

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	CRIMINAL NO. 19-148
	*	
v.	*	SECTION: "R"(2)
	*	
ALLEN EDGERSON	*	
	*	
	*	

FACTUAL BASIS

The defendant, ALLEN EDGERSON ("EDGERSON), has agreed to plead guilty as charged to the Indictment pending against him. Should this matter have gone to trial, the government would have proven, through the introduction of competent testimony and other admissible evidence, the following facts, beyond a reasonable doubt, to support the allegations in the indictment now pending against the defendant:

In September 2017, the United States Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS"), Louisiana State Police ("LSP"), and the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") began an investigation into the trafficking of methamphetamine in the New Orleans area supplied from California, primarily through the U.S. Mail. Through intercepted drug parcels, shipping records, undercover methamphetamine purchases utilizing confidential informants, and physical and electronic surveillance, the investigation established that Sheon COPPRUE ("COPPRUE") was a New Orleans area drug trafficker. Throughout the course of the investigation agents have seized and/or purchased over 23 pounds of methamphetamine from COPPRUE and his California based suppliers through the use of various confidential sources and a wiretap.

On January 5, 2018, an LSP confidential source ("CS") arranged to buy two ounces of methamphetamine from COPPRUE. COPPRUE agreed to mail the two ounces of

AUSA	<u>NDM</u>
Defendant	<u>A.E</u>
Defense Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>

methamphetamine to a P.O. Box in Mississippi, controlled by New Orleans Postal Inspectors. Agents had previously instructed the CS to tell COPPRUE the CS had a friend that lived in the Biloxi, Mississippi area who was looking for methamphetamine, and that the CS trusted them. COPPRUE told the CS that he used the mail all the time to mail money and receive drugs, and that it would not be a problem. COPPRUE texted the CS that he had just mailed out the methamphetamine, and wanted to meet up to collect the money, \$1,040 (\$500 per ounce, and an additional \$40 for shipping fees). Agents gave the CS the money and a recording device. The CS and COPPRUE met, and the CS gave COPPRUE the \$1,040. COPPRUE then mailed the package to the Mississippi address. Agents seized the package from the mail system and found approximately 68 grams (approximately 99% pure) of a white crystalline substance that field tested positive for methamphetamine.

On February 26, 2018, postal inspectors identified an outbound package from COPPRUE, sent to an address in Moreno Valley, California. Postal records showed 26 prior packages to that same Moreno Valley address from the New Orleans area. Agents obtained a search warrant to open the package and found \$8,360 in cash. This package was a payment destined for EDGERSON.

The CS arranged to purchase 14 ounces of methamphetamine from COPPRUE on March 1, 2018, for \$6,000. They met in New Orleans, and COPPRUE gave the CS approximately 391 grams of methamphetamine (approximately 98% pure). During the deal, COPPRUE offered to sell the CS up to 5 pounds of methamphetamine at a time.

The CS contacted COPPRUE on March 10, 2018, to set up a 3-pound purchase. On March 12, 2018, agents obtained a search warrant for a stash house on Wainwright Drive that COPPRUE was believed to use, based on prior surveillance. COPPRUE quoted a price of \$6,000 per pound. The CS and COPPRUE agreed to meet. The morning of March 14, 2018, agents saw COPPRUE

leave the Wainwright Drive address about an hour before he told the CS he was ready to meet. Agents pulled COPPRUE's vehicle over en route to the meeting. A drug dog alerted to the odor of narcotics, then agents found three bags containing approximately 1.332 kilograms of methamphetamine (approximately 99% pure).

COPPRUE consented to a search of his residence on Franklin Avenue. COPPRUE accompanied the agents to his residence, where they found approximately 29.4 grams of methamphetamine, approximately 27 grams of marijuana, a Glock Model 26, 9 mm caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number CCU494US, loaded with a 15-round magazine, another loaded 31-round magazine, 91 Tramadol doses, one digital scale, and a marijuana grinder.

At the Wainwright Drive Address, agents also found a bag of marijuana in the dishwasher, a Glock Model 22, .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number ABKU701, loaded with a 22-round magazine under the sofa, Del-Ton, Model AR, .223 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number DTI-S134853, in a backpack behind a chair, a pound of marijuana in a closet, over \$20,000 in cash inside of various items of clothing, a pistol-to-carbine-conversion kit, and a Glock Model 27, .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, bearing serial number BFBR576, with 15 rounds in the magazine.

Separately, San Diego DEA identified EDGERSON as a target of an ongoing wiretap case, and EDGERSON had already been intercepted buying methamphetamine from a supplier. As early as March 6, 2018, EDGERSON was caught on a customer's wiretap offering to sell "one window" for 23, or "22 if I grab 2," meaning \$2,200 a pound for methamphetamine (often called "glass" or "window"). This was consistent with methamphetamine prices at the time heard on other calls during that investigation. On March 16, 2018, EDGERSON offered the same customer "23" for "windows." On March 22, 2018, EDGERSON agreed with the same customer to "make something

happen” for “dos-dos,” meaning the same price of \$2,200. Two days later, EDGERSON asked that same customer if the customer had “some windows,” and EDGERSON met the customer (who was in this case a supplier) because EDGERSON “needed one.”

San Diego DEA obtained a court-authorized wiretap on two of EDGERSON’s phones, starting on April 10, 2018. On April 23, 2018, EDGERSON negotiated a deal with a customer for “20 of them bitches,” specifying that the customer wanted the “window” (code for methamphetamine). EDGERSON told the customer to tell his “people” that the customer could resell them at “23 apiece,” and that EDGERSON could do “10 for 2.” This is consistent with average prices for a pound of methamphetamine in California at the time, which could be about \$2,300 each if sold individually, but were lowered to \$2,000 per pound if the customer bought at least 10 pounds at a time. After that call, agents established surveillance at EDGERSON’s house. Rachel CESARIO (“CESARIO”) arrived at EDGERSON’s house, and EDGERSON removed a bag from his car and placed it in CESARIO’s car. They then drove to the post office together. Five days later, on April 28, EDGERSON texted CESARIO a tracking number that was for a package sent from an area in New Orleans (near where COPPRUE operates), from EDGERSON’s address.

This call is consistent with several others on EDGERSON’s phone, in addition to the calls described above. On May 3, 2018, a customer asked EDGERSON for “at least a ball maybe a bill,” meaning an eight-ball (an eighth of an ounce, 3.5 grams, which is just under \$100, or “a bill”) or possibly more, and EDGERSON instructed him “no talking on other phone like that no more.”

On June 6, 2018, COPPRUE made a 3-pound purchase from EDGERSON, for \$8,500. COPPRUE sent the money to CESARIO at an address in Riverside, California. An undercover postal officer delivered it to CESARIO, and surveillance agents saw her drive directly to EDGERSON’s residence shortly after the package arrived. EDGERSON sent COPPRUE a text

message telling him that EDGERSON sent the 3 pounds COPPRUE paid for, plus one extra. Agents seized approximately 1.8 kilograms of methamphetamine (approximately 100% pure) in the mail in New Orleans, addressed to one of COPPRUE's known drop-off spots. Because EDGERSON sent an extra pound, COPPRUE owed him more money. A package containing \$2,800 was sent to EDGERSON on June 12, 2018, addressed to CESARIO.

On July 10, 2018, EDGERSON spoke to "Tiger" by phone. EDGERSON asked Tiger to be ready for him, and they discussed "5" and a "5 pack." On July 11, 2018, EDGERSON told Tiger that he needed 5. They exchanged texts in which EDGERSON requested "a good deal," and "good solid ones." That evening, around 9:50 PM, Tiger and EDGERSON called to discuss which cars they were in, and then realized that they could see each other. On July 11, 2018, at 11:14 PM, law enforcement in California conducted a walled off stop of CESARIO after she ran a red light. She admitted having marijuana in the car, but denied other contraband. A deputy found a grocery bag in the back seat with 5 pounds of methamphetamine in it.

On November 6, 2018, USPIS agents saw a heavily wrapped parcel from Moreno Valley (where EDGERSON lives) that a drug dog alerted to, destined for a house in COPPRUE's neighborhood. They obtained a federal search warrant, but because the package only contained marijuana, agents did not arrest anyone.

On November 27, 2018, agents followed postal delivery employee Tonya CALVIN, who was scheduled to deliver a package to one of the addresses previously associated with COPPRUE, on Port Street in New Orleans. LSP conducted surveillance during the scheduled delivery and saw CALVIN pass the Port Street address and drive around the corner, where CALVIN delivered a package to COPPRUE. LSP then followed COPPRUE, who exited his car smoking marijuana, walking into his known stash house on Franklin Ave. When LSP approached him, he was holding

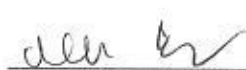
a sealed shoe box, as well as marijuana and a bottle of 9 Tramadol pills. COPPRUE gave consent to search the box, which had approximately 2.5 pounds of methamphetamine. COPPRUE had been paying CALVIN fees totaling several hundred dollars for the delivery of the parcels containing narcotics.

This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known by EDGERSON, but rather is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for the guilty plea. The limited purpose of this proffer is to demonstrate that there exists a sufficient legal and factual basis for EDGERSON's plea of guilty to these crimes.

READ AND APPROVED:



NICHOLAS MOSES Date
Assistant United States Attorney



ALLEN EDGERSON Date
Defendant



NICHOLAS TRENTICOSTA Date
Attorney for Defendant