



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
District of New Jersey

Craig Carpenito
United States Attorney

970 Broad Street, Suite 700
Newark, New Jersey 07102

(973) 645-2700

September 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Simon A. Gaugush, Esq.
Michael L. Yaeger, Esq.
Corporate Center Three at International Plaza
4221 W. Boy Scout Blvd., Ste. 1000
Tampa, Florida 33607-5780
SGaugush@carltonfields.com
MYaeger@carltonfields.com

Re: Plea Agreement with Jobadiah Sinclair Weeks

19-cr-877 (CCC)-03

Dear Counsel:

This letter sets forth the plea agreement between your client, Jobadiah Sinclair Weeks ("Weeks"), and the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey ("this Office"). This Office's offer to enter into this plea agreement will expire on September 25, 2020 if it is not accepted in writing by that date.

Charges

Conditioned on the understandings specified below, this Office will accept a guilty plea from Weeks to: (a) Count Two of the Indictment, (Crim. No. 19-877), which charges Weeks with conspiring to offer and sell unregistered securities, contrary to Title 15, United States Code, Sections 77e and 77x, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371; and (b) an Information charging Weeks with one count of tax evasion, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201. If Weeks enters a guilty plea to, and is sentenced on the above, charges, this Office will not initiate any further criminal charges against Weeks based upon (a) his involvement in the BitClub Network, as further detailed in the Indictment; or (b) his non-filing of taxes during the taxable periods 2015 through 2018. In addition, if Weeks fully complies with all of the terms of this agreement, at the time of sentencing in this matter, this Office will move to dismiss Count One of the Indictment against Weeks. Further, in the event that a guilty plea in this matter is not entered for any reason or the judgment of conviction entered as a result of this guilty plea does not remain in full force and effect, Weeks agrees that any dismissed charges and any other charges that are

not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date this agreement is signed by Weeks may be commenced against him, notwithstanding the expiration of the limitations period after Weeks signs the agreement.

Sentencing

The violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 alleged in Count Two to which Weeks agrees to plead guilty carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of five years and a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain that any persons derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense.

The violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7201 charged in Count One of the Information to which Weeks agrees to plead guilty carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a statutory maximum fine of not more than \$100,000.

The sentence on each count may run consecutively. Fines imposed by the sentencing judge may be subject to the payment of interest.

The sentence to be imposed upon Weeks is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge, subject to the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551-3742, and the sentencing judge's consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. The United States Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory. The sentencing judge may impose any reasonable sentence up to and including the statutory maximum term of imprisonment and the maximum statutory fine. This Office cannot and does not make any representation or promise as to what guideline range may be found by the sentencing judge, or as to what sentence Weeks ultimately will receive.

Further, in addition to imposing any other penalty on Weeks, the sentencing judge: (1) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013, will order Weeks to pay an assessment of \$100 per count (\$200 total), which assessment must be paid by the date of sentencing; (2) with respect to both counts, must order Weeks to pay restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663 *et seq.*; (3) with respect to Count One of the Information, may order Weeks to pay the costs of prosecution and; (4) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583 may require Weeks to serve a term of supervised release for each count of conviction of not more than three years for Count Two of the Indictment and Count One of the Information, which terms will begin at the expiration of any term of imprisonment imposed. Should Weeks be placed on a term of supervised release and subsequently violate any of the conditions of supervised release before the expiration of its terms, Weeks may be sentenced to not more than two years' imprisonment on the supervised release for Count

Two of the Indictment and Count One of the Information, which term is in addition to any prison term previously imposed regardless of the statutory maximum term of imprisonment set forth above and without credit for time previously served on post-release supervision, and may be sentenced to an additional term of supervised release.

Rights of This Office Regarding Sentencing

Except as otherwise provided in this agreement, this Office reserves its right to take any position with respect to the appropriate sentence to be imposed on Weeks by the sentencing judge, to correct any misstatements relating to the sentencing proceedings, and to provide the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office all law and information relevant to sentencing, favorable or otherwise. In addition, this Office may inform the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office of: (1) this agreement; and (2) the full nature and extent of Weeks' activities and relevant conduct with respect to this case.

Stipulations

This Office and Weeks agree to stipulate at sentencing to the statements set forth in the attached Schedule A, which hereby is made a part of this plea agreement. This agreement to stipulate, however, cannot and does not bind the sentencing judge, who may make independent factual findings and may reject any or all of the stipulations entered into by the parties. To the extent that the parties do not stipulate to a particular fact or legal conclusion, each reserves the right to argue the existence of and the effect of any such fact or conclusion upon the sentence. Moreover, this agreement to stipulate on the part of this Office is based on the information and evidence that this Office possesses as of the date of this agreement. Thus, if this Office obtains or receives additional evidence or information prior to sentencing that it determines to be credible and to be materially in conflict with any stipulation in the attached Schedule A, this Office shall not be bound by any such stipulation. A determination that any stipulation is not binding shall not release either this Office or Weeks from any other portion of this agreement, including any other stipulation. If the sentencing court rejects a stipulation, both parties reserve the right to argue on appeal or at post-sentencing proceedings that the sentencing court was within its discretion and authority to do so. These stipulations do not restrict this Office's right to respond to questions from the Court and to correct misinformation that has been provided to the Court.

Waiver of Appeal and Post-Sentencing Rights

As set forth in Schedule A, this Office and Weeks waive certain rights to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion after sentencing, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

Restitution

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663(a)(3) and 3663A(b)(1)(B), this Office and Weeks agree that Weeks shall pay restitution to all victims of Count Two of the Indictment in such amounts as the parties will agree or, if no agreement can be reached, the Court shall determine following an evidentiary hearing. Weeks understands and agrees that the losses and restitution computed may exceed the loss amount agreed upon by the Government for purposes of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines computation, and the Government is permitted to provide the Court with information about the loss and restitution that will exceed the figures reflected in the negotiated, agreed-upon range reflected in Schedule A used to determine Weeks' advisory guidelines range of imprisonment.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3), Weeks further agrees to pay restitution for losses beyond those directly caused by the offense of conviction charged in Count Two of the Indictment. This Office and Weeks agree, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3), that Weeks shall pay restitution, in amounts to be agreed upon by the parties or, if no agreement can be reached, as determined by the Court following an evidentiary hearing, to all victims of Weeks' conduct involving the BitClub Network. This Office and Weeks agree to be bound by the Court's determinations regarding the victims of Weeks' conduct involving the BitClub Network and the restitution to be paid to each.

If the Court imposes a schedule of payments, the defendant understands that the schedule of payments is merely a minimum schedule of payments and not the only method, nor a limitation on the methods available to the United States to enforce the judgment.

In addition to the foregoing, and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3), Weeks agrees to pay restitution to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") based on the offense conduct charged in Count One of the Information in an amount to be determined prior to the date of sentencing. Weeks understands and agrees that this figure does not include interest under 26 U.S.C. § 6601, which will be assessed by the IRS pursuant to Title 26. Weeks agrees that the total amount of restitution reflected in this Agreement results from his criminal conduct. The restitution amount is based upon the total amount of loss for calendar years 2015 through 2018 and shall be paid according to a payment plan established

by the Court. If the Court orders Weeks to pay restitution to the IRS for the failure to pay tax, either directly as part of the sentence or as a condition of supervised release, the IRS will use the restitution order as the basis for a civil assessment. *See* 26 U.S.C. § 6201(a)(4)(a). Weeks does not have the right to challenge the amount of this assessment. *See* 26 U.S.C. § 6201(a)(4)(C). Neither the existence of a restitution payment schedule nor Weeks's timely payment of restitution according to that schedule will preclude the IRS from administrative collection of the restitution-based assessment, including levy and distraint under 26 U.S.C. § 6331.

Forms and Waivers

Prior to the date of sentencing, Weeks shall: (1) sign and file with the IRS a Form 870 Waiver of Restrictions on Assessment and Collection of Deficiency in Tax and Acceptance of Overassessment in lieu of filing returns or amended returns, for calendar years 2015 through 2018; (2) sign and file with the IRS a Form 2054 Agreement to Assessment and Collection of Additional Tax and Acceptance of Overassessment in lieu of filing returns or amended returns, for calendar years 2015 through 2018; (3) provide all appropriate documentation to the IRS in support of such Form 870 and 2504 waivers, upon request; (4) pay to the IRS all taxes and any penalties owed on those returns, or, if unable to do so, make satisfactory repayment arrangements with the IRS; and (5) fully cooperate with the IRS and comply with the tax laws of the United States. Further, Weeks agrees to allow the contents of his IRS criminal file to be given to civil attorneys and support staff of the IRS to enable them to investigate, if applicable, any and all civil penalties that may be due and owing by Weeks. With respect to disclosure of the criminal file to the IRS, Weeks waives any rights under Title 26, United States Code, Section 7213, Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e), and any other right of privacy with respect to Weeks's tax returns and return information. Further, Weeks agrees not to file any claims for refund of taxes, penalties, and interest for calendar years 2015 through 2018 or for any other amounts paid in accordance with this Agreement. Weeks agrees that the provisions set forth in this Agreement concerning his tax obligations, including those obligations set forth under the caption "Other Provisions" of this Agreement, are appropriate conditions of probation or supervised release.

Weeks further agrees that within ten (10) days of the execution of this plea agreement, he shall complete and submit the attached Financial Disclosure Statement provided by the United States (the "Financial Disclosure Statement"), along with all documents supporting his stated assets and liabilities. It is the intention of the parties that Weeks shall disclose all of his virtual currency holdings, including those held on exchanges and on cold storage wallets. Weeks agrees to cooperate fully with Financial Litigation

personnel of the Asset Recovery and Money Laundering Unit ("ARMLU") with respect to requests for additional information pertaining to the Weeks's assets and liabilities, and agrees, if necessary, to appear for a deposition concerning his assets and liabilities and his ability to pay restitution. Weeks understands that compliance with these requests will be taken into account when the United States makes a recommendation to the Court regarding Weeks's acceptance of responsibility.

Waiver of Appeal and Post-Sentencing Rights

As set forth in Schedule A, this Office and Weeks waive certain rights to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion after resentencing, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

Venue

Weeks agrees to waive and forego any and all challenges to venue in the District of New Jersey. Weeks understands and agrees that the charge in the Information will be filed and adjudicated in the District of New Jersey. Weeks further agrees not to assert in any appeal, motion or collateral attack, including a motion brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255, any claim or argument challenging venue in the District of New Jersey to the charge in the Information, as set forth above.

Immigration Consequences

Weeks understands that, if he is not a citizen of the United States, his guilty plea to the charged offenses will likely result in him being subject to immigration proceedings and removed from the United States by making him deportable, excludable, or inadmissible, or ending his naturalization. Weeks understands that the immigration consequences of this plea will be imposed in a separate proceeding before the immigration authorities. Weeks wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offenses regardless of any immigration consequences of this plea, even if this plea will cause his removal from the United States. Weeks understands that he is bound by his guilty plea regardless of any immigration consequences of the plea. Accordingly, Weeks waives any and all challenges to his guilty plea and to his sentence based on any immigration consequences, and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty plea, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty plea, conviction, or sentence, based on any immigration consequences of his guilty plea.

Other Provisions

This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and cannot bind other federal, state, or local authorities. However, this Office will bring this agreement to the attention of other prosecuting offices, if requested to do so.

This agreement was reached without regard to any civil or administrative matters that may be pending or commenced in the future against Weeks. This agreement does not prohibit the United States, any agency thereof (including the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement) or any third party from initiating or prosecuting any civil or administrative proceeding against Weeks.

No provision of this agreement shall preclude Weeks from pursuing in an appropriate forum, when permitted by law, an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that Weeks received constitutionally ineffective assistance of counsel.

No Other Promises

This agreement constitutes the plea agreement between Weeks and this Office and supersedes any previous agreements between them. No additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties.

Very truly yours,

CRAIG CARPENITO
United States Attorney



By: Anthony P. Torntore
Jamie L. Hoxie
Assistant U.S. Attorneys

APPROVED:



David W. Feder
Chief, Cybercrime Unit

I have received this letter from my attorneys, Simon A. Gaugush, Esq. and Michael L. Yaeger, Esq., and I have read it. My attorneys and I have discussed it and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charges, sentencing, stipulations, restitution, and waiver. I understand this letter fully. I hereby accept its terms and conditions and acknowledge that it constitutes the plea agreement between the parties. I understand that no additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties. I want to plead guilty pursuant to this plea agreement.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:



Jobadiah Sinclair Weeks

Date: 9/24/20

I have discussed with my client this plea agreement and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charges, sentencing, stipulations, and waiver. My client understands this plea agreement fully and wants to plead guilty pursuant to it.



Simon A. Gaugush, Esq.
Michael L. Yaeger, Esq.

Date:

Plea Agreement with Jobadiah Sinclair Weeks

Schedule A

1. This Office and Weeks recognize that the United States Sentencing Guidelines are not binding upon the Court. This Office and Weeks nevertheless agree to the stipulations set forth herein, and agree that the Court should sentence Weeks within the Guidelines range that results from the total Guidelines offense level set forth below. This Office and Weeks further agree that neither party will argue for the imposition of a sentence outside the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level.

2. The version of the United States Sentencing Guidelines effective November 1, 2018 applies in this case.

Count Two of the Indictment (the "Indictment Count")

3. The applicable guideline is U.S.S.G. § 2X1.1 because the Indictment Count is conspiracy in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. See Appendix A of U.S.S.G.

4. The applicable guideline for the base level offense is U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1 because the Indictment Count is offering and selling unregistered securities in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Sections 77e and 77x.

5. Under U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(a)(1), the base offense level is 6 because conviction of the Indictment Count carries a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of less than 20 years.

6. Specific Offense Characteristic U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)(J) applies because the relevant loss amount that the parties have negotiated is more than \$3,500,000 but not more than \$9,500,000. This results in an increase of 18 levels.

7. Specific Offense Characteristic U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(2)(A) applies because the offense involved 10 or more victims. This results in an increase of 2 levels.

8. Specific Offense Characteristic U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1 (b)(10)(C) applies because the offense involved sophisticated means. This results in an increase of 2 levels.

9. The total adjusted level for Count Two of the Indictment is 28.

Count One of the Information ("The Information Count")

10. The applicable guidelines for Count One of the Information, charging a violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201, are U.S.S.G. §§ 2T1.1 and 2T4.1. Weeks agrees that he willfully evaded tax reporting requirements for the taxable periods 2015 through 2018. The parties agree that the combined tax loss for the calendar years 2015 through 2018 is greater than \$3,500,000, but less than \$9,500,000. This corresponds to an Offense Level of 24 pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2T4.1(J).

11. Because Weeks failed to report and correctly identify the source of income exceeding \$10,000 in any year from criminal activity, a two level upward adjustment is warranted pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2T1.1(b)(1).

12. The total adjusted level for Count One of the Information is 26.

Grouping Analysis

13. The parties agree that Count Two of the Indictment and Count One of the Information group pursuant U.S.S.G. § 3D1.2(d). Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3D1.3(b), when the counts involve offenses of the same general type to which different guidelines apply, the offense guideline that produces the highest offense level should be applied. Thus, the offense level is 28.

Acceptance of Responsibility

14. As of the date of this letter, it is expected that Weeks will enter a plea of guilty prior to the commencement of trial, will truthfully admit his involvement in the offenses and related conduct, and will not engage in conduct that is inconsistent with such acceptance of responsibility. If all of these events occur, and Weeks' acceptance of responsibility continues through the date of sentencing, a downward adjustment of 2 levels for acceptance of responsibility will be appropriate. See U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a).

15. As of the date of this letter, it is expected that Weeks will assist authorities in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting this Office to avoid preparing for trial and permitting this Office and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently. At sentencing, this Office will move for a further 1-point reduction in Weeks' offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b) if the following conditions are met: (a) Weeks enters a plea pursuant to this agreement, (b) this Office in its discretion determines that Weeks' acceptance of responsibility has continued through the date of sentencing and Weeks therefore qualifies for a 2-point reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), and (c) Weeks' offense level under the Guidelines prior to the operation of § 3E1.1(a) is 16 or greater.

Agreed Total Guidelines Offense Level

16. In accordance with the above, the parties agree that the total Guidelines offense level applicable to Weeks is 25 (the "agreed total Guidelines offense level").

17. The parties agree not to seek or argue for any upward or downward departure, adjustment or variance not set forth herein. The parties further agree that a sentence within the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level is reasonable.

Appeal Waiver

18. Weeks knows that he has and, except as noted below in this paragraph, voluntarily waives, the right to file any appeal, any collateral attack, or any other writ or motion, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, which challenges the sentence imposed by the sentencing court if that sentence falls within or below the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level. This Office will not file any appeal, motion, or writ which challenges the sentence imposed by the sentencing court if that sentence falls within or above the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level. The parties reserve any right they may have under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal the sentencing court's determination of the criminal history category. The provisions of this paragraph are binding on the parties even if the Court employs a Guidelines analysis different from that stipulated to herein. Furthermore, if the sentencing court accepts a stipulation, both parties waive the right to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that the sentencing court erred in doing so.

19. Both parties reserve the right to oppose or move to dismiss any appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion barred by the preceding paragraph and to file or to oppose any appeal, collateral attack, writ or motion not barred by the preceding paragraph.