the Probation Office; (e) denies involvement in the offenses or provides conflicting statements regarding defendant's involvement or falsely denies or frivolously contests conduct relevant to the offenses; (f) attempts to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas; (g) commits or attempts to commit any crime; (h) fails to appear in court; or (i) violates the conditions of pretrial release.

Under USSG § 3E1.1(b), if the district court determines that defendant's total offense level before operation of § 3E1.1(a) is 16 or higher, and if the USAO recommends a two-level downward adjustment pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the USAO will move for an additional one-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility before sentencing because defendant communicated defendant's decision to plead guilty in a timely

manner that enabled the USAO to avoid preparing for trial and to efficiently allocate its resources.

16. Criminal History Category: Defendant acknowledges that the district court may base defendant's sentence in part on defendant's criminal record or criminal history. The district court will determine defendant's criminal history category under the sentencing guidelines.

17. Additional Sentencing Information: The stipulated sentencing guidelines calculations are based on information now known to the parties. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to (a) supplement the facts in this agreement by supplying relevant information to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the district court regarding the nature, scope, and extent of defendant's criminal conduct and any aggravating or mitigating facts or circumstances; and (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the district court's sentencing guidelines calculations and determination of sentence. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Offices and the district court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement. Good faith efforts to provide truthful information or to correct factual misstatements shall not be grounds for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

Defendant acknowledges that the U.S. Probation Office may calculate the sentencing guidelines differently and may rely on additional information it obtains through its investigation. Defendant also acknowledges that the district court may rely on this and other additional information as it calculates the sentencing guidelines range and makes other

sentencing determinations, and the district court's reliance on such information shall not be grounds for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

## VII. POSITIONS REGARDING SENTENCING

18. The parties will jointly recommend that the district court impose a total sentence at the high end of the advisory guideline range as determined by the district court, followed by a three-year term of supervised release. Defendant will not, either explicitly or implicitly, argue for a downward departure or variance from defendant's offense level or criminal history category. In agreeing to this sentencing recommendation, the parties have taken into consideration all of the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and conclude that a high-end guideline sentence is a reasonable sentence.

19. Defendant acknowledges that the district court does not have to follow the recommendation of either party.

20. Notwithstanding its agreement to recommend a sentence as described above, the USAO reserves its right to defend any lawfully imposed sentence on appeal or in any post-conviction litigation.

21. If defendant commits any act that results in the Court finding that defendant is not entitled to a downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, the USAO is entitled to argue for any sentence it deems appropriate under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). In any such event, Defendant remains bound by the provisions of this agreement and shall not have the right to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas.

## VIII. WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

22. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following rights:

a. The right to persist in a plea of not guilty;

b. The right to a speedy and public trial by jury;

c. The right to be represented by counsel—and if necessary have the court appoint counsel—at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel—and if necessary have the court appoint counsel—at every other stage of the proceeding;

d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the USAO to prove defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt;

e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant;

f. The right to testify and to present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify;

g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant; and

h. The right to pursue any affirmative defenses; Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims; any other pretrial motions that have been or could have been filed; and challenges to any adverse pre-trial rulings (unless specifically reserved in the following section).

## IX. WAIVER OF APPELLATE RIGHTS

23. Waiver of Appellate Rights: Defendant knowingly and expressly waives: (a) the right to appeal any sentence imposed within or below the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the district court; (b) the right to appeal the manner in which the district court determined that sentence on the grounds set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742; and (c) the right to appeal any other aspect of the conviction, including but not limited to the constitutionality of the statutes of conviction; any other aspect of the sentence,

including but not limited to the constitutionality of any mandatory or standard conditions of supervised release; and any order of restitution or forfeiture.

24. Defendant reserves only the right to appeal any portion of the sentence that is an upward departure or variance from the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the district court.

25. Waiver of Post-Conviction Rights: Defendant also knowingly and expressly waives all collateral challenges, including any claims under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, to defendant's conviction, sentence, and the procedure by which the district court adjudicated guilt and imposed sentence, except non-waivable claims of ineffective assistance of counsel.

26. Preservation of Evidence: Defendant acknowledges that the USAO and the agencies investigating this case are not obligated or required to preserve any evidence obtained in the investigation of this case.

## XI. RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEAS OR VACATUR/REVERSAL/SET-ASIDE OF CONVICTIONS

27. Consequence of withdrawal of guilty pleas: Defendant agrees that if, after entering guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty pleas on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this agreement was involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement and (b) should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, or that the government agreed to move to dismiss at sentencing as part of this agreement, then (i) any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial

claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

28. Consequence of vacatur, reversal, or set-aside: Defendant agrees that if any count of conviction is vacated, reversed, or set aside, the USAO may: (a) ask the district court to resentence defendant on any remaining count of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from any stipulations regarding sentencing contained in this agreement; (b) ask the district court to void the entire plea agreement and vacate defendant's guilty plea on any remaining count of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from all their obligations under this agreement; or (c) leave defendant's remaining conviction, sentence, and plea agreement intact. Defendant agrees that the choice among these three options rests in the exclusive discretion of the USAO, and that, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then (i) any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

## XII. BREACH OF AGREEMENT

29. Defendant agrees that if, at any time after this agreement becomes effective, defendant knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached,

and the district court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously entered guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement, defendant will remain bound by the provisions of this agreement and will not be able to withdraw the guilty pleas; and (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

30. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge or any civil, administrative, or regulatory action that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:

a. Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action.

b. Defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Federal Rule of Evidence 410, Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(f), or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

## XIII. COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE NOT PARTIES

31. Defendant understands that the Court and the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing factors.

32. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to argue on appeal and collateral review that the district court's sentencing guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error.

33. Defendant understands that even if the district court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to by the parties, or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty pleas, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant understands that no one—not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court—can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

## XIV. ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

34. Defendant acknowledges that:

a. Defendant read this agreement, and defendant understands its terms and conditions.

b. Defendant had adequate time to discuss this case, the evidence, and this agreement with defendant's attorney.

c. Defendant carefully and thoroughly discussed all terms of this agreement with defendant's attorney.

d. Defendant understands the terms of this agreement and voluntarily agrees to those terms.

e. Defendant has discussed with defendant's attorney the following: the evidence; defendant's rights; possible pretrial motions that might be filed; possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial; the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a); the relevant sentencing guidelines provisions; and consequences of entering into this agreement.

f. The representations contained in this agreement are true and correct, including the factual basis for defendant's offenses set forth in this agreement.

g. Defendant was not under the influence of any alcohol, drug, or medicine that would impair defendant's ability to understand the agreement when defendant considered signing this agreement and when defendant signed it.

35. Defendant understands that defendant alone decides whether to plead guilty or go to trial, and acknowledges that defendant has decided to enter defendant's guilty pleas knowing of the charges brought against defendant, defendant's possible defenses, and the benefits and possible detriments of proceeding to trial.

36. Defendant understands that no promises, understandings, or agreements other than those set forth in this agreement have been made or implied by defendant, defendant's attorney, or the USAO, and no additional promises, agreements, or conditions shall have any force or effect unless set forth in writing and signed by all parties or confirmed on the record before the district court.

37. Defendant acknowledges that defendant decided to plead guilty voluntarily and that no one threatened, coerced, or forced defendant to enter into this agreement.

38. Defendant is satisfied with the representation of defendant's attorney, and defendant is pleading guilty because defendant is guilty of the charges and chooses to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement and for no other reason.

**XV. PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING**

39. The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

JASON M. FRIERSON
United States Attorney

s/*Kimberly M. Frayn* — October 12, 2023
KIMBERLY M. FRAYN — Date
JESSICA OLIVA
Assistant United States Attorneys

[signature] — 10-11-23
SHAVONTE HLL — Date
Defendant

[signature] — 10-11-23
ANDREW M. LEAVITT, ESQ. — Date
Attorney for Defendant SHAVONTE HILL