

**FILED**

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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
14 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
15 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION  
16

17 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) NO. 15 CR 319 RS  
18 Plaintiff, ) PLEA AGREEMENT  
19 v. )  
20 CARL MARK FORCE IV, )  
21 Defendant. )

22  
23 I, Carl Mark Force IV, and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of  
24 California and the United States Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section (“the government”),  
25 enter into this written plea agreement (the “Agreement”) pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1)(B)  
26 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure:

27 The Defendant’s Promises

28 1. I agree to plead guilty to Counts One, Two and Three of the captioned Information

1 charging me with (1) money laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(A) and (B); (2)  
2 obstruction of justice, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2); and (3) extortion under color of official  
3 right, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951. I agree that the elements of the offenses are as follows:

4 Count One: (1) I conducted a financial transaction involving property that represented the proceeds of  
5 specified unlawful activity (to wit, wire fraud, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and  
6 theft of government property, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 641);

7 (2) I knew that the property represented the proceeds of said specified unlawful activities;  
8 and

9 (3) I knew that the transaction was designed in whole or in part to promote the carrying  
10 on of the specified unlawful activities, or to conceal or disguise the nature, location,  
11 source, ownership, or control of the proceeds of the specified unlawful activities.

12 I further agree that the elements of the underlying unlawful activity of wire fraud are:

13 (1) I knowingly devised a scheme or plan to defraud or to obtain money and property by  
14 means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises;

15 (2) the statements made or facts omitted were material;

16 (3) I acted with the intent to defraud, that is, the intent to deceive or cheat; and

17 (4) I used or caused to be used an interstate wire communication to carry out or attempt  
18 to carry out an essential part of the scheme.

19 I further agree that the elements of the underlying unlawful activity of theft of  
20 government property are:

21 (1) I knowingly embezzled, stole, or converted to my use or use of another the money or  
22 property of value with the intention of depriving the owner of the use or benefit of the  
23 money or property;

24 (2) the money or property belonged to the United States; and

25 (3) the value of the money or property was more than \$1,000.

26 Count Two: (1) I obstructed, influenced, or impeded an official proceeding; and

27 (2) in doing so, I acted corruptly.

28 Count Three: (1) I was a public official;

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1 (2) I obtained money or other property of value from other individuals or entities that I  
 2 knew I was not entitled to receive;

3 (3) I knew that the money or other property of value was given in return for taking some  
 4 official action; and

5 (4) I obtained the money or other property in a manner that affected interstate commerce.

6 I agree that the maximum penalties are as follows:

7 Count One:

- 8 a. Maximum prison term 20 years
- 9 b. Maximum fine \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or  
 10 loss, whichever is greater
- 11 c. Maximum supervised release term 3 years
- 12 d. Restitution To be determined
- 13 e. Mandatory special assessment \$100
- 14 f. Forfeiture See below

15 Count Two:

- 16 a. Maximum prison term 20 years
- 17 b. Maximum fine \$250,000
- 18 c. Maximum supervised release term 3 years
- 19 d. Restitution To be determined
- 20 e. Mandatory special assessment \$100
- 21 f. Forfeiture See below

22 Count Three:

- 23 a. Maximum prison term 20 years
- 24 b. Maximum fine \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or  
 25 loss, whichever is greater
- 26 c. Maximum supervised release term 3 years
- 27 d. Restitution To be determined
- 28 e. Mandatory special assessment \$100
- f. Forfeiture See below

1           2.       I agree that I am guilty of the offenses to which I am pleading guilty, and I agree that the  
2 following facts are true:

3           I was an agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for 15 years until resigning on  
4 May 4, 2014. In 2012 and 2013, my primary responsibility was the Baltimore Division's Silk Road  
5 investigation. In this role, I was the lead undercover agent on Baltimore's case against "Dread Pirate  
6 Roberts" (a/k/a "DPR," a/k/a "R.U."), the mastermind of the Silk Road, an online drug and contraband  
7 marketplace. In my capacity as a member of the Baltimore Silk Road Task Force, I had access to and  
8 used the digital currency known as Bitcoin. My role on the task force involved communicating as an  
9 undercover agent with R.U. My officially-sanctioned undercover persona for doing so was "Nob."

10           My communications with R.U. took place by interstate wire; I agree that the government could  
11 prove that R.U. was in the Northern District of California during 2012 and 2013, and that I was in  
12 Maryland. R.U. paid me, acting as Nob, several times in bitcoin for various things, to include providing  
13 false identifications and "inside" law enforcement information. R.U. made these payments to me via  
14 bitcoin wallets and addresses that I set up and controlled. I agree that these payments became  
15 government property once they were made because R.U. was the subject of a federal investigation and  
16 was paying for information and services that I was providing as part of an official investigation.

17           R.U. paid me on two occasions in the summer of 2013. One payment was 400 bitcoin in June  
18 2013 for fraudulent identification documents, and the other payment was 525 bitcoin in August 2013 for  
19 "inside" law enforcement information about the investigation into the Silk Road. Rather than properly  
20 documenting these communications and payments and safeguarding the payments in a government  
21 account, I knowingly and intentionally took custody of both the 400 bitcoin and 525 bitcoin payments  
22 and converted them to my own personal use by depositing them into my own personal account and  
23 converting them to dollars that I ultimately withdrew from my personal checking account at M&T Bank.

24           In particular, I took actions to obfuscate the fact that R.U. had paid me 525 bitcoins in August  
25 2013. For example, I wrote an official report, known as a DEA 6, stating that R.U. was going to pay  
26 525 bitcoins for "inside" law enforcement information and further stating that I provided a Bitcoin  
27 wallet address for R.U. to deposit the payment for the "inside" information. I included this report in the  
28 official Silk Road case file on or about August 1, 2013. However, I made an "Agent's Note" at the

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1 bottom of that August DEA 6 report explicitly stating that R.U. never made the payment, writing  
2 “AGENT’S NOTE: DPR [R.U.] made no such payment.” I never amended or corrected this statement  
3 despite having completed numerous other official reports in the investigation after August 4, 2013.

4 Moreover, I communicated with R.U. about this 525 bitcoin payment on a private messaging  
5 chat service hosted on the Silk Road site. On August 4, 2013, R.U. sent me an unencrypted message  
6 stating that he had “sent the 525 btc as requested.” In an effort to shield this information from discovery  
7 by the government, I directed R.U. to use PGP, an encryption method.

8 I agree that on August 4, 2013, R.U. did make this 525 bitcoin payment to me. I agree that a  
9 conservative estimate of the value of 525 bitcoins at the time of the payment was approximately  
10 \$50,000. I knowingly transferred the 525 bitcoin payment R.U. made to me in my official capacity as  
11 “Nob” to one of my own personal digital currency accounts instead of accounting for it properly and  
12 turning it over to the government as undercover proceeds.

13 Furthermore, in or about August 2013, I knowingly devised and participated in a scheme to  
14 defraud and to obtain money and property from R.U., the target of my official investigation into the Silk  
15 Road Marketplace, through false and fictitious representations. As part of this scheme, I created a  
16 fictitious persona that, unlike “Nob,” was completely outside my official capacity and was never  
17 sanctioned by, or known to, the government. That persona was “French Maid.”

18 Operating as “French Maid,” I used the Silk Road private messaging service to communicate  
19 with R.U. Part of my scheme and plan to obtain property from R.U. by means of fraudulent pretenses or  
20 false statements was the fiction that I was “French Maid,” a woman named “Carla Sophia,” who was a  
21 user of the Silk Road site with “many girlfriends and boyfriends on the site.” I employed fraudulent  
22 pretenses in pretending to be these things, when in fact I was a male named Carl FORCE who was not a  
23 user of the Silk Road site but was rather a federal agent. Likewise, I concealed material facts from R.U.  
24 as part of my scheme. This communication took place by interstate wire; I agree that the government  
25 could prove that R.U. was in the Northern District of California during our communications, and that I  
26 was in Maryland.

27 I corresponded with R.U. outside the scope of my official investigation and often directed R.U.  
28 to encrypt his communications with me. Together, R.U. and I (operating as “French Maid,”), agreed

1 that I would provide R.U. with information concerning the government's investigation into the Silk  
 2 Road in exchange for a payment of bitcoins worth approximately \$100,000. R.U. did in fact pay me this  
 3 money, using a series of bitcoin transfers. I agree that these funds traveled by interstate wire and  
 4 therefore affected interstate commerce to a necessary and substantial degree.

5 Throughout September 2013, in an effort to conceal the true source of my criminal proceeds  
 6 derived from both (1) the fraudulent scheme against R.U. using wires and resulting in a bitcoin payment  
 7 worth approximately \$100,000; and also (2) my theft of the 525 bitcoin of government property worth  
 8 approximately \$50,000, I engaged in a series of financial transactions using different bitcoin addresses  
 9 and accounts, ultimately moving the funds from a series of pass-through accounts to my personal  
 10 account at CampBX, a digital currency exchange. I accomplished this using interstate wires.  
 11 Specifically, I conducted the following financial transactions, and knew that the funds in each of the  
 12 below transactions were the proceeds of either wire fraud and/or theft of government property, and I  
 13 carried out each of those transactions with the intent both to promote my ongoing wire fraud and theft of  
 14 government property schemes and to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and  
 15 origin of those illegal proceeds:

Date	Amount	Description of Financial Transaction
9/27/13	525 bitcoin	Deposit of proceeds of theft of government property in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641 from bitcoin address <i>1AJGTi3i2tPUg3ojwoHndDN1DYhJTWKSAA</i> to CampBX account
9/23/13	194.9995 bitcoin	Deposit of proceeds of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 from bitcoin address <i>156RBPqUCw6dxsXHCsJSKsuAC6JUmsRv2</i> to CampBX account
9/29/13	189 bitcoin	Deposit of proceeds of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 from bitcoin address <i>17p1DgXbvbDm5DQ3zu9vc2q9TzJe9vn5ct</i> to CampBX account
9/29/13	154 bitcoin	Deposit of proceeds of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 from bitcoin address <i>17p1DgXbvbDm5DQ3zu9vc2q9TzJe9vn5ct</i> to CampBX account
9/29/13	154 bitcoin	Deposit of proceeds of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 from bitcoin address <i>1L9HxpOdakGzOT4o1mTXZ8AqUVEkz9m6xS</i> to CampBX account
9/29/13	160.9985 bitcoin	Deposit of proceeds of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 from bitcoin address <i>1CJx8u5VCZfCekkzOfMi5NCq5fL6GwrN4n</i> to CampBX account

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1 During the time that I devised and carried out this fraud and money laundering scheme, I was a  
2 Special Agent with the DEA and a member of the Baltimore Silk Road Task Force – which was actively  
3 engaged in investigating Silk Road, its vendors and buyers, and R.U., and for which there was an  
4 ongoing Grand Jury investigation in the District of Maryland. I agree that the Baltimore Silk Road  
5 Grand Jury investigation was an official proceeding. As a DEA Special Agent, I held a position of  
6 public trust and I abused that position. I further agree that my activities obstructed, influenced, and  
7 impeded the Baltimore Grand Jury related to its Silk Road investigation as well as its resulting case in  
8 the District of Maryland against R.U. by, among other things, (1) obstructing and impeding the ability of  
9 the investigation to fully utilize my work product after my fraud, and (2) obstructing, influencing, and  
10 impeding the Grand Jury’s investigation into R.U. in the District of Maryland. I agree that I acted  
11 corruptly in obstructing, influencing, and impeding the Grand Jury’s Silk Road investigation.

12 I further agree that in approximately late 2013, I invested \$110,000 worth of bitcoin in a digital  
13 currency exchange company, CoinMKT. Aside from being a principal investor in CoinMKT, I also  
14 improperly served as its de-facto Chief Compliance Officer while a DEA employee, offering to run  
15 NCIC and other criminal database checks and investigate and interview suspect users to CoinMKT’s  
16 benefit. I did all of this without obtaining the necessary approvals required for outside employment and  
17 despite the clear conflict of interest.

18 During my affiliation with CoinMKT, an accountholder at CoinMKT named R.P. was brought to  
19 my attention. I directed CoinMKT to freeze R.P.’s approximately \$337,000 in cash and digital currency  
20 funds and transfer them to the DEA. I agree that I had no legal basis for doing so. CoinMKT  
21 effectuated this transfer at my direction and transferred the funds to an account over which I had control.  
22 But instead of putting R.P.’s funds into a government account, I put them into my own personal digital  
23 currency accounts where I converted them to my own use. I then wrote reports designed to make it look  
24 to my superiors as if only \$37,000 in cash had been seized from R.P., not \$300,000 worth of digital  
25 currency.

26 In addition, I agree that I had an account at a payments company known as Venmo. On  
27 approximately February 12, 2014, Venmo froze my account. Shortly thereafter I used my supervisor’s  
28 signature stamp – without his authorization – on an official administrative subpoena and issued it to

1 Venmo, directing that it unfreeze my personal Venmo account. I then attempted to cover up my  
2 improper use of the subpoena by placing prior versions in burn boxes and directing Venmo to disregard  
3 the subpoena and not to contact anyone at the DEA about it. I also contacted another agent on the task  
4 force, S.R., about seizing Venmo's accounts for being an unregistered money service business.

5         Aside from my activities with CoinMKT, I also entered into a contract with Twentieth Century  
6 Fox Film Studios in March 2014 while still employed as a DEA agent. The contract related to a movie  
7 deal concerning the investigation into the Silk Road, which called for up to \$240,000 in payments.

8         I agree that by May of 2014, there was also an active San Francisco-based Grand Jury  
9 investigation into potential misconduct by myself and possibly others, and that the San Francisco Grand  
10 Jury subsequently began to investigate my conduct. I further agree that the San Francisco Grand Jury  
11 investigation was an official proceeding.

12         On May 30, 2014, I was interviewed by federal prosecutors, and Special Agents with the Federal  
13 Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Department of Justice Office  
14 of the Inspector General (OIG). I was in Washington D.C. at the time but knew that I was being  
15 interviewed by prosecutors and agents in San Francisco, within the Northern District of California, via  
16 videoconference. During that session, I intentionally misled and lied to those law enforcement officials.  
17 For example, I told them that I had never heard of "French Maid" and had never used that moniker to  
18 communicate with R.U. That was untrue, as stated above, because I was in fact "French Maid." I lied  
19 in an effort to focus the investigators' attention away from my own misconduct and illegal activities.

20         I agree that by lying to federal prosecutors and federal agents, I obstructed, influenced, and  
21 impeded the San Francisco-based Grand Jury investigation into my own criminal conduct.

22         3. I agree to give up all rights that I would have if I chose to proceed to trial, including the  
23 rights to a jury trial with the assistance of any attorney; to confront and cross-examine government  
24 witnesses; to remain silent or testify; to move to suppress evidence or raise any other Fourth or Fifth  
25 Amendment claims; to any further discovery from the government; and to pursue any affirmative  
26 defenses and present evidence. I agree, for purposes of entering this guilty plea, sentencing and all other  
27 proceedings relevant to the filing of this Agreement, to consent to the jurisdiction of the United States  
28 District Court for the Northern District of California. I expressly waive my right to object to venue in

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1 the Northern District of California for any count to which I am pleading.

2 4. I agree to give up my right to appeal my conviction, the judgment, and orders of the  
3 Court. I also agree to waive any right I have to appeal any aspect of my sentence, including any orders  
4 relating to forfeiture and or restitution.

5 5. I agree not to file any collateral attack on my conviction or sentence, including a petition  
6 under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 or 28 U.S.C. § 2241, except that I reserve my right to claim that my counsel was  
7 ineffective in connection with the negotiation of this Agreement or the entry of my guilty plea. I also  
8 agree not to seek relief under 18 U.S.C. § 3582.

9 6. I agree not to ask the Court to withdraw my guilty plea at any time after it is entered. I  
10 understand that by entering into this Agreement: (a) I agree that the facts set forth in Paragraph 2 of this  
11 Agreement shall be admissible against me under Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(A) in any subsequent  
12 proceeding, including at trial, in the event I violate any of the terms of this Agreement, and (b) I  
13 expressly waive any and all rights under Fed. R. Crim. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410 with regard to the  
14 facts set forth in Paragraph 2 of this Agreement in such subsequent proceeding. I understand that the  
15 government will not preserve any physical evidence obtained in this case.

16 7. I agree that the Court will use the Sentencing Guidelines to calculate my sentence. I  
17 understand that the Court must consult the Guidelines and take them into account when sentencing,  
18 together with the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). I also understand that the Court is not bound  
19 by the Guidelines calculations below, the Court may conclude that a higher Guidelines range applies to  
20 me, and, if it does, I will not be entitled, nor will I ask to withdraw my guilty plea. I agree that  
21 regardless of the sentence that the Court imposes on me, I will not be entitled, nor will I ask, to  
22 withdraw my guilty plea. I also agree that the Sentencing Guidelines offense level will be calculated as  
23 follows and that I will not ask for any other adjustment to or reduction in the offense level or for a  
24 downward departure from the Guidelines range as determined by the Court, other than for the claim of  
25 mental defect.

26 In the event that I intend to argue for a downward departure or variance based on any claim  
27 involving mental condition, I agree that I will provide the government with written notice of that at least  
28 60 days prior to sentencing and further agree as follows: (1) I will submit to a mental examination by an

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1 expert and/or professional of the government’s own choosing; (2) I understand that my attorneys would  
 2 not have the right to be physically present during the examination although they could be available for  
 3 questions; (3) in connection with that examination and in connection with advancing any argument for  
 4 downward departure or variance based on mental condition, I will not assert any privilege issues  
 5 surrounding that examination, whether Fifth Amendment privilege, doctor-patient privilege, attorney-  
 6 client privilege and/or any protection of claim or privilege arising under the Health Insurance Portability  
 7 and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”); and (4) I agree to provide the government and its expert and/or  
 8 professional with any reports and underlying data, materials, and documents surrounding any  
 9 professional and/or expert opinion I may retain and similarly will not assert any of the privileges  
 10 mentioned above.

11 The parties have reached no agreement regarding my Criminal History Category.

12 Count One:

- |    |    |  |                              |
|----|----|--|------------------------------|
| 13 | a. | Base Offense Level, U.S.S.G. §2S1.1:   | 7 (§2B1.1(a)(1))             |
| 14 | b. | Specific offense characteristics under U.S.S.G. Ch. 2:   | +2 (§2B1.1(b)(10))           |
| 15 |    |  | (sophisticated means)        |
| 16 |    |  | +2 (§2S1.1(b)(2)(B))         |
| 16 |    |  | (conviction for § 1956)      |
| 17 | c. | Adjustments under U.S.S.G. Ch. 3:  | +2 (§3B1.3)                  |
| 18 |    |  | (abuse of position of trust) |
| 19 |    |  | +2 (§3C1.1)                  |
| 19 |    |  | (obstruction of justice)     |
| 20 | d. | Acceptance of Responsibility: If I meet the requirements of U.S.S. G.§ 3E1.1, I may be             |                              |
| 21 |    | entitled to a three level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, provided that I forthrightly |                              |
| 22 |    | admit my guilt, cooperate with the Court and the Probation Office in any presentence               |                              |
| 22 |    | investigation ordered by the Court, and continue to manifest an acceptance of responsibility       |                              |
| 22 |    | through and including the time of sentencing: -3   |                              |
| 23 | e. | The parties have reached no agreement on whether a 12 or a 14 level enhancement for                |                              |
| 24 |    | amount of loss would apply under U.S.S.G. § 2B1.1(b)(1)(H) and agree that that issue may be        |                              |
| 25 |    | argued at sentencing.  |                              |
| 26 | f. | Adjusted Offense Level:  | 24-26 depending on the       |
| 27 |    |  | applicability of             |
| 27 |    |  | § 2B1.1(b)(1)(H)             |

28 Count Two:

- |    |    |                                      |                |
|----|----|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 28 | a. | Base Offense Level, U.S.S.G. §2J1.2: | 14 (§2J1.2(a)) |
|----|----|--------------------------------------|----------------|

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1 attributable to the counts to which I am pleading guilty, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3). I agree to  
 2 pay restitution in an amount to be set by the Court. I agree that any fine, forfeiture, or restitution  
 3 imposed by the Court against me will be immediately due and payable and subject to immediate  
 4 collection by the government and I understand that the government may seek immediate collection of  
 5 the entire fine, forfeiture, or restitution from any assets without regard to any schedule of payments  
 6 imposed by the Court or established by the Probation Office. I agree that I will make a good-faith effort  
 7 to pay any fine, forfeiture, or restitution I am ordered to pay. Before or after sentencing, I will upon  
 8 request of the Court, the government, or the Probation Office, provide accurate and complete financial  
 9 information, submit sworn statements and give depositions under oath concerning my assets and my  
 10 ability to pay, surrender assets I obtained as a result of my crimes, and release funds and property under  
 11 my control in order to pay any fine, forfeiture, or restitution. I agree to pay the special assessment at the  
 12 time of sentencing.

13 10. I agree not to commit or attempt to commit any crimes before sentence is imposed. I also  
 14 agree not to intentionally provide false information to the Court, the Probation Office, or the  
 15 government; and not to fail to comply with any of the other promises I have made in this Agreement. I  
 16 agree not to have any contact with any victims or witnesses in this case, either directly or indirectly,  
 17 before and after I am sentenced. This includes, but is not limited to, personal contact, telephone, mail,  
 18 or electronic mail contact, or any other written form of communication, and includes any harassing,  
 19 annoying, or intimidating conduct by me directed to any victims or witnesses. I agree that the Court  
 20 may also include this no-contact provision as a condition of my supervised release term. I agree that if I  
 21 fail to comply with any promises I have made in this Agreement, then the government will be released  
 22 from all of its promises in this Agreement, including those set forth in the Government's Promises  
 23 Section below, but I will not be released from my guilty plea.

24 11. I agree to forfeit the following property (hereinafter "subject property"):

- 25 a. \$13,045 in United States Currency held in a BTC-e account;
- 26 b. 400.00101 BTC in 14QPeQ2UZaMw9khqQeisVNT54j6A3U5KfE;
- 27 c. 51.53406841 BTC in 16MksrMPPrjUots9hZet8fC9fjNZoS4L2p;
- 28 d. 53 BTC in 1MZTe8a3C7EG6w4HGPLbkmcpRQJfkXkZCW;

- e. 70 BTC in 1MZTe8a3C7EG6w4HGpLbkmcpRQJfkXkZCW;
- f. 62.827622 BTC in 1PdCENKKFsAxz849SswQbuzWgouSC2x1Ly;
- g. 46 BTC in 1YCMDxDoYwRApGjyoPVi5onrN8JRLt383;
- h. \$44,082.65 in ScotTrade Account XXXX6437;
- i. \$150,000.00 traceable from federal income tax refund in lieu of forfeiture of Carl Mark Force's interest in real property located at 6722 Glenkirk Road, Baltimore, MD;
- j. \$17,759.06 held in the name of Engedi, LLC, controlled and owned by Carl Mark Force, in Bank of America Account XXXXXXXX6394; and
- k. \$65,658.51 in E-Trade Account XXXX5812.

I agree to provide a cashier's check made payable to the United States for the amounts listed above in Paragraph 11 (a)-(k) to Assistant United States Attorney Arvon Perteet, United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of California, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102, with the criminal docket number noted on the face of the check within 48 hours of the entry of my guilty plea.

Further, I agree to the administrative forfeiture of 200 Bitcoins seized from my Bitstamp account out of the District of Maryland in or about November 2014, by the United States Secret Service.

I admit that the subject property constitutes money involved in money laundering and/or proceeds from obstruction of justice and wire fraud, and thus is forfeitable to the United States pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(c), 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1)(A); 28, U.S.C. § 2461(c) and the procedures outlined in Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and 21 U.S.C. § 853. I relinquish any and all right, title, and interest I may have in the subject property and agree that such right, title, and interest can be forfeited to the United States without further notice to me. I also agree I will not contest, nor assist anyone in contesting any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding (whether criminal, civil, state or federal) which may be brought against said property. I further agree to waive all constitutional and statutory challenges in any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this Agreement on any grounds, including that the forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine or punishment or that the forfeiture proceeding

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1 was brought in violation of the statute of limitations.

2 I agree that the money involved in the wire transfers discussed above in Paragraph 2, is subject to  
3 forfeiture, and I agree to pay a forfeiture money judgment in the amount of \$500,000 (the “Forfeiture  
4 Money Judgment”). I further agree that the assets identified in Paragraph 11 (a) - (k), which were  
5 obtained through violations of money laundering (with predicate specified unlawful activities of wire  
6 fraud and theft of government property), obstruction of justice, and extortion, can be forfeited and will  
7 be used to offset the Forfeiture Money Judgment. I agree to fully assist the Government in effectuating  
8 the payment of the Forfeiture Money Judgment. I will fully disclose all my assets to the United States  
9 when requested, including completing a United States Department of Justice Financial Statement under  
10 penalty of perjury after entering my guilty plea. I will also provide valid keys and/or passwords for all  
11 virtual currency accounts and holdings listed in both Paragraph 11 (a) – (k) and accounts identified in  
12 my financial statement. If the United States discovers that I have failed to disclose assets to which I  
13 have any interest (the “Undisclosed Assets”), I hereby consent to the forfeiture of such Undisclosed  
14 Assets to the United States to satisfy the Forfeiture Money Judgment. I admit that the Forfeiture Money  
15 Judgment constitutes the net proceeds that I obtained, directly or indirectly as a result of violations of 18  
16 U.S.C. § 1343, 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(A) and (B), and 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2), and/or are substitute  
17 asset as defined in 21 U.S.C. § 853(p) and 18 U.S.C § 982(b), and thus are subject to forfeiture to the  
18 United States upon my guilty plea pursuant to this agreement. I agree that all payments that I make  
19 towards the Forfeiture Money Judgment shall be made certified or bank check, payable to the “United  
20 States” and sent by overnight delivery or certified U.S. Mail to United States Attorney Arvon Perteet,  
21 United States Attorney’s Office, Northern District of California, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San  
22 Francisco, California, 94102, with the criminal docket number noted on the face of the check.

23 12. I agree that this Agreement contains all of the promises and agreements between the  
24 government and me, and I will not claim otherwise in the future. No modification of this Agreement  
25 shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by all parties.

26 13. I agree that the Agreement binds the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of  
27 California and the United States Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section, only, and does not bind  
28 any other federal, state, or local agency, with the exception that the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the

PLEA AGREEMENT

1 District of Maryland agrees that it will not file charges against the defendant for obstructing the  
2 Baltimore Grand Jury's investigation into the Silk Road as recounted above in Paragraph 2 given that  
3 the defendant is accounting for the conduct here in the instant plea.

4 The Government's Promises

5 14. The government agrees not to file any additional charges against the defendant that could  
6 be filed for any of the conduct enumerated in Paragraph 2.

7 15. The government agrees to recommend the Guideline calculations set out above, unless  
8 the defendant violates the terms of the Agreement above or fails to accept responsibility.

9 The Defendant's Affirmations

10 16. I confirm that I have had adequate time to discuss this case, the evidence, and the  
11 Agreement with my attorney and that my attorney has provided me with all the legal advice that I  
12 requested.

13 17. I confirm that the while I considered signing this Agreement, and at the time I signed it, I  
14 was not under the influence of any alcohol, drug, or medicine that would impair my ability to understand  
15 the Agreement.

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1 18. I confirm that my decision to enter a guilty plea is made knowing the charges that have  
2 been brought against me, any possible defense, and the benefits and possible detriments of proceeding to  
3 trial. I also confirm that my decision to plead guilty is made voluntarily, and no one coerced or  
4 threatened me to enter into this Agreement.

5  
6 Dated: 7/1/15

  
CARL M. FORCE IV  
Defendant

MELINDA HAAG  
United States Attorney

9  
10 Dated: 7/1/15

  
KATHRYN HAUN  
WILLIAM FRENTZEN  
Assistant United States Attorneys

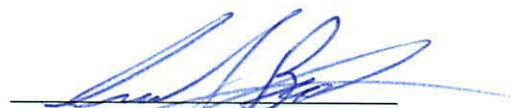
RAYMOND N. HULSER  
Chief, Public Integrity Section  
U.S. Department of Justice

14  
15 Dated: 7/1/15

  
RICHARD B. EVANS  
Trial Attorney

17 19. I have fully explained to my client all the rights that a criminal defendant has and all the  
18 terms of this Agreement. In my opinion, my client understands all the terms of this Agreement and all  
19 the rights my client is giving up by pleading guilty, and, based on the information now known to me, my  
20 client's decision to plead guilty is knowing and voluntary.

21  
22 Dated: 7/1/15

  
IVAN BATES, ESQ.  
Bate and Garcia, LLC  
LOYST PATRICK FLETCHER, ESQ.  
Attorneys for Defendant