

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

DARNELL LEAVY

No. 16 CR 50030-3

Judge Frederick J. Kapala

PLEA AGREEMENT

1. This Plea Agreement between the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, JOHN R. LAUSCH, JR., and defendant DARNELL LEAVY, and his attorney, ROBERT M. FAGAN, is made pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and is governed in part by Rule 11(c)(1)(A), as more fully set forth below. The parties to this Agreement have agreed upon the following:

Charges in This Case

2. The superseding indictment in this case charges defendant with conspiracy to interfere with commerce by robbery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a) (Count 1), attempted interference with commerce by robbery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a) (Count 6) and using, carrying, and brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(a) (Count 7).

3. Defendant has read the charges against him contained in the superseding indictment, and those charges have been fully explained to him by his attorney.

4. Defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the crimes with which he has been charged.

Charges to Which Defendant Is Pleading Guilty

5. By this Plea Agreement, defendant agrees to enter a voluntary plea of guilty to the following counts of the superseding indictment: Count 6, which charges defendant with attempted interference with commerce by robbery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a); and Count 7, which charges defendant with using, carrying, and brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(a).

Factual Basis

6. Defendant will plead guilty because he is in fact guilty of the charges contained in Counts 6 and 7 of the superseding indictment. In pleading guilty, defendant admits the following facts and that those facts establish his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt:

a. With respect to Count 6 of the superseding indictment:

On or about November 5, 2015, at Rockford, in the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, defendant DARNELL LEAVY, Ricky Claybron, and others, attempted to commit robbery, which robbery would have obstructed, delayed, and affected “commerce,” as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(b), and the movement of articles and commodities in commerce, by robbery, in that defendant attempted to unlawfully take and obtain money and property from the person and in the presence of an employee of Zake Convenience, a store located at 824 Seventh Street

in Rockford, Illinois, against that employee's will, by means of actual and threatened force, and fear of injury to that employee, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a).

Specifically, on November 5, 2015, at approximately 7:00 p.m., defendant, Ricky Claybron, and Robber B attempted to rob the Zake Convenience store located at 824 Seventh Street in Rockford, Illinois. Claybron entered the store first with his gun pointed at two clerks, who were behind a glass enclosure. Defendant entered second and also began pointing his gun at the clerks. Robber B entered third, carrying a bag meant for the proceeds of the robbery. The employees of the store barricaded themselves in the glassed-in area where the registers were located. Defendant tried to kick the door open, but was unsuccessful. In the meantime, Claybron came around the front of the glass enclosure and pointed his gun through the small hole in the front that is used to conduct business with customers. Eventually, defendant and the other robbers gave up on the robbery and walked out of the store. Defendant acknowledges that the Zake Convenience store operates in interstate commerce by selling various products, including Marlboro cigarettes, that are purchased in interstate commerce.

b. With respect to Count 7 of the superseding indictment:

On or about November 5, 2015, at Rockford, in the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, defendant DARNELL LEAVY, did use, carry, and brandish a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely, attempted robbery affecting commerce, in

violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a), as charged in Count Six of the Indictment, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A).

Specifically, during the November 5, 2015 attempted robbery of Zake Convenience store, defendant carried a gun. Defendant pointed the gun at the store employees in an attempt to get the employees to give him money or other items of value from the store.

Maximum Statutory Penalties

7. Defendant understands that the charges to which he is pleading guilty carry the following statutory penalties:

a. Count 6 carries a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment. Count 6 also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. Defendant further understands that with respect to Count 6 the judge also may impose a term of supervised release of not more than three years.

b. Count 7 carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and a statutory mandatory minimum sentence of 7 years. The sentence of imprisonment on Count 2 is required to be consecutive to any other sentence imposed. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3561, defendant may not be sentenced to a term of probation on this count. Count 7 also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. Defendant further understands that with respect to Count 7, the judge also may impose a term of supervised release of not more than five years.

c. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, defendant will be assessed \$100 on each count to which he has pled guilty, in addition to any other penalty imposed.

d. Therefore, under the counts to which defendant is pleading guilty, the total maximum sentence is life imprisonment, and the minimum sentence is 7 years' imprisonment. In addition, defendant is subject to a total maximum fine of \$500,000, a period of supervised release, and special assessments totaling \$200.

Sentencing Guidelines Calculations

8. Defendant understands that in determining a sentence, the Court is obligated to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and other sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), which include: (i) the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant; (ii) the need for the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law, and provide just punishment for the offense, afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct, protect the public from further crimes of the defendant, and provide the defendant with needed educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner; (iii) the kinds of sentences available; (iv) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and (v) the need to provide restitution to any victim of the offense.

9. For purposes of calculating the Sentencing Guidelines, the parties agree on the following points:

a. **Applicable Guidelines.** The Sentencing Guidelines to be considered in this case are those in effect at the time of sentencing. The following statements regarding the calculation of the Sentencing Guidelines are based on the Guidelines Manual currently in effect, namely the November 2018 Guidelines Manual.

b. **Offense Level Calculations.**

Count Six

i. The base offense level is 20, pursuant to Guideline § 2B3.1

ii. Defendant has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for his criminal conduct. If the government does not receive additional evidence in conflict with this provision, and if defendant continues to accept responsibility for his actions within the meaning of Guideline § 3E1.1(a), including by furnishing the United States Attorney's Office and the Probation Office with all requested financial information relevant to his ability to satisfy any fine that may be imposed in this case, a two-level reduction in the offense level is appropriate.

iii. In accord with Guideline § 3E1.1(b), defendant has timely notified the government of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently. Therefore, as provided by Guideline § 3E1.1(b), if the Court determines the offense level to be 16 or greater prior to determining that defendant is

entitled to a two-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, the government will move for an additional one-level reduction in the offense level.

Count Seven

iv. With respect to Count Seven, pursuant to § 2K2.4(b), the guidelines sentence is 84 months, which is the minimum term of imprisonment required by statute.

c. **Criminal History Category.** With regard to determining defendant's criminal history points and criminal history category, based on the facts now known to the government and stipulated below, defendant's criminal history points equal 13 and defendant's criminal history category is VI:

i. On or about February 27, 2009, defendant was convicted of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County and sentenced to 2 years' and 6 months' imprisonment. Pursuant to § 4A1.1(a), 3 criminal history points are added for this conviction.

ii. On or about February 11, 2011, defendant was convicted of possession of 10-30 grams of marijuana in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County and sentenced to 160 days' imprisonment. Pursuant to § 4A1.1(b), 2 criminal history points are added for this conviction.

iii. On or about June 2, 2011, defendant was convicted of criminal trespass to land in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County and sentenced to 160 days' imprisonment. Pursuant to § 4A1.1(b), 2 criminal history points are added for this conviction.

iv. On or about August 20, 2012, defendant was convicted of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County and was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment. Pursuant to § 4A1.1(a), 3 criminal history points are added for this conviction.

v. On or about May 11, 2017, defendant was convicted of aggravated robbery in the Circuit Court of Winnebago County and was sentenced to 9 years' imprisonment. Pursuant to § 4A1.1(a), 3 criminal history points are added for this conviction.

d. Anticipated Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Range.

Therefore, based on the facts now known to the government, with respect to Count Six, the anticipated offense level is 17, which, when combined with the anticipated criminal history category of VI, results in an anticipated advisory sentencing guidelines range of 51 to 63 months' imprisonment, in addition to any supervised release and fine the Court may impose. Defendant also acknowledges that he is subject to a statutory minimum sentence of 7 years' imprisonment.

e. Defendant and his attorney and the government acknowledge that the above guidelines calculations are preliminary in nature, and are non-binding predictions upon which neither party is entitled to rely. Defendant understands that further review of the facts or applicable legal principles may lead the government to conclude that different or additional guidelines provisions apply in this case. Defendant understands that the Probation Office will conduct its own investigation and that the Court ultimately determines the facts and law relevant to sentencing, and that the

Court's determinations govern the final guideline calculation. Accordingly, the validity of this Agreement is not contingent upon the probation officer's or the Court's concurrence with the above calculations, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw his plea on the basis of the Court's rejection of these calculations.

10. Both parties expressly acknowledge that this Agreement is not governed by Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), and that errors in applying or interpreting any of the sentencing guidelines may be corrected by either party prior to sentencing. The parties may correct these errors either by stipulation or by a statement to the Probation Office or the Court, setting forth the disagreement regarding the applicable provisions of the guidelines. The validity of this Agreement will not be affected by such corrections, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw his plea, nor the government the right to vacate this Agreement, on the basis of such corrections.

Agreements Relating to Sentencing

11. Each party is free to recommend whatever sentence it deems appropriate.

12. It is understood by the parties that the sentencing judge is neither a party to nor bound by this Agreement and may impose a sentence up to the maximum penalties as set forth above. Defendant further acknowledges that if the Court does not accept the sentencing recommendation of the parties, defendant will have no right to withdraw his guilty plea.

13. Defendant agrees to pay the special assessment of \$200 at the time of sentencing with a cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court.

14. After sentence has been imposed on the counts to which defendant pleads guilty as agreed herein, the government will move to dismiss the remaining count of the superseding indictment as to defendant.

Acknowledgments and Waivers Regarding Plea of Guilty

Nature of Agreement

15. This Agreement is entirely voluntary and represents the entire agreement between the United States Attorney and defendant regarding defendant's criminal liability in case 16 CR 50030-3.

16. This Agreement concerns criminal liability only. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, nothing herein shall constitute a limitation, waiver, or release by the United States or any of its agencies of any administrative or judicial civil claim, demand, or cause of action it may have against defendant or any other person or entity. The obligations of this Agreement are limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois and cannot bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

Waiver of Rights

17. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he surrenders certain rights, including the following:

a. **Trial rights.** Defendant has the right to persist in a plea of not guilty to the charges against him, and if he does, he would have the right to a public and speedy trial.

i. The trial could be either a jury trial or a trial by the judge sitting without a jury. However, in order that the trial be conducted by the judge sitting without a jury, defendant, the government, and the judge all must agree that the trial be conducted by the judge without a jury.

ii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be composed of twelve citizens from the district, selected at random. Defendant and his attorney would participate in choosing the jury by requesting that the Court remove prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or by removing prospective jurors without cause by exercising peremptory challenges.

iii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be instructed that defendant is presumed innocent, that the government has the burden of proving defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and that the jury could not convict him unless, after hearing all the evidence, it was persuaded of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and that it was to consider each count of the superseding indictment separately. The jury would have to agree unanimously as to each count before it could return a verdict of guilty or not guilty as to that count.

iv. If the trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and determine, after hearing all the evidence, and considering each count separately, whether or not the judge was persuaded that the government had established defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

v. At a trial, whether by a jury or a judge, the government would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against defendant.

Defendant would be able to confront those government witnesses and his attorney would be able to cross-examine them.

vi. At a trial, defendant could present witnesses and other evidence in his own behalf. If the witnesses for defendant would not appear voluntarily, he could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court. A defendant is not required to present any evidence.

vii. At a trial, defendant would have a privilege against self-incrimination so that he could decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from his refusal to testify. If defendant desired to do so, he could testify in his own behalf.

b. **Appellate rights.** Defendant further understands he is waiving all appellate issues that might have been available if he had exercised his right to trial, and may only appeal the validity of this plea of guilty and the sentence imposed. Defendant understands that any appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days of the entry of the judgment of conviction.

18. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he is waiving all the rights set forth in the prior paragraphs, with the exception of the appellate rights specifically preserved above. Defendant's attorney has explained those rights to him, and the consequences of his waiver of those rights.

Presentence Investigation Report/Post-Sentence Supervision

19. Defendant understands that the United States Attorney's Office in its submission to the Probation Office as part of the Pre-Sentence Report and at

sentencing shall fully apprise the District Court and the Probation Office of the nature, scope, and extent of defendant's conduct regarding the charges against him, and related matters. The government will make known all matters in aggravation and mitigation relevant to sentencing.

20. Defendant agrees to truthfully and completely execute a Financial Statement (with supporting documentation) prior to sentencing, to be provided to and shared among the Court, the Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office regarding all details of his financial circumstances, including his recent income tax returns as specified by the probation officer. Defendant understands that providing false or incomplete information, or refusing to provide this information, may be used as a basis for denial of a reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Guideline § 3E1.1 and enhancement of his sentence for obstruction of justice under Guideline § 3C1.1, and may be prosecuted as a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 or as a contempt of the Court.

21. For the purpose of monitoring defendant's compliance with his obligations to pay a fine during any term of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced, defendant further consents to the disclosure by the IRS to the Probation Office and the United States Attorney's Office of defendant's individual income tax returns (together with extensions, correspondence, and other tax information) filed subsequent to defendant's sentencing, to and including the final year of any period of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced. Defendant also agrees that a certified copy of this Agreement shall be sufficient evidence of defendant's

request to the IRS to disclose the returns and return information, as provided for in Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103(b).

Other Terms

22. Defendant agrees to cooperate with the United States Attorney's Office in collecting any unpaid fine for which defendant is liable, including providing financial statements and supporting records as requested by the United States Attorney's Office.

23. Defendant understands that, if convicted, a defendant who is not a United States citizen may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

Conclusion

24. Defendant understands that this Agreement will be filed with the Court, will become a matter of public record, and may be disclosed to any person.

25. Defendant understands that his compliance with each part of this Agreement extends throughout the period of his sentence, and failure to abide by any term of the Agreement is a violation of the Agreement. Defendant further understands that in the event he violates this Agreement, the government, at its option, may move to vacate the Agreement, rendering it null and void, and thereafter prosecute defendant not subject to any of the limits set forth in this Agreement, or may move to resentence defendant or require defendant's specific performance of this Agreement. Defendant understands and agrees that in the event that the Court permits defendant to withdraw from this Agreement, or defendant breaches any of its terms and the government elects to void the Agreement and prosecute defendant, any prosecutions

that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this Agreement may be commenced against defendant in accordance with this paragraph, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this Agreement and the commencement of such prosecutions.

26. Should the judge refuse to accept defendant's plea of guilty, this Agreement shall become null and void and neither party will be bound to it.

27. Defendant and his attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made, nor agreements reached, other than those set forth in this Agreement, to cause defendant to plead guilty.

28. Defendant acknowledges that he has read this Agreement and carefully reviewed each provision with his attorney. Defendant further acknowledges that he understands and voluntarily accepts each and every term and condition of this Agreement.

AGREED THIS DATE: _____

JOHN R. LAUSCH, JR.
United States Attorney

DARNELL LEAVY
Defendant

MARGARET J. SCHNEIDER
Assistant U.S. Attorney

ROBERT M. FAGAN
Attorney for Defendant