UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL NO. 18-227
v.	*	SECTION: "I"
DANNY LETARD	*	

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

Should this matter have proceeded to trial, the Government would have proven, through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible evidence, the following facts, beyond a reasonable doubt, to support the allegations in the Indictment now pending against the defendant.

The Government would establish that Social Security was a social insurance program that provided eligible applicants with retirement, disability, and survivor benefits. The Social Security Administration ("SSA") was a Government agency responsible for the management of the Social Security program, as defined in the Social Security Act.

The Government would establish that the case against **DANNY LETARD** ("LETARD") began as a result of a complaint to the SSA's fraud hotline alleging **LETARD** had committed fraud in connection with his receipt of SSA benefits. The complainant reported that **LETARD** had intentionally concealed income he received from Blanchard Mechanical Contractors ("BMC") from the SSA.

The SSA notified the Inspector General ("OIG") for the SSA after determining **LETARD** was receiving monthly SSA Disability Insurance Program ("DIP") benefits in the amount of $2,177.30. **LETARD** began receiving SSA DIP benefits in 1989. Agents with the SSA-OIG

determined **LETARD** worked as a backhoe operator for BMC from 2007 to the end of 2017.

Agents discovered **LETARD** used the names of his ex-wife, mother, and daughter to create

business entities in order to conceal the receipt of his earnings from the SSA. SSA-OIG officials

learned **LETARD** also received an additional benefit because he had a minor child under eighteen.

Accordingly, **LETARD** fraudulently received $242,308.20 in benefits he was not entitled to

because of his employment with BMC.

On October 25, 2017, at the Hammond SSA District Office, SSA-OIG and Louisiana State

Police ("LSP") investigators interviewed **LETARD**. **LETARD** executed a written *Miranda* rights

waiver and agreed to speak with the investigators. During the interview, the defendant said he

worked for BMC since 2000 while receiving SSA disability benefits. **LETARD** said he obtained

a Tangipahoa Parish business license for a construction cleanup service in the name of his daughter

and his mother in order to conceal his earnings from the SSA. When asked by the investigators

why he wanted to be paid through a third party company, **LETARD** answered "So y'all wouldn't

find out about it." **LETARD** said he knew he would lose all or part of his SSA disability benefits

if the SSA found out he was working. **LETARD** explained he hid his additional income from the

SSA by having BMC issue his payments for work to the third party companies he created.

LETARD told the investigators that neither his daughter nor his mother were ever involved in his

business and he just used their names to obtain the business licenses. **LETARD** said he went to

the Tangipahoa Parish courthouse and applied for the licenses each year using their names.

On October 31, 2017, investigators with the SSA interviewed the owner of BMC. The

owner said he definitely did not agree to assist **LETARD** in hiding his income from the IRS or the

SSA. BMC's owner recalled **LETARD** worked for companies in his ex-wife's and daughter's

names. According to BMC's owner, he did not know **LETARD** was disabled or had any back problems. **LETARD** never complained of any back issues.

Various records and testimonial evidence, including testimony from representatives of the SSA-OIG, LSP, BMC, and other witnesses, would be called at trial to establish the facts set forth above. The government would establish **LETARD** fraudulently received $242,308.20 in SSA disability benefits based on his concealment of his employment with BMC.

BRIAN M. KLEBBA
Assistant United States Attorney

2/21/19
Date

DANNY LETARD
Defendant

2-21-19
Date

J. GARRISON JORDAN
Counsel for Defendant #20240

2.21.19
Date