

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Columbia

United States of America
v.

Elliot Resnick
DOB: [Redacted]

Defendant

Case No.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of January 6, 2021 in the county of in the
in the District of Columbia, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

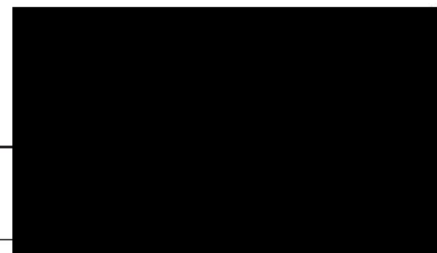
Offense Description

- 18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3): Obstructing, Impeding, or Interfering with Law Enforcement During a Civil Disorder
18 U.S.C. § 111(a): Assault of or Interference with Law Enforcement
18 U.S.C. §§ 1752(a)(1): Entering and Remaining on Restricted Grounds
18 U.S.C. §§ 1752(a)(2): Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds
40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D): Disorderly or Disruptive Conduct on Capitol Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings
40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G): Parading, Picketing, or Demonstrating in Any of the Capitol Buildings

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached statement of facts.

[X] Continued on the attached sheet.



Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1
by telephone.

Date: March 14, 2023

Judge's signature

City and state: Washington, D.C.

Zia M. Faruqui, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Your affiant, [REDACTED], is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) and I am assigned to the New York Field Office’s Joint Terrorism Task Force (“JTTF”). I have been a Special Agent since 2019 and was previously a member of the New York City Police Department. As a Special Agent, I have participated in investigations related to domestic terrorism, international terrorism, hate crimes, and sex trafficking. As a Special Agent, I am authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detention, investigation, or prosecution of violations of Federal criminal laws.

The U.S. Capitol is secured twenty-four hours a day by Capitol Police. Restrictions around the Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by United States Capitol Police (USCP). Only authorized people with appropriate identification were allowed access inside the Capitol. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the Capitol was also closed to members of the public.

On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The Joint Session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Michael R. Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the Capitol. As noted above, barricades—both temporary and permanent—were in place around the exterior of the Capitol, and USCP were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol and the proceedings underway inside.

At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway, and the exterior doors and windows of the Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the USCP attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol. Shortly after 2:00 p.m., however, individuals in the crowd forced entry into the Capitol using unlawful methods that included breaking windows and assaulting USCP officers. Others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts.

Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m., members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Pence, were instructed to and did evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, the Joint Session of Congress was effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. Vice President Pence remained in the Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the sessions resumed.

During national news coverage of the attack on the Capitol, video footage which appeared to be captured on mobile devices of persons present on the scene depicted violations of local and federal law, including scores of individuals inside the Capitol without permission or authority. One such individual is the defendant, Elliot RESNICK.

As set forth in detail below, I have identified RESNICK as an individual that entered the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and committed the following criminal acts:

- **18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3):** Obstructing, Impeding, or Interfering with Law Enforcement During a Civil Disorder;
- **18 U.S.C. § 111(a):** Assault of or Interference with Law Enforcement;
- **18 U.S.C. §§ 1752(a)(1) and (2):** Entering and Remaining on Restricted Grounds, and Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds; and
- **40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) and (G):** Disorderly or Disruptive Conduct on Capitol Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings, and Parading, Picketing, or Demonstrating in Any of the Capitol Buildings

The Investigation

Elliot RESNICK is a 39-year-old New York-resident. On January 6, 2021, RESNICK was employed as the Chief Editor of The Jewish Press.¹ Prior to his position as Chief Editor, RESNICK was previously employed in various positions by The Jewish Press for approximately 14 years. RESNICK left The Jewish Press, a news media organization in May 2021. The FBI has been investigating Elliot RESNICK since approximately June 2021. The investigation began when the FBI received two tips from members of the public regarding RESNICK's activity on restricted Capitol Grounds and inside of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. One tipster indicated they had known RESNICK since childhood and recognized him in video footage showing the storming of the U.S. Capitol which had been posted online. The tipster provided a link to a publicly available YouTube video.²

A second tipster provided information to the FBI and stated RESNICK had entered the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021. The second tipster identified a Facebook and Twitter page belonging to RESNICK and provided a link to an article from Politico, published on April 8, 2021,³ which identified RESNICK as being inside the U.S. Capitol based on video footage.

I have personally reviewed a New York State Driver's License Photograph for RESNICK, photographs of RESNICK displayed on various social media pages and professional websites, and personally conducted surveillance on RESNICK on three different occasions. I have reviewed video footage from inside and around the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.⁴ Based on all the images and videos I have reviewed, I identify the individual who committed the alleged acts in and around the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, as Elliot RESNICK.

¹ The affiant is aware of and has complied with the U.S. Department of Justice's News Media Policy in consultation and coordination with DOJ's Policy and Statutory Enforcement Unit. *See* AG Order No. 5524-2022; 28 C.F.R. § 50.10 (2022).

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-fkunG5J6k&t=659s>

³ <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/04/08/identifying-capitol-january-6-479757>

⁴ *See, ex.*, Images 1, 3, 4a, 10, 12, 17, 21, and 22.

Review of Selected Video Footage Showing RESNICK Inside the U.S. Capitol

On April 12, 2021, a Twitter user posted a link along with various screenshots purporting to show RESNICK. The link led to a YouTube video entitled “Eastside Capital Building 1/6/21.”⁵ The video shows the East Plaza and the Central East Steps of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Notably, the video shows rioters breaking through the police line on the Central East Steps and the crowd advancing up the stairs. As the crowd surges forward, towards the East Rotunda Doors, RESNICK is clearly visible moving with the crowd and can be seen repeatedly gesturing for others to come up the stairs. RESNICK can be seen wearing a black kippah (yarmulke), a black coat, and a lighter colored, long-sleeved shirt underneath.



Image 1—A screenshot from YouTube video “Eastside Capital Building 1/6/21” (fn. 4) showing RESNICK waving rioters forward.



Image 2—Screenshot from YouTube video “Eastside Capital Building 1/6/21” (fn. 4) showing RESNICK waving rioters forward.

⁵ <https://youtu.be/ZjLvYqJ2-EM?t=1141>

A publicly available photograph⁶ shows RESNICK just south of the East Rotunda Doors on January 6, 2021.



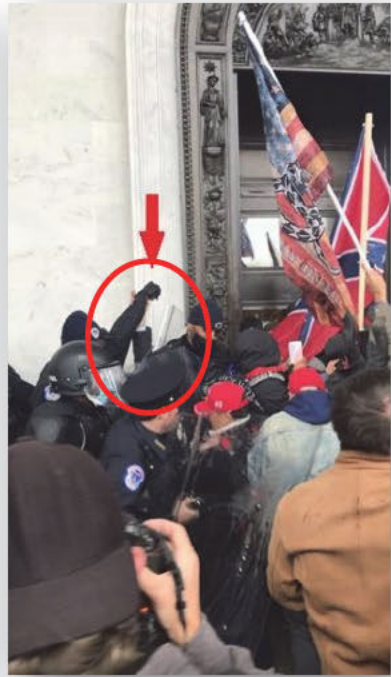
Image 3—A photograph taken by a Getty Images photographer that shows RESNICK and other rioters in front of the East Rotunda Doors.

I have interviewed Officer R. and Sgt. D., who are both are both members of the USCP who were present in this area of the Capitol on January 6, 2021. During my interview of Sgt. D., he specifically recalled telling RESNICK – in sum and substance – that he should “leave and go home” while RESNICK and Sgt. D. were both outside of the Capitol in front of the East Rotunda Doors.

I have reviewed videos showing the area just outside the East Rotunda Doors on January 6, 2021. Two videos (“Parler Video” and “Archive.Org Video”⁷) contain scenes from overlapping time periods filmed from different vantage points. These two videos show RESNICK reaching up, grabbing, and holding the arm of a USCP officer (“Sgt. D.”) who was at the time deploying a chemical irritant in an effort to keep rioters from entering the U.S. Capitol. The videos show another USCP officer (“Officer R.”) pushing down on RESNICK’s arm in an effort to remove his hand from Sgt. D.’s arm.

⁶ <https://www.gettyimages.com.br/detail/foto-jornal%C3%ADstica/demonstrators-clash-with-u-s-capitol-police-officers-foto-jornal%C3%ADstica/1230455112>

⁷ https://archive.org/download/DitvdKNtPaTAtEGXo/Trump_Supporters_Gather_A.mpeg4 (beginning at approx. 8 min. 50 sec.)



Images 4a, 4b, and 4c (left to right)—Screenshots from the Parler Video showing RESNICK standing just south of the East Rotunda Doors; RESNICK reaching up towards the arm of a USCP officer who was attempting to spray rioters with a chemical irritant; and RESNICK grabbing and holding the wrist of the same law enforcement officer.



Image 4d—A close-up of the screenshot from the Parler Video which shows the moment when RESNICK reached up and grabbed the wrist of a USCP officer.



Images 5 and 5a—A screenshot from the Archive.Org Video showing RESNICK grabbing the arm of a USCP officer; and (top right) a close-up of that same screenshot.

RESNICK entered the U.S. Capitol at approximately 2:26 p.m. on January 6, 2021, through the East Rotunda Doors. I have reviewed imagery of RESNICK entering the U.S. Capitol from USCP CCV and from open-source media.⁸ The footage shows RESNICK is among the first members of the crowd to enter the U.S. Capitol through the East Rotunda Doors.

As can be seen above, the East Rotunda Doors have two doors for entry or exit. The doors open to the outside. When RESNICK entered, one door was open, and the other door was closed. In the open-source video I reviewed, just after RESNICK entered, another rioter can be heard yelling for assistance to open the other door. Almost immediately after entering the U.S. Capitol, RESNICK turned back to the East Rotunda Doors and pushed on the second door, attempting to open it. At least one USCP Officer can be seen attempting to keep the door closed from the outside. As RESNICK and others pushed on the closed door, a different USCP Officer, Officer B., approached RESNICK and attempted to stop him from pushing on the door. While doing so, Officer B. was thrown to the ground from behind by another rioter who has since been arrested and charged.⁹

⁸ <https://youtu.be/V-fkunG5J6k?t=525>

⁹ <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/defendants/dillard-kaleb>

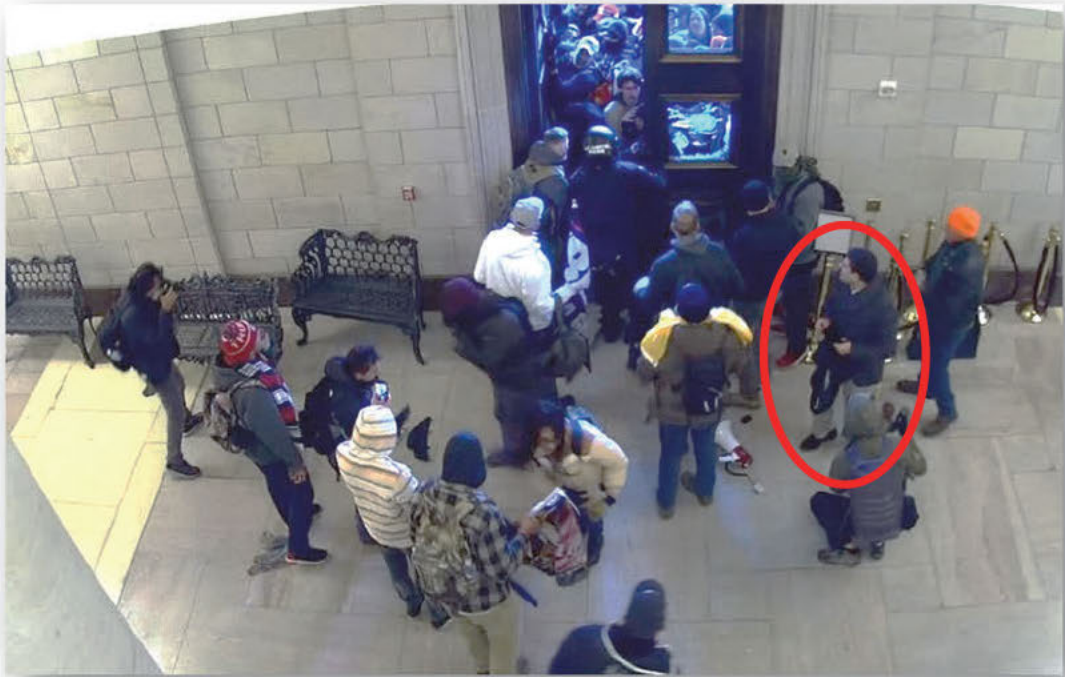


Image 6—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK just inside the Capitol’s East Rotunda Doors.

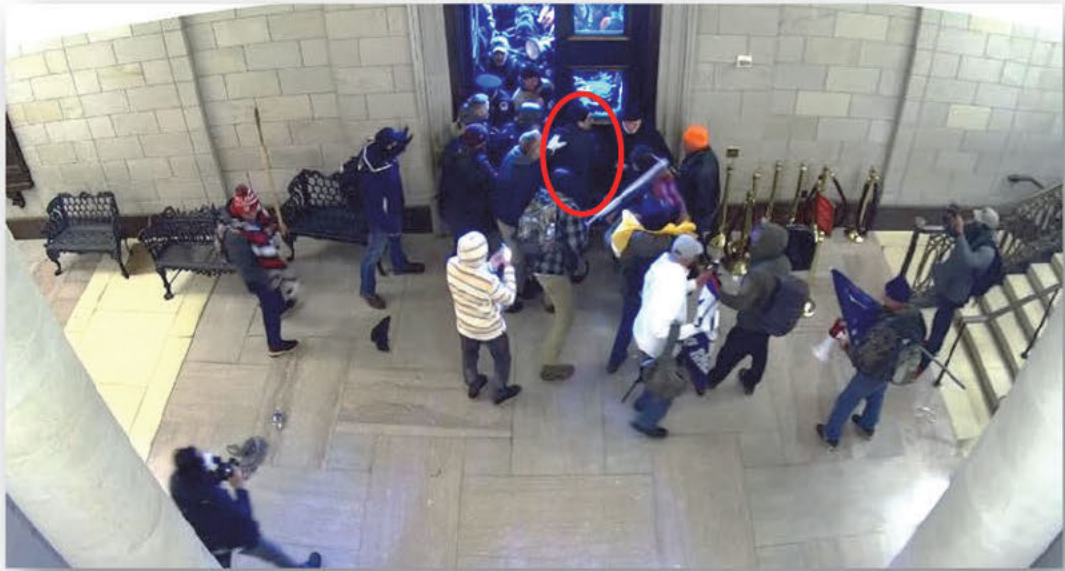


Image 7—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK attempting to open the southern door of the East Rotunda Doors.

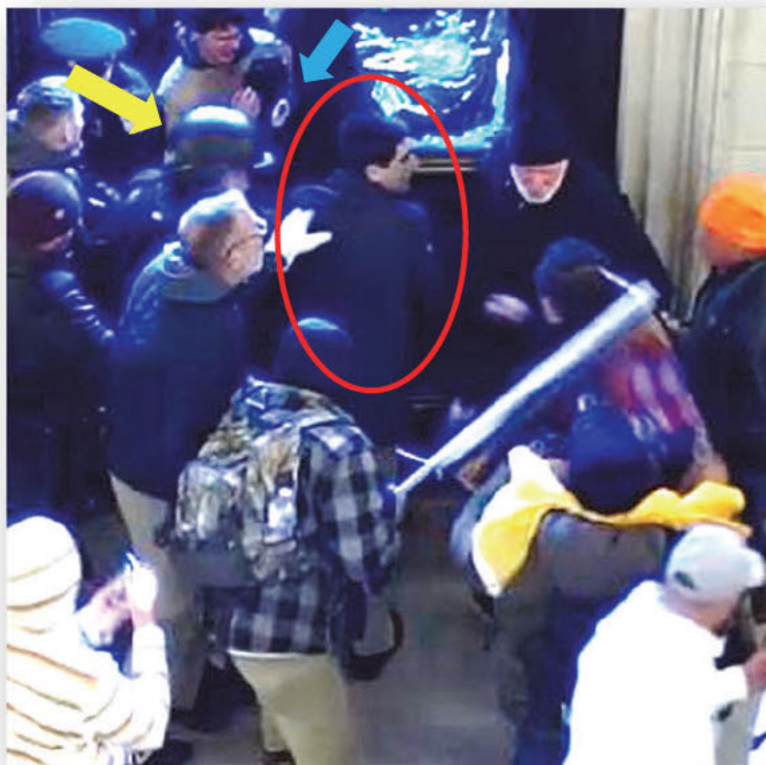
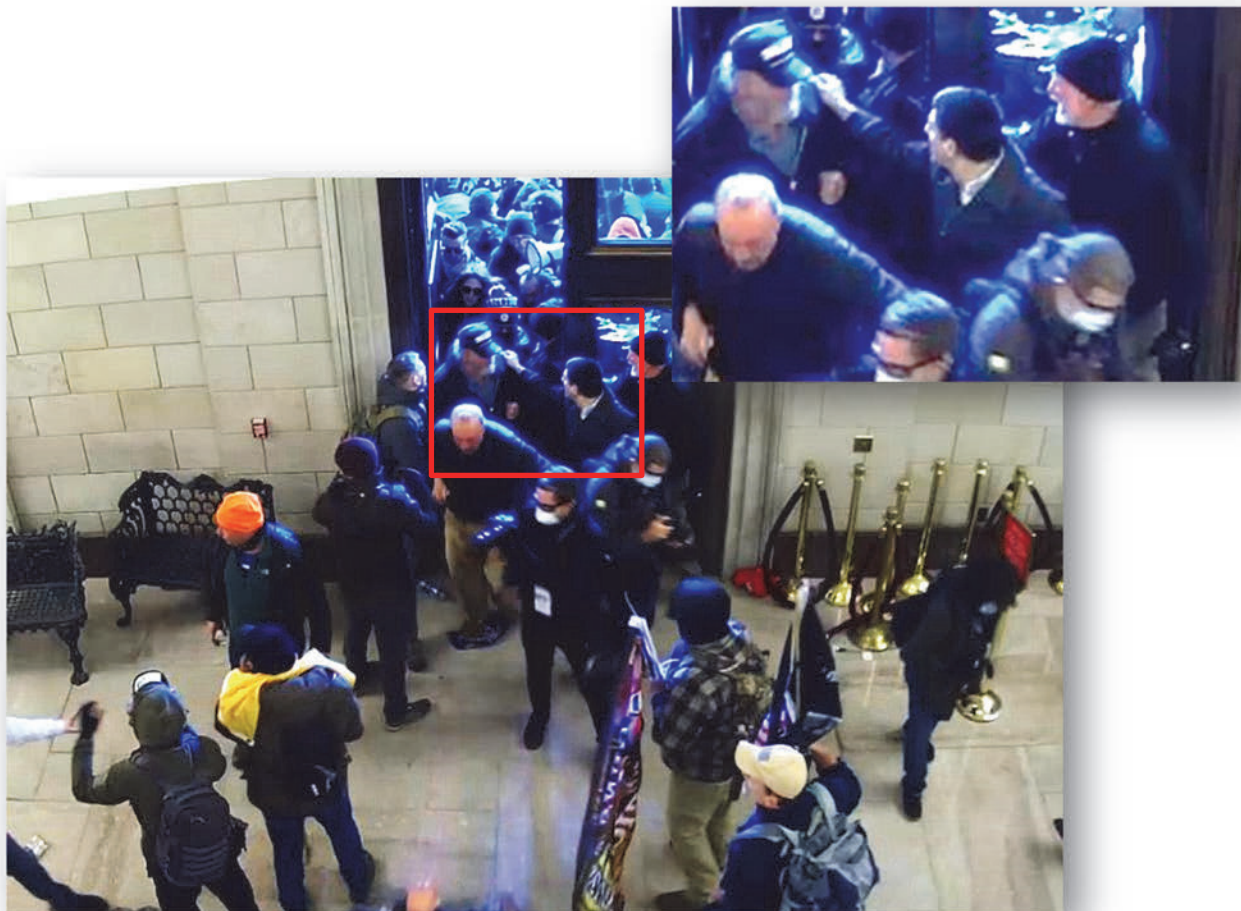


Image 7a—A close-up of Image 7 (above) showing RESNICK (red circle) pushing to open the second door; USCP Officer B. (yellow arrow) approaching RESNICK; and a USCP officer (blue arrow) attempting to hold the door closed from the outside.

After RESNICK failed to push open the southern door of the East Rotunda Doors, which was closed, he reached through the open northern door and, using his arms, began grabbing and pulling other rioters into the U.S. Capitol.



Image 8—A close-up of a screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK pulling another rioter into the U.S. Capitol.



Images 9 and 9a—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK standing inside the U.S. Capitol and reaching out through the breached entryway to grab and pull another rioter inside; and (top right) a close-up of that same image.

At approximately 2:29 p.m., RESNICK left the entryway just inside the East Rotunda Doors. RESNICK moved west into the Grand Rotunda and then continued south towards the House Chamber. At approximately 2:29 p.m., USCP CCV captured RESNICK moving south through Statuary Hall.¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://archive.org/details/nYiFQbNc65jwFYCWY> (approx. timestamp: 19 min. 45 sec.).

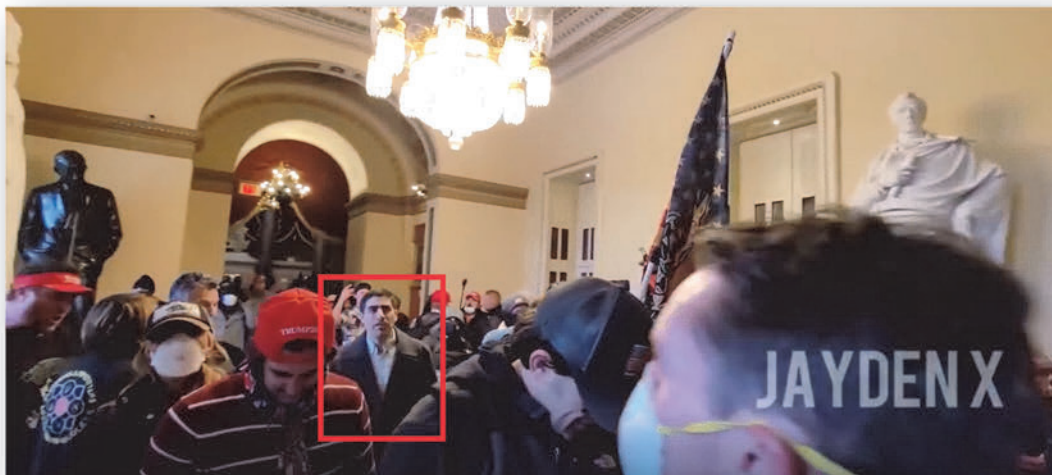


Image 10—A screenshot from a publicly available video that shows RESNICK in the second-floor hallway that leads to the House Chamber.

RESNICK turned back north, went back through Statuary Hall, and USCP CCV captures RESNICK entering the Grand Rotunda again at approximately 2:30:28 p.m.



Image 11—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK in the Grand Rotunda stepping over a velvet rope between stanchions.

From there, RESNICK entered the Small Senate Rotunda, descended to the first floor via a staircase commonly referred to as the Supreme Court Chamber Stairs, and at approximately 2:32:04 p.m., USCP CCV captured RESNICK entering the area between the Crypt and the annex to the Capitol Visitor Center, which sits below the East Plaza. RESNICK then walked around the Crypt Annex and the Crypt itself for several minutes before returning to the Annex and taking the escalator from the first floor down to the basement and the Capitol Visitor Center (“CVC”) at approximately 2:38:05 p.m.



Image 12—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK in the Crypt Annex, a space between the Crypt and the stairs/escalators that lead down to the Capitol Visitor Center.

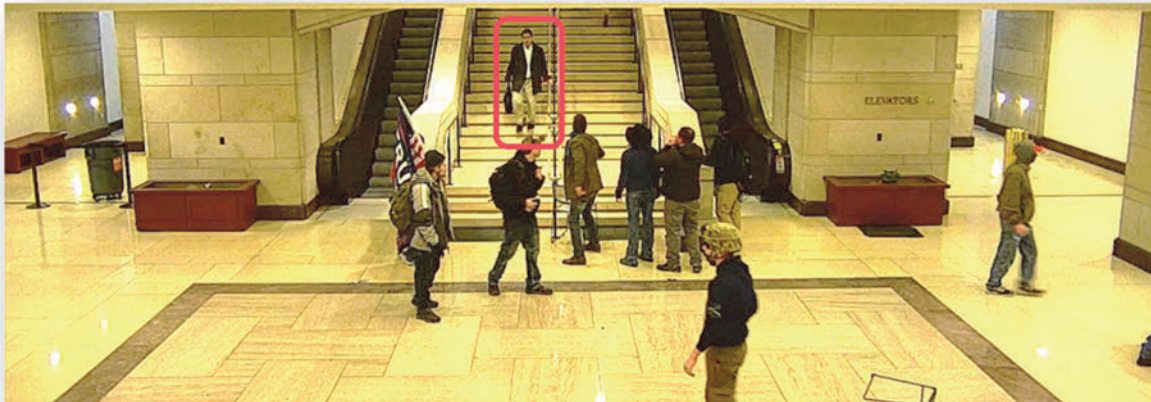


Image 13—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK descending into the underground CVC.

At approximately 2:39:25 p.m., RESNICK returned to the Crypt. RESNICK then went to a door that led out of the Capitol (the Law Library Door), and pushed on it. The door opened and RESNICK looked outside. He then returned to the Crypt and went back down to the CVC. After descending into the CVC a second time at approximately 2:41:48 p.m., RESNICK turned north and encountered a group of rioters. He stayed with them for a few minutes and then returned upstairs to the Crypt at approximately 2:44:56 p.m.



Image 14—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK with a group of rioters in the CVC.

At approximately 2:45:32 p.m., RESNICK took a staircase that led him from the Crypt Annex and put him back in the entryway just inside the East Rotunda Doors. RESNICK then stood at threshold of the East Rotunda Doors, both of which were now fully open, and gestured and beckoned rioters outside to come inside. RESNICK reached across the threshold and ushered them inside the U.S. Capitol. RESNICK repeated this process several times. RESNICK clapped others on the back as he successfully helped them to enter.

By this time, RESNICK had been in the Capitol for approximately twenty-three minutes. Some of the rioters in his vicinity left through the East Rotunda Doors, even while others continued to try and force their way inside.



Images 15 and 16—Close-ups of screenshots from USCP CCV showing RESNICK pulling rioters into the U.S. Capitol while at the East Rotunda Doors.



Image 17—A screenshot from an open-source video showing RESNICK standing at the threshold of the open East Rotunda Doors of the Capitol and pulling other rioters inside.

RESNICK again entered the Grand Rotunda. While inside, at approximately 2:52:24 p.m., RESNICK appeared to use a digital device in a manner consistent with taking a photograph or recording a video.

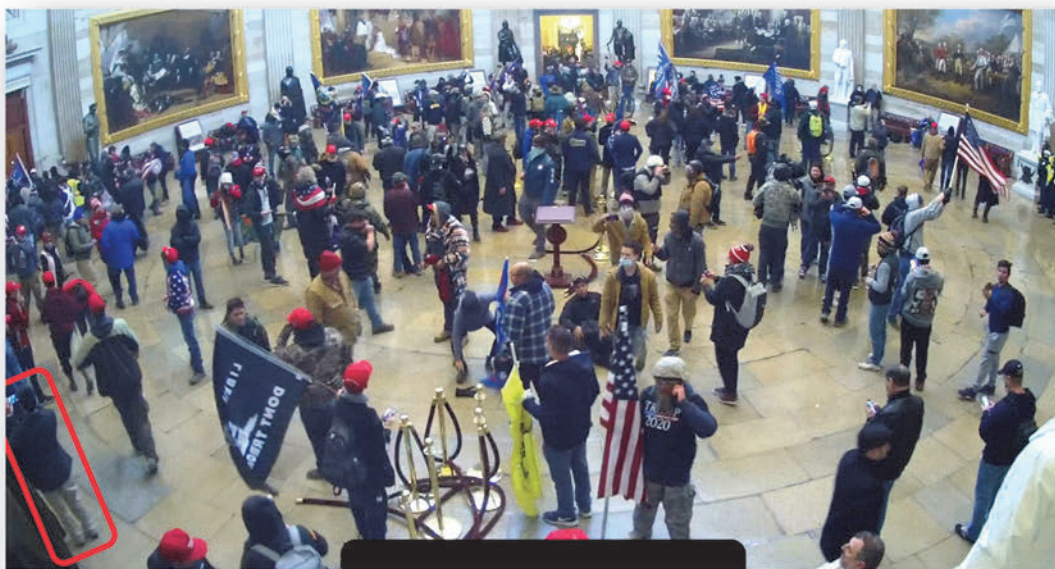


Image 18—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK with a digital device out in the Grand Rotunda.



Images 18a—A close-up of the screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK with a digital device out in the Grand Rotunda.

He returned to the East Rotunda Doors foyer between approximately 2:54 p.m. and 2:58 p.m., reentered the Grand Rotunda from approximately 2:58 p.m. and 3:02 p.m., the foyer again for less than a minute, and then back to the Grand Rotunda until approximately 3:10 p.m. RESNICK did not leave the Grand Rotunda, even though USCP and Metropolitan Police Department (“MPD”) officers were making a unified and concerted effort to clear the Rotunda for much of the time that he was there. RESNICK left the Capitol through the East Rotunda Doors at approximately 3:14 p.m., having remained inside for approximately fifty minutes.¹¹

¹¹ <https://archive.org/details/capital-hill-occupy-ovfr-18/Capital+Hill+Occupy+-ovfr18.mp4> (approx. timestamp: 17 min. 30 sec.).



Image 19—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK still in the Grand Rotunda, even though USCP and MPD had been attempting to clear the Rotunda for several minutes.

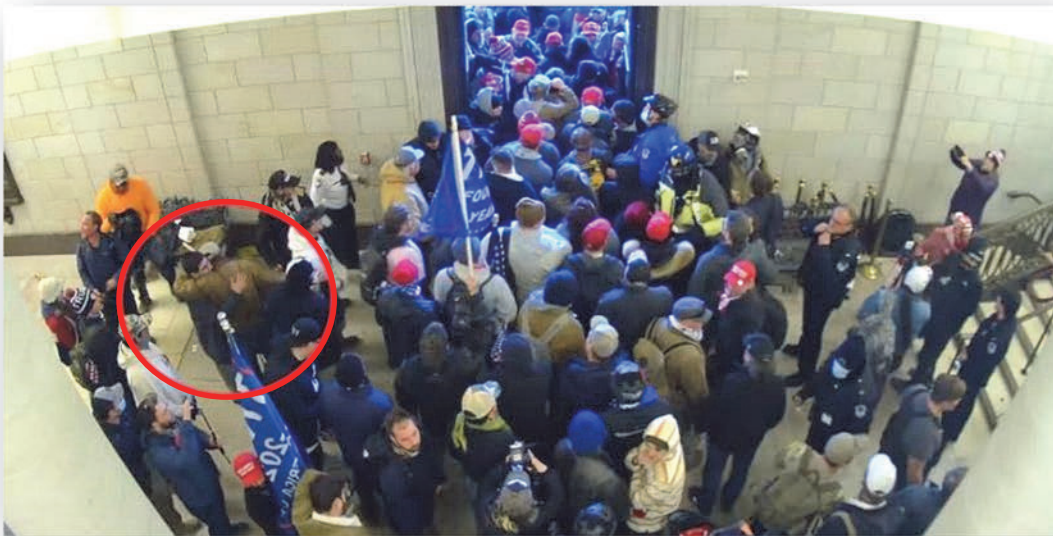


Image 20—A screenshot from USCP CCV showing RESNICK embracing another rioter just north of the East Rotunda Doors at approximately 3:11 p.m.

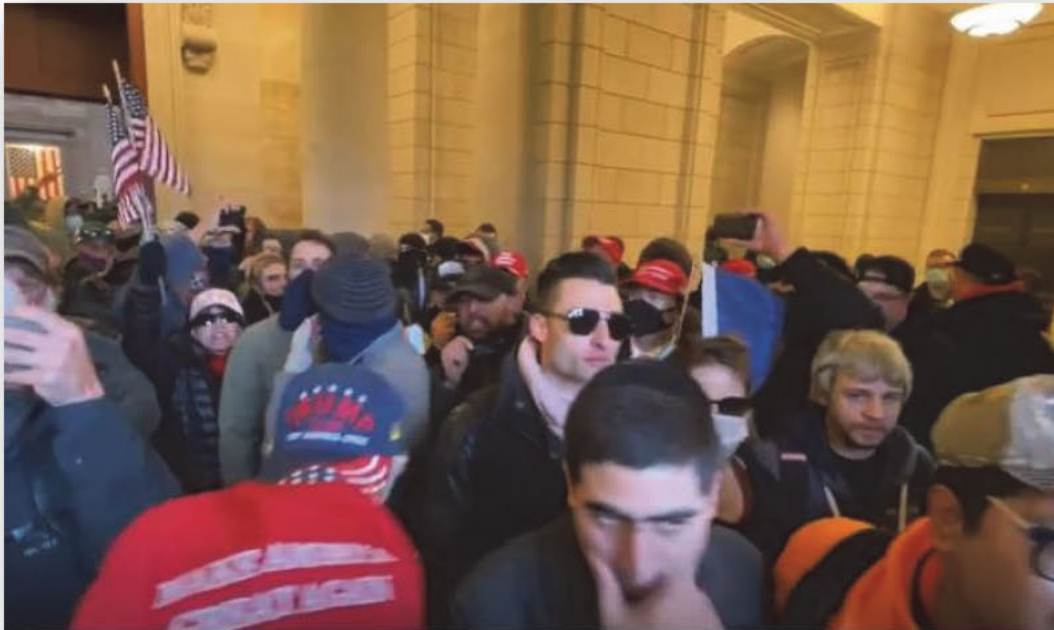


Image 21—A screenshot from a publicly available source showing RESNICK as he leaves the Capitol at approximately 3:14 p.m.

RESNICK left through the East Rotunda Doors on the east side of the Capitol at approximately 3:14 p.m. An MPD body worn camera captured RESNICK on the west side of the Capitol in the vicinity of the Upper West Plaza at approximately 4:18 p.m.



Image 22—A screenshot from MPD BWC showing RESNICK with other rioters on restricted grounds on the Capitol's west side at approximately 4:18 p.m.

Twitter

On RESNICK's website, there are links to some of RESNICK's publicly available social media accounts. One such account is his Twitter handle @ResnickElliot. As they pertain to RESNICK's intent to obstruct, impede, or influence any official proceeding; to attempt to do so; or to aid or abet another in doing so, the following Tweets are relevant:

November 3, 2020, at 8:49 p.m. (the day of the 2020 Presidential Election):



Vote and pray! (And starting tomorrow, let's concentrate a great deal more on how to take back our culture [our elementary schools, our colleges, our media, and our entertainment industry] or create an alternative one. Whoever controls the youth controls the future.)

November 29, 2020, at 10:50 p.m.



When you're prevented from watching as a half million votes are counted, it's hard to have evidence. There probably isn't much evidence that Stalin cheated to win elections either. That's why there are supposed to be consequences when you flagrantly disobey election laws.

January 6, 2021, at 6:37 p.m.



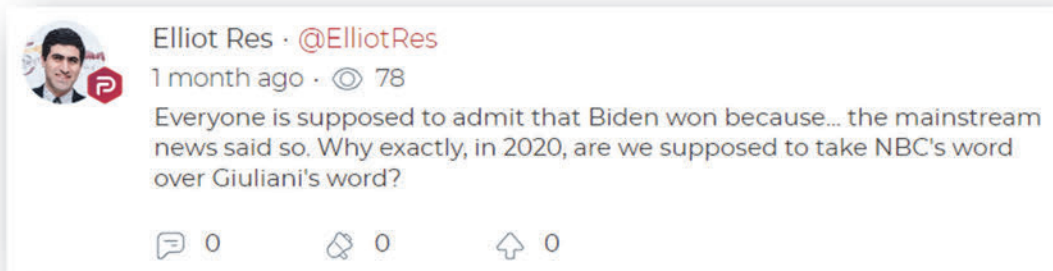
Twitter User: I understand how frustrated and upset so many people are but we can't do what's right if we're fighting each other in the streets. We need to take a step back, regroup and win back our nation. #TrumpRally

RESNICK: Please explain how you plan on making sure Democrats don't cheat four years from now.

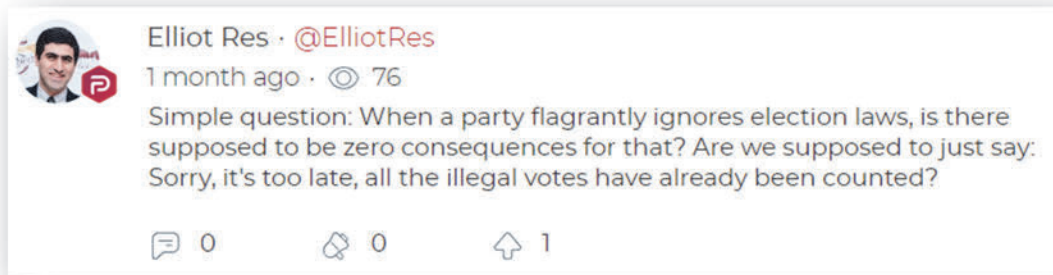
Parler

RESNICK also appears to have an active “verified” social media presence on the website Parler under the handle @ElliotRes. The profile indicates that RESNICK’s account was created on Parler November 7, 2020. The earliest of RESNICK’s postings on Parler that is currently visible to me are dated August 23, 2022. Some of RESNICK’s postings on Parler from late 2020 and early 2021 are available via the Internet Archive Wayback Machine.¹² The posts available on the Wayback Machine are from the same @ElliotRes handle, which uses the same photograph seen in another one of RESNICK’s publicly available profiles associated with his previous employment with a news media publication. Because the page was archived on January 10, 2021, all dates of the postings are approximate. (ex. A posting that shows as “one month ago” would have been posted in December 2020, approximately one month prior to January 10, 2021.) As they pertain to RESNICK’s intent to obstruct, impede, or influence any official proceeding; to attempt to do so; or to aid or abet another in doing so, the following postings to Parler are relevant:

Approx. December 2020



Everyone is supposed to admit that Biden won because... the mainstream news said so. Why exactly, in 2020, are we supposed to take NBC’s word over Giuliani’s word?



Simple question: When a party flagrantly ignores election laws, is there supposed to be zero consequences for that? Are we supposed to just say: Sorry, it’s too late, all the illegal votes have already been counted?

¹² See <https://web.archive.org/web/20210110201037/https://parler.com/profile/ElliotRes>



If the Democrats get away with their crimes, there's nothing to stop them from cheating in future elections. Why shouldn't amoral operatives cheat if there are no consequences?



I'm not a legal expert ,but to me, it all boils down to this: Democrats violated election law in numerous states (e.g., they barred Republican poll watchers from watching as half a million votes were counted). And when you flagrantly break election laws, there should be consequences. If there are zero consequences. what's the point of having election laws and why shouldn't everyone cheat next time around too?

Cell Phone

According to information provided to the FBI from a separately obtained search warrant, a specific phone number ending with 2025 (“the 2025 number”) was identified as having utilized a cell site consistent with providing service to a geographic area that included the interior of the United States Capitol building on January 6, 2021.

Based on commercial databases, the 2025 number is associated with RESNICK. Based on my own investigative efforts, I believe this number was used by RESNICK on January 6, 2021.

According to records provided to the FBI in January 2021 as part of a separate January 6-related investigation, an individual known to the FBI (Individual 1) who was arrested on January 6-related charges on January 18, 2021, had the 2025 number saved in his phone under the name “Elliot Resnick.” Individual 1 texted RESNICK at approximately 2:30 a.m. on January 6, 2021.



I also believe this number is RESNICK’s based on surveillance performed by myself and another member of the FBI on August 11, 2022. While maintaining visual surveillance of RESNICK, I dialed the 2025 number and observed RESNICK answer the phone and heard RESNICK speak through the phone receiver and in person. Shortly afterwards, I witnessed RESNICK appear to use his phone to make a call. At the same time, I received a call from the 2025 number on the phone number which I had previously used to contact RESNICK.

Probable Cause to Issue an Arrest Warrant for ELLIOT RESNICK

Based on the foregoing, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that ELLIOT RESNICK violated:

- **18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3)**, which makes it a crime to commit or attempt to commit any act to obstruct, impede, or interfere with any fireman or law enforcement officer lawfully engaged in the lawful performance of his official duties incident to and during the commission of a civil disorder which in any way or degree obstructs, delays, or adversely affects commerce or the movement of any article or commodity in commerce or the conduct or performance of any federally protected function. (“Civil disorder” means any public disturbance involving acts of violence by assemblages of three or more persons, which causes an immediate danger of or results in damage or injury to the property or person of any other individual. “Federally protected function” means any function, operation, or action carried out, under the laws of the United States, by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or by an officer or employee thereof; and such term shall specifically include, but not be limited to, the collection and distribution of the United States mails.
- **18 U.S.C. § 111(a)**, which makes it a crime to forcibly assault or interfere with any person designated in section 1114 of this title 18 while engaged in or on account of the performance of official duties. Persons designated within section 1114 include any person assisting an officer or employee of the United States in the performance of their official duties

- **18 U.S.C. §§ 1752(a)(1) and (2)**, which make it a crime to (1) knowingly enter or remain in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do; (2) knowingly, and with intent to impede or disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions, engages in disorderly or disruptive conduct in, or within such proximity to, any restricted building or grounds when, or so that, such conduct, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions; or attempts or conspires to do so. For purposes of 18 U.S.C. § 1752, a “restricted building” includes a posted, cordoned off, or otherwise restricted area of a building or grounds where the President or other person protected by the Secret Service, including the Vice President, is or will be temporarily visiting; or any building or grounds so restricted in conjunction with an event designated as a special event of national significance.
- **40 U.S.C. §§ 5104(e)(2)(D) and (G)**, which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly (D) utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct, at any place in the Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress, or the orderly conduct in that building of a hearing before, or any deliberations of, a committee of Congress or either House of Congress; and (G) parade, demonstrate, or picket in any of the Capitol Buildings.



Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone, this 14th day of March 2023.

ZIA M. FARUQUI
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE