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8  
 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
 9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

11 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
 13 Plaintiff,  
 14 v.  
 15 BRIAN MICHAEL GAHERTY,  
 16 Defendant.

No. CR 23-184-RGK

PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT  
BRIAN MICHAEL GAHERTY

17  
 18 1. This constitutes the plea agreement between BRIAN MICHAEL  
 19 GAHERTY ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the  
 20 Central District of California (the "USAO") in the above-captioned  
 21 case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any  
 22 other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement,  
 23 administrative, or regulatory authority.

24 DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

25 2. Defendant agrees to:  
 26 a. At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and  
 27 provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to count five of the  
 28 indictment in United States v. Brian Michael Gaherty, CR No. 23-184-

1 RGK, which charges defendant with threatening a United States  
2 official, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 115(a)(1)(B).

3 b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

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

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

9 e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be  
10 excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing  
11 Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not  
12 within the scope of this agreement.

13 f. Be truthful at all times with the United States  
14 Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court.

15 g. Participate in mental health treatment as directed and  
16 approved by the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office.

17 h. Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the  
18 time of sentencing unless defendant has demonstrated a lack of  
19 ability to pay such assessment.

20 THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

21 3. The USAO agrees to:

22 a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

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

25 c. At the time of sentencing, move to dismiss the  
26 remaining counts of the indictment as against defendant. Defendant  
27 agrees, however, that at the time of sentencing the Court may  
28 consider any dismissed charges in determining the applicable

1 Sentencing Guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any  
2 departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed.

3 d. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant  
4 demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to  
5 and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction  
6 in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to  
7 U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an  
8 additional one-level reduction if available under that section.

9 e. With respect to count five, recommend that defendant  
10 be sentenced to a term of imprisonment no higher than the low end of  
11 the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, provided that the offense  
12 level used by the Court to determine that range is 17 or higher and  
13 provided that the Court does not depart downward in offense level or  
14 criminal history category. For purposes of this agreement, the low  
15 end of the Sentencing Guidelines range is that defined by the  
16 Sentencing Table in U.S.S.G. Chapter 5, Part A, without regard to  
17 reductions in the term of imprisonment that may be permissible  
18 through the substitution of community confinement or home detention  
19 as a result of the offense level falling within Zone B or Zone C of  
20 the Sentencing Table.

21 NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

22 4. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of  
23 the crime charged in count five, that is, threatening a United States  
24 official, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section  
25 115(a)(1)(B), the following must be true: (a) the defendant  
26 threatened to assault or murder a United States official; and (b) the  
27 defendant acted with the intent to impede, intimidate, or interfere  
28 with such United States official while she was engaged in the

1 performance of official duties or with the intent to retaliate  
2 against such United States official on account of the performance of  
3 her official duties. The term "United States official" includes  
4 Members of Congress. 18 U.S.C. § 115(c)(4).

5 PENALTIES

6 5. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence  
7 that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United States  
8 Code, Section 115(a)(1)(B), is: 10 years' imprisonment; a three-year  
9 period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross  
10 gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest;  
11 and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

12 6. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period  
13 of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject  
14 to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that  
15 if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised  
16 release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part  
17 of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the  
18 offense that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could  
19 result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than  
20 the statutory maximum stated above.

21 7. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant  
22 may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic  
23 rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm,  
24 the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. Defendant  
25 understands that he is pleading guilty to felonies and that it is a  
26 federal crime for a convicted felon to possess a firearm or  
27 ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case  
28 may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences,

1 including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or  
2 supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a  
3 professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated  
4 collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw  
5 defendant's guilty plea.

6 8. Defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United  
7 States citizen, the felony conviction in this case may subject  
8 defendant to: removal, also known as deportation, which may, under  
9 some circumstances, be mandatory; denial of citizenship; and denial  
10 of admission to the United States in the future. The Court cannot,  
11 and defendant's attorney also may not be able to, advise defendant  
12 fully regarding the immigration consequences of the felony conviction  
13 in this case. Defendant understands that unexpected immigration  
14 consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty  
15 plea.

16 FACTUAL BASIS

17 9. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the  
18 offense to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant  
19 and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree  
20 that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of  
21 guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the  
22 Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 11 below but is  
23 not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the  
24 underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that  
25 relate to that conduct.

26 On or about August 8, November 8, and November 10, 2022,  
27 defendant BRIAN MICHAEL GAHERTY ("defendant") threatened to assault  
28 and murder Maxine Waters, a Congresswoman representing the 43rd

1 District of California, on four separate occasions. Defendant made  
2 these threats with the intent to impede, intimidate, and interfere  
3 with Congresswoman Waters while she was engaged in the performance of  
4 her official duties, and with intent to retaliate against  
5 Congresswoman Waters on account of the performance of her official  
6 duties. At the time of each of defendant's four threats to assault  
7 and murder Congresswoman Waters, defendant was physically located in  
8 Houston, Texas, in the Southern District of Texas.

9 Specifically, on August 8, 2022, at approximately 10:55 p.m.  
10 PST, defendant used his cellular telephone to call the offices of  
11 Congresswoman Waters in Hawthorne, California. Defendant left the  
12 following voicemail for Congresswoman Waters:

13 Hey, you black bitch. You fuck with my people man.  
14 All that racism shit bitch, you up in age, 80 years  
15 old and shit, trying to remember 1960 and all that  
16 bullshit. And causing controversy bitch. We got  
17 something for your ass now bitch, you black  
18 motherfucker. Yeah, we coming for you bro. You  
19 better. Hey, like you told them motherfuckers to go  
20 and do what they had to do. We coming for your black  
21 ass, bitch ass now motherfucker. You hoe ass bitch.  
22 I'mma cut your throat, I'mma cut your black ass  
23 throat nigga.

24 Approximately two minutes later, defendant again used his cellular  
25 telephone to call the offices of Congresswoman Waters in Hawthorne,  
26 California. Defendant left the following voicemail for Congresswoman  
27 Waters:

28 Maxine, you outa there (unintelligible) ay. What, you  
about 80 years old nigga? Look, you better go bye  
bye bitch. Nigga bitch, look, you got the wrong boys  
in the area, you got two days (unintelligible). We  
got a contract on your bitch ass, black ass,  
motherfucker ass. You better move man. You better  
God damn move (unintelligible). If not, we gonna put  
a cap between your motherfucking eyes hoe

1 (unintelligible). I'm gonna stomp you bitch. We  
2 finna stomp you, bitch. We finna stomp you bitch.

3 On November 8, 2022, at approximately 9:01 p.m. PST, defendant  
4 again used his cellular telephone to call the offices of  
5 Congresswoman Waters in Hawthorne, California. Defendant left the  
6 following voicemail for Congresswoman Waters:

7 Hey Maxine. You done fucked up (inaudible). This  
8 ain't no threat man. We're just gonna give you a  
9 present man. We're gonna meet you on the street,  
10 bitch and give you a fucking present. Like, like,  
11 like you told everybody else bitch like, uh, box them  
12 up. Be negative. Get in their face. We're finna get  
13 in your face bitch. You nigger, bitch, we finna get  
14 in your face bitch. You know what I'm saying? You  
15 fucking with a wrong crowd now, nigga. You affiliated  
16 now with, Hey well that's a nigga man. We got a  
17 contract to take your ass out bitch.

18 Two days later, at approximately 2:32 p.m. PST, defendant  
19 again used his cellular telephone to call the offices of  
20 Congresswoman Waters in Hawthorne, California. Defendant left the  
21 following voicemail for Congresswoman Waters:

22 I'm gonna listen to you, Maxine, uh, threatening  
23 people all across the goddamn country. Beat 'em up.  
24 You know, all this violent shit that you advocate,  
25 I'm gonna tell you right now, this ain't no threat.  
26 It's a goddamn promise. Gonna watch your fucking  
27 back bitch. Hey, why can't I say it? You say it,  
28 you black bitch. You wanna play games? You telling  
people, man, and beat them up and you chase the  
motherfuckers down. Good people, man. Fuck you. We  
can play goddamn gang too. Bitch. You better watch  
your back hoe.

Each of defendant's four above-referenced threats to Congresswoman  
Waters constitutes a threat to assault and murder Congresswoman Waters.  
Further, defendant made each of the four above-referenced threats with  
the intent to impede, intimidate, and interfere with Congresswoman  
Waters while she was engaged in the performance of her official duties,

1 and with intent to retaliate against Congresswoman Waters on account  
2 of the performance of her official duties.

3 SENTENCING FACTORS

4 10. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's  
5 sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing  
6 Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures  
7 under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set  
8 forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the  
9 Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have  
10 any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated  
11 Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the  
12 Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will  
13 be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds  
14 appropriate up to the maximum set by statute for the crime of  
15 conviction.

16 11. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable  
17 Sentencing Guidelines factors:

18	Base Offense Level:	12	U.S.S.G. § 2A6.1(a)(1)
19	Specific Offense	2	U.S.S.G. § 2A6.1(b)(2)(A)
20	Characteristic: Offense		
	Involved More Than Two		
	Threats		
21			
22	Specific Offense		
	Characteristic: Official		
	Victim	6	U.S.S.G. § 3A1.2(b)
23			

24 Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue that additional  
25 specific offense characteristics, adjustments, and departures under  
26 the Sentencing Guidelines are appropriate. Defendant understands  
27 that defendant's offense level could be increased if defendant is a  
28 career offender under U.S.S.G. §§ 4B1.1 and 4B1.2. If defendant's



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

4 h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses,  
5 Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial  
6 motions that have been filed or could be filed.

7 WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

8 15. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal  
9 based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea is involuntary, by  
10 pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to  
11 appeal defendant's conviction on the offense to which defendant is  
12 pleading guilty. Defendant understands that this waiver includes,  
13 but is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which defendant  
14 is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that  
15 the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support  
16 defendant's plea of guilty.

17 LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE

18 16. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a total  
19 term of imprisonment within or below the Sentencing Guidelines range  
20 corresponding to an offense level of 20 and the criminal history  
21 category calculated by the Court, defendant gives up the right to  
22 appeal all of the following: (a) the procedures and calculations used  
23 to determine and impose any portion of the sentence; (b) the term of  
24 imprisonment imposed by the Court; (c) the fine imposed by the Court,  
25 provided it is within the statutory maximum; (d) to the extent  
26 permitted by law, the constitutionality or legality of defendant's  
27 sentence, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (e) the term  
28 of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court, provided it

1 offense level is so altered, defendant and the USAO will not be bound  
2 by the agreement to Sentencing Guideline factors set forth above.

3 12. Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to  
4 defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.

5 13. Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue for a  
6 sentence outside the sentencing range established by the Sentencing  
7 Guidelines based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1),  
8 (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(6), and (a)(7).

9 WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

10 14. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant  
11 gives up the following rights:

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

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

14 c. The right to be represented by counsel -- and if  
15 necessary have the Court appoint counsel -- at trial. Defendant  
16 understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be  
17 represented by counsel -- and if necessary have the Court appoint  
18 counsel -- at every other stage of the proceeding.

19 d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the  
20 burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty  
21 beyond a reasonable doubt.

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

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

1 is within the statutory maximum; and (f) any of the following  
2 conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court:  
3 the conditions set forth in Second Amended General Order 20-04 of  
4 this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C.  
5 §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); the alcohol and drug use conditions  
6 authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7); and any conditions of probation  
7 or supervised release agreed to by defendant in paragraph 2 above.

8 17. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the  
9 sentence are at or below the statutory maximum specified above and  
10 (b) the Court imposes a term of imprisonment within or above the  
11 Sentencing Guidelines range corresponding to an offense level of 17  
12 and the criminal history category calculated by the Court, the USAO  
13 gives up its right to appeal any portion of the sentence.

14 18. Defendant also gives up any right to bring a post-  
15 conviction collateral attack on the conviction or sentence, except a  
16 post-conviction collateral attack based on a claim of ineffective  
17 assistance of counsel, a claim of newly discovered evidence, or an  
18 explicitly retroactive change in the applicable Sentencing  
19 Guidelines, sentencing statute, or statute of conviction. Defendant  
20 understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to,  
21 arguments that the statute to which defendant is pleading guilty is  
22 unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the statement of facts  
23 provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of  
24 guilty.

25 RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

26 19. Defendant agrees that if, after entering guilty plea  
27 pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds  
28 in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a

1 claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was  
2 involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its  
3 obligations under this agreement; and (b) should the USAO choose to  
4 pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result  
5 of this agreement, then (i) any applicable statute of limitations  
6 will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this  
7 agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and  
8 (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute  
9 of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy  
10 trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent  
11 that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this  
12 agreement.

13 RESULT OF VACATUR, REVERSAL OR SET-ASIDE

14 20. Defendant agrees that if the count of conviction is  
15 vacated, reversed, or set aside, or the official victim enhancement  
16 imposed by the Court to which the parties stipulated in this  
17 agreement is vacated or set aside, both the USAO and defendant will  
18 be released from all their obligations under this agreement.

19 EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

20 21. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of  
21 all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an  
22 Assistant United States Attorney.

23 BREACH OF AGREEMENT

24 22. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the  
25 signature of this agreement and execution of all required  
26 certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant  
27 United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of  
28 defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO

1 may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations  
2 are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the  
3 USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have  
4 cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing.  
5 If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds  
6 such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously  
7 entered guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be  
8 able to withdraw the guilty plea, and (b) the USAO will be relieved  
9 of all its obligations under this agreement.

10 23. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this  
11 agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge  
12 that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement,  
13 then:

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

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

22 c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by  
23 defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing  
24 occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis  
25 statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such  
26 statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action  
27 against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under  
28 the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal

1 Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal  
2 Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any  
3 evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are  
4 inadmissible.

5 COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES

6 OFFICE NOT PARTIES

7 24. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States  
8 Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this  
9 agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing  
10 recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing  
11 factors.

12 25. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are  
13 free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information  
14 to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the  
15 Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the  
16 Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of  
17 sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the  
18 Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it  
19 chooses to impose are not error, although each party agrees to  
20 maintain its view that the calculations in paragraph 11 are  
21 consistent with the facts of this case. While this paragraph permits  
22 both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual  
23 information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services  
24 Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed  
25 as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this  
26 paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not  
27 to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.



PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

28. 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 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

E. MARTIN ESTRADA  
United States Attorney

*Laura A. Alexander*

12-15-2023

LAURA A. ALEXANDER  
Assistant United States Attorney

Date

*Brian M. Gaherty*  
BRIAN MICHAEL GAHERTY  
Defendant

12-14-23

Date

*Joseph F. Vinas*  
JOSEPH F. VINAS

12-14-2023

Date

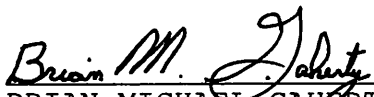
Attorney for Defendant  
BRIAN MICHAEL GAHERTY

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or



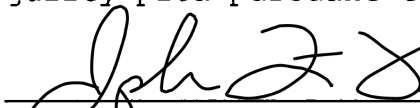
1 representations of any kind have been made to me other than those  
2 contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in  
3 any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the  
4 representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading  
5 guilty because I am guilty of the charges and wish to take advantage  
6 of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other  
7 reason.

8   
9 BRIAN MICHAEL GAHERTY  
10 Defendant

12-14-23  
Date

11 CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

12 I am BRIAN MICHAEL GAHERTY's attorney. I have carefully and  
13 thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client.  
14 Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible  
15 pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might  
16 be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors  
17 set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines  
18 provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement.  
19 To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any  
20 kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this  
21 agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to  
22 enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this  
23 agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set  
24 forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of  
25 guilty plea pursuant to this agreement.

26   
27 JOSEPH F. VINAS  
28 Attorney for Defendant  
BRIAN MICHAEL GAHERTY

12-14-2023  
Date