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**FILED**

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

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OCT 03 2019 *yy*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

THOMAS G. BRUTON  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

ROBERTO VELAZQUEZ MARTINEZ,  
also known as "Rafael"

CASE NUMBER: **19CR 768**  
**MAGISTRATE JUDGE CUMMINGS**

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Beginning no later than on or about October 23, 2018, and continuing to on or about December 4, 2018, at Chicago, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, and elsewhere, the defendant violated:

*Code Section*


In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846

*Offense Description*

Conspired with Individuals A, B, C, and others known and unknown, to knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute and distribute a controlled substance, namely, 5 kilograms or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance

This criminal complaint is based upon these facts:

Continued on the attached sheet.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOMARR CINTRON  
Special Agent, Drug Enforcement Administration  
(DEA)

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: October 3, 2019

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Judge's signature*

City and state: Chicago, Illinois

JEFFREY CUMMINGS, U.S. Magistrate Judge  
*Printed name and Title*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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**AFFIDAVIT**

I, JOMARR CINTRON, being duly sworn, state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration, and have been so employed for approximately nine years. I am currently assigned to the DEA Chicago Field Division. My current responsibilities include the investigation of narcotics trafficking offenses. I have received training in the enforcement of federal drug trafficking laws. I have been involved in numerous drug trafficking investigations, including multiple long-term investigations. I have had formal training and have participated in numerous complex drug trafficking investigations, including investigations using wiretaps. Based on my experience and training, I am familiar with various investigative techniques including, but not limited to, debriefing defendants, witnesses, and informants, as well as others who have knowledge of the distribution and transportation of controlled substances; surveillance; and the analysis of documentary and physical evidence. I have been involved in various types of electronic surveillance, including the use of wire interceptions and consensual recordings.

2. This affidavit is submitted in support of a criminal complaint alleging that ROBERTO VELAZQUEZ MARTINEZ, also known as "Rafael," has violated Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause in support of a criminal complaint

charging VELAZQUEZ with conspiracy to knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute and distribute a controlled substance, namely, 5 kilograms or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to believe that the defendant committed the offense alleged in the complaint.

3. This affidavit is based on my personal knowledge, information from confidential sources, consensually recorded phone calls and meetings, physical surveillance, witness interviews, travel records, information received from other law enforcement officers, review of law enforcement databases, my experience and training, and the experience of other law enforcement officers.

#### **FACTS SUPPORTING PROBABLE CAUSE**

##### **A. Summary of Probable Cause**

4. In summary, DEA is investigating ROBERTO VELAZQUEZ MARTINEZ ("VELAZQUEZ") and other individuals believed to be associated with the Sinaloa drug trafficking organization ("Sinaloa DTO") in connection with their importation and distribution of cocaine into the United States.

5. On or about October 23, 2018, two DEA confidential sources posing as members of a Colombian DTO ("CS-1" and "CS-2") consensually recorded a meeting with VELAZQUEZ and Individual A in Mexico City during which they discussed the parameters of a deal where VELAZQUEZ and Individual A would purchase from CS-

1 and CS-2 and distribute multi-hundred kilogram quantities of cocaine into Mexico and the United States.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the meeting, neither CS-1 and CS-2 had ever met or spoken with VELAZQUEZ. During that meeting and subsequent consensually recorded phone calls between CS-1 and VELAZQUEZ, Individual A and VELAZQUEZ agreed to buy approximately 600 kilograms of cocaine (with a portion to be delivered in Chicago and the remaining quantity in Mexico, as well as a portion to be jointly distributed) and agreed to meet in Honduras in November to finalize the arrangements.

6. Between on or about November 15, 2018, and on or about November 21, 2018, CS-1 and CS-2 conducted multiple meetings with VELAZQUEZ and Individual

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<sup>1</sup> CS-1 has been cooperating with DEA since approximately 2012. CS-1 is cooperating with law enforcement in exchange for monetary consideration (CS-1 receives a percentage of the money or value of narcotics DEA is able to seize as a result of his/her cooperation) and immigration status benefits in the United States. To date, CS-1 has been paid approximately over one million dollars in reimbursement, compensation, and in connection with awards resulting from drug and/or money seizures. CS-1 has multiple prior felony convictions, including for offenses involving possession of a firearm, forgery, and illegal re-entry. CS-1 has provided timely and accurate information that has been corroborated by law enforcement through surveillance, consensual recordings, phone records, and law enforcement reporting. CS-1 is not a U.S. citizen and, as part of his/her cooperation, he/she receives immigration benefits that allow him/her to stay and travel in the United States.

CS-2 has been cooperating with DEA since approximately 2012. CS-2 is cooperating with law enforcement in exchange for monetary consideration (CS-2 receives a percentage of the money or value of narcotics DEA is able to seize as a result of his/her cooperation) and immigration status benefits in the United States. To date, CS-2 has been paid approximately over \$275,000 in reimbursement, compensation, and in connection with awards resulting from drug and/or money seizures. CS-2 has multiple prior felony convictions including for drug-related offenses. CS-2 has provided timely and accurate information that has been corroborated by law enforcement through surveillance, consensual recordings, phone records, and law enforcement reporting. CS-2 is not a U.S. citizen and, as part of his/her cooperation, he/she receives immigration benefits that allow him/her to stay and travel in the United States.

B in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, (including multiple meetings that were consensually recorded using concealed audio and video recording devices). During those meetings, in summary, CS-1 and CS-2 showed VELAZQUEZ and Individual B approximately 140 brick-shaped packages of “sham” cocaine (a substance designed to look like cocaine), CS-1 and CS-2 facilitated a video call with a different confidential source posing as a pilot and VELAZQUEZ and Individual B, and VELAZQUEZ agreed to receive six hundred kilograms of cocaine in Durango, Mexico, and another 375 kilograms of cocaine in Chicago, for further distribution.

7. On or about November 18, 2018, CS-2, along with two undercover law enforcement officers, met with Individual C (VELAZQUEZ’s associate responsible for delivering the money for the transaction in Chicago) and showed Individual C approximately 80 brick-shaped packages of “sham” cocaine. Individual C never returned with the money to finalize the transaction. According to CS-1, Individual B told CS-1 that Individual C did not want to bring the money to the meeting location and Individual C reported that he did not see the entire load of cocaine, and therefore the transaction would have to be rescheduled.

8. Between on or about November 19, 2018, and on or about December 4, 2018, at law enforcement’s direction, CS-1 exchanged multiple consensually recorded calls separately with VELAZQUEZ and Individual B during which, CS-1 agreed to meet with VELAZQUEZ in Chicago to receive 40 kilograms of cocaine to be followed by another meeting in Honduras to consummate the rest of the transaction.

9. On or about December 3, 2018, at law enforcement's direction, CS-1 met with VELAZQUEZ at a particular hotel in downtown Chicago, during which they confirmed a meeting for the next day where CS-1 would deliver 40 kilograms of cocaine to VELAZQUEZ and VELAZQUEZ would arrange to deliver between \$1 million and \$2 million to CS-1.

10. On or about December 4, 2018, CS-1 and CS-2 met with VELAZQUEZ, who instructed them to follow him to a residence in Stickney, Illinois. Once they arrived at the residence, VELAZQUEZ, CS-1, CS-2, met inside of a garage and awaited individuals, including Individual C, to arrive with cash for the purchase of cocaine. When DEA approached the garage, VELAZQUEZ and others ran from the garage. Ultimately, law enforcement seized approximately \$145,000 in cash, but VELAZQUEZ fled.

**B. October 23-24, 2018, Meetings With VELAZQUEZ, Individual A, and Suspected Members of the Sinaloa DTO in Mexico City**

11. On or about October 23, 2018, DEA met with CS-1 and CS-2 at a pre-arranged location in Mexico City in anticipation of a meeting with Individual A and other individuals believed to be members of the Sinaloa DTO. DEA searched CS-1 and CS-2 for contraband and excessive money with negative results, and equipped both CS-1 and CS-2 with concealed video and audio recording devices.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The video recording device for CS-2 failed due to an error in installing it, while the video recording device for CS-1 was accidentally obscured by CS-1's clothing after it was provided to him/her.

12. At approximately 5 p.m., at DEA's direction, Mexican law enforcement established physical surveillance at the meeting location, a particular restaurant located in the Polanco neighborhood of Mexico City, Mexico (the "restaurant"). At approximately 8 p.m., DEA established physical surveillance in the vicinity of the restaurant.

13. At approximately 8:49 p.m., Mexican law enforcement saw VELAZQUEZ,<sup>3</sup> Individual A, and two other Hispanic males, enter the restaurant. Mexican law enforcement conducting physical surveillance inside the restaurant saw Individual A subsequently seated inside with multiple individuals. Mexican law enforcement subsequently provided photos to DEA, which identified the individuals as including CS-1, CS-2, VELAZQUEZ, and Individual A.

14. At approximately 10:37 p.m., Mexican law enforcement saw the group leave the restaurant and walk inside a nearby hotel.

15. At approximately 10:44 p.m., DEA agents conducting surveillance saw the group arrive, saw them enter the hotel lobby, and saw them meet near the hotel's lobby bar for approximately several hours.

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<sup>3</sup> DEA identified VELAZQUEZ based upon, among other things: (1) physical surveillance and photographs taken of VELAZQUEZ in Mexico City on or about October 23, 2018; (2) physical surveillance of VELAZQUEZ in Honduras between on or about November 15, 2018, and on or about November 19, 2018; (3) a photo of VELAZQUEZ and his name obtained from U.S. Customs and Border Protection based upon passenger flight information provided by DEA; (4) comparison with travel and immigration records related to VELAZQUEZ's travel to the United States on or about December 2, 2018; (5) CS-1's photos of VELAZQUEZ's luggage tag upon arrival in Honduras on or about November 15, 2018; (6) photos of VELAZQUEZ's passport found abandoned at his hotel in Chicago on or about December 4, 2018; (7) physical surveillance of VELAZQUEZ in the Chicago area in or around December 2018; and (8) based upon CS-1's and CS-2's identification of a photo of VELAZQUEZ with identifiers removed.

16. At approximately 11:30 p.m., DEA agents saw CS-1, CS-2, VELAZQUEZ, and Individual A leave the lobby and enter an elevator while the others remained at the hotel lobby bar under DEA surveillance.

17. About an hour later, at approximately 12:30 a.m., DEA agents saw CS-1, CS-2, VELAZQUEZ, and Individual A, exit one of the lobby elevators together and rejoin the others near the hotel lobby bar.

18. At approximately 1:30 a.m., DEA agents saw the group leave the hotel and saw CS-1 and CS-2 separate from the others.

19. At approximately 2:30 a.m., DEA met with CS-1 and CS-2 at a pre-arranged location where they were both searched for the presence of contraband and large amounts of money, with negative results, and the concealed recording devices were recovered. DEA agents then debriefed CS-1 and CS-2 together.

20. According to both CS-1 and CS-2, during the meeting in the hotel room with VELAZQUEZ and Individual A, CS-1 and CS-2 identified themselves as members of a Colombian DTO that transported large quantities of cocaine through Honduras to Costa Rica, Europe, and the United States (including Illinois, Indiana, and New York).<sup>4</sup> According to CS-1 and CS-2, VELAZQUEZ and Individual A stated that they previously had received up to a ton of cocaine in Chicago, Illinois, and wanted to re-establish that operation through a new source of supply. According to CS-1 and CS-2, they discussed with VELAZQUEZ and Individual A their methods of

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<sup>4</sup> According to CS-1, VELAZQUEZ initially introduced himself as "Rafael," but CS-1 heard Individual A at one point refer to VELAZQUEZ as "Roberto."



receiving and distributing cocaine and drug proceeds in Mexico and the United States, possible routes for transporting cocaine (including into the United States), and pricing of possible future shipments of multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine. According to CS-1 and CS-2, they agreed with VELAZQUEZ and Individual A to meet later that day (on or about October 24, 2018) to continue discussions about a possible partnership.

21. Based upon a review of the audio recorded by CS-1's and CS-2's concealed recording devices, during the meeting in the hotel room, in summary, VELAZQUEZ and Individual A agreed to purchase 600 kilograms of cocaine from CS-1 and CS-2 (200 kilograms were to be paid for upon delivery, 200 kilograms were to be provided on credit, and 200 kilograms were to be paid for upon their distribution in Chicago). In addition, during the meeting, VELAZQUEZ and Individual A agreed to distribute another 100 kilograms of cocaine in the Chicago area on CS-1 and CS-2's behalf in exchange for a share of the profits. During the meeting, CS-1, CS-2, VELAZQUEZ, and Individual A had the following exchange:<sup>5</sup>

VELAZQUEZ: [STAMMERS] We have a landing strip where I'm from, which you are welcome to stay, it's an armament spot right there, but no one from the government will kick you out. It's like what a jungle is to you guys. And [STAMMERS]

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<sup>5</sup> DEA identified VELAZQUEZ's voice based upon: (1) physical surveillance of VELAZQUEZ at meetings with CS-1 and CS-2 that were consensually recorded; (2) CS-1 and CS-2's identification of the voice as belonging to VELAZQUEZ; and (3) on November 19, 2018, CS-1 was able to take a snapshot of a video call with VELAZQUEZ during which VELAZQUEZ appeared to show him/her an airstrip (in conjunction with other recorded conversations discussing that VELAZQUEZ would provide CS-1 and CS-2 with coordinates for an airstrip and the fact that VELAZQUEZ later provided CS-2 with GPS coordinates pertaining to an airstrip located in Mexico to CS-2).

there's a landing strip, and everything is there, the landing strip is ours, and there isn't any...<sup>6</sup>

CS-1: Let's reach an agreement. If you want, we can meet again outside of Mexico. And we'll reach an agreement. The numbers . . . you let me know, if we'll do 300 [kilograms of cocaine] from Honduras. They are at six thousand [\$6,000] or seven thousand [\$7,000] dollars for each one in Honduras right now. And we'll make arrangements with law enforcement on the way. We'll set up [STAMMERS] a good bargain, so it can be of interest to you guys, and so we can profit.

Individual A: What's the offer? How many are you going to sell to me and how many are you going to give me on credit?

CS-1: It's just a matter of you saying, "Hey, buddy, we need, we need 500 [kilograms of cocaine]." I'll give you 250 on credit and you'll buy from me 250. And I'll give you 250 more, from my stuff, where I'm included with your stuff that's going up over there. You'll charge me your percentage, for my 250, because everything has a price.

Individual A: Mm-hum.

CS-1: I understand that. I understand all of that. You tell me, "Give me 250." You'll get 210, 200 units [kilograms of cocaine] aside from everything, and I'll come in to play

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<sup>6</sup> Reference is made in this Affidavit to consensually-recorded conversations (collectively, the "conversations"). In certain instances, these conversations are summarized and placed in context in brackets. The bracketed comments are my understanding of the conversations and coded language used during those conversations. My understanding is based on my training and experience and investigation to date, my discussions with other law enforcement officers, the experience of other law enforcement officers in this investigation, and other evidence developed during the course of the investigation, including information obtained from confidential sources. The times listed for the conversations are approximate. Unless otherwise noted, the conversations are in Spanish and were translated by Spanish speaking law enforcement officers or interpreters contracted by DEA. Finally, for these recordings that were originally recorded in Spanish, I have relied on draft - - not final - - English translations of conversations in Spanish done by DEA agents and/or interpreters. Further, summaries of the conversations described herein do not represent finalized transcripts and may not represent the entire conversation that occurred between the identified individuals. Italicized words appearing in such summaries were spoken in English, or have been left in Spanish for emphasis.

without an issue, buddy. The most important thing is for you to give me a profit, [STAMMERS] to our office. Because I'll profit. I'll talk to you as I am, a negotiator, I'll profit. And that's my job, to look for business for the office.

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VELAZQUEZ: How many fit in the jet? 600 [kilograms of cocaine]?

CS-1: 650 fit.

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Individual A: The stamp that you put on it in Colombia, that same stamp will arrive to Chicago?

[VOICES OVERLAP]

CS-1: Currently, we are working with Gucci, with the Horseshoe [brand stamps for cocaine]. Are you guys, familiar with them?<sup>7</sup>

Individual A: Yes.

VELAZQUEZ: I'm familiar with Gucci.

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CS-1: It's a good material that yields 98 or 99 [percent purity].

Individual A: Actually, if we add another stamp, can we add another stamp?

CS-1: Whatever you guys want.

VELAZQUEZ: Of course, they'll do it as per your instructions.

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<sup>7</sup> Based upon my training, experience, and familiarity with the investigation, I know that those involved in drug trafficking will sometimes stamp or mark their product with a certain brand name or image, to distinguish its origin and quality from other drug products.

**C. October 24, 2018 Meeting With VELAZQUEZ and Individual A in Mexico City**

22. On or about October 24, 2018, at approximately 9:35 p.m., at law enforcement's direction, CS-1 and CS-2 met with VELAZQUEZ and Individual A at a restaurant in the Cuahtémoc neighborhood of Mexico City, Mexico.<sup>8</sup> According to CS-1, he/she told VELAZQUEZ and Individual A that CS-1's boss in Colombia may have a load of cocaine headed to Chicago, and VELAZQUEZ inquired about investing in that load. According to CS-1, he/she agreed with VELAZQUEZ that they would meet in Honduras after November 14, 2018, to discuss the anticipated delivery of multiple hundreds of kilograms of cocaine to VELAZQUEZ and Individual A in Durango, Mexico, and Chicago, Illinois. According to CS-1, VELAZQUEZ and Individual A agreed to meet in Honduras and agreed to provide GPS coordinates and landmarks to aid CS-2's pilot in delivering the cocaine to clandestine landing strips located in Mexico.

**D. Consensually Recorded Calls with VELAZQUEZ Arranging the November Meetings in Honduras**

23. Between on or about October 29, 2018, and on or about November 15, 2018, at law enforcement's direction, CS-1 exchanged multiple consensually recorded

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<sup>8</sup> DEA was unable to surveil the meeting.

calls (voice calls using the WhatsApp application)<sup>9</sup> with VELAZQUEZ, during which they discussed the agreement to purchase cocaine and future meetings in Honduras.

24. On the afternoon of on or about October 29, 2018, at law enforcement's direction, CS-1 exchanged a consensually recorded WhatsApp call with VELAZQUEZ, who was using the Mexican telephone number 52-XX-XXXX-7176 ("VELAZQUEZ Phone 1"), during which, in summary, they discussed CS-1 and CS-2 selling VELAZQUEZ 600 kilograms of cocaine, VELAZQUEZ providing the money in Mexico, and had the following exchange:

CS-1: That's good. Interesting, buddy. Uh, I'm here with the man, and the family, you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh. Yes.

CS-1: Thing is, they, they approved [STAMMERS] 600 ceramic pieces [kilograms of cocaine], to be installed in the building [airplane], you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: Of course.

CS-1: Okay, so then, they want, uh, they are asking me, how can you guys pay the 200? If you guys can pay for them over there, where [Individual A] mentioned [in Chicago, Illinois]?

VELAZQUEZ: Where is that?

CS-1: Uh, uh, in, in Chicago.

VELAZQUEZ : No, listen, um, I think it's easier if I get them from you here where you are going to arrive. And I'll move up the money

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<sup>9</sup> Based upon information from WhatsApp's website, WhatsApp offers itself as an application that provides secure text messaging, chat, voice calls, and video calls using a device's internet connection. For those calls between CS-1 and others using WhatsApp, CS-1 consensually recorded the audio of the call with a separate recording device and then transmitted those recordings to DEA. Unless otherwise noted, law enforcement was able to view and download CS-1's WhatsApp chat message communications afterwards.

right here for you, so you don't spend on it [delivering the payment in Mexico].

CS-1: Because, then, one thing... in other words, with your 200, besides our credit and everything... if, they're saying...

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: [STAMMERS] They are asking if you guys can... in regards [STAMMERS] to the 200, uh, if you guys can turn in the money when you guys are there [STAMMERS] in Honduras.

VELAZQUEZ: I would give them [the money] to you right here where I'm at [in Mexico]. Right here. So like . . . .

CS-1: Uh-huh.

VELAZQUEZ: You can send me your guys and if you want I'll go with you. It's up to you, whatever you think it's convenient. Um, we'll go and once you get here, right here, where you come down, I'll move the money up for you.

CS-1: That's the issue. Because the issue, the boss is telling me right here is that they are going, they are going to land [STAMMERS] somewhere else from there. [CS-1 was telling VELAZQUEZ that they could not receive the money in Mexico because the aircraft would head to another airport before returning.] But then, it would be a normal one [commercial airport]. And it won't be possible, because they've had issues before, you get me? On that end. He is asking, [STAMMERS] where else can you guys turn it in for him [deliver the money]?

VELAZQUEZ: Oh, gosh. No well... [SIGHS] no well, honestly, I have the paper [money] here for you [in Mexico]. Actually, I have it here.

CS-1: Mm-hum. Because we are going to turn in the, the 600, but [STAMMERS] the boss is saying right here [STAMMERS] that for your 200... and, and it's going to get paid... [STAMMERS] to move them up [STAMMERS] it's going to cost 1,800 from Honduras to where you guys are located [there would be additional expenses to deliver the cocaine in Mexico instead of Honduras].

VELAZQUEZ: Oh, okay.

CS-1: Per unit [kilogram of cocaine], you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: That has been arranged already. So now, the boss... we are going to get organized, to, to send that out there and so you guys can head out there [to Honduras] with us. And I don't know if one of you guys is [STAMMERS] going to leave in the plane, you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: Yes, yes, that's not a problem [one of VELAZQUEZ's associates would travel back to Mexico on the aircraft loaded with the cocaine].

CS-1: So now, [STAMMERS] how can we go [STAMMERS] about receiving [STAMMERS] the money of the 200 [kilograms of cocaine]?

VELAZQUEZ: I . . . well, [STAMMERS] . . . I . . . well, just like you had mentioned, I can put it [the money] in the plane right there.

CS-1: Uh, that's the issue. That plane... is [STAMMERS] not going...the boss [STAMMERS] doesn't want it to go back... where the money is, because it's going to land at, at a normal [commercial] airport, you get me? From there to here.

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: And that's the issue, we've, we've hit a snag before. And the boss is saying we can't do it like that for now. If you guys can... which place, where can you guys turn that in?

VELAZQUEZ: I can turn it in to you in Mexico City. What do you think? [VELAZQUEZ was offering to deliver the money for the cocaine in Mexico City]

CS-1: In Mexico City?

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: So then, we would have to, we would have to... let me, let me... then, I'll, I'll call you back in a few minutes. So he

can let [STAMMERS] me know what he's going to say right now. And I'll call you in a few minutes, you hear me?

25. Later that afternoon, at law enforcement's direction, CS-1 exchanged a consensually recorded WhatsApp call with VELAZQUEZ, who was using VELAZQUEZ Phone 1, during which, in summary, they discussed the logistics of the transaction (including the quantity of cocaine, pricing, delivery location, payment, and a future meeting in Honduras) and had the following exchange:

CS-2: In, in Chicago and in Indiana... well, [an associate of CS-1 and CS-2] said he's going to, he's going to recei... he's going to answer, he's going to receive that stuff [100 kilograms of cocaine] out there [in Chicago].

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: And so then, now... we are going to send the, the Honduras stuff [600 kilograms of cocaine] with you guys.

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: And also, the Chicago stuff [cocaine] will arrive. So then, do you guys have people out there who, who can answer?

VELAZQUEZ: Yes, yes, of course. [Individual A] has all the people [Unintelligible]. [VELAZQUEZ was telling CS-1 that they had people ready to receive the cocaine in Chicago.]

[VOICES OVERLAP]

CS-1: Okay, we need at least... at least 250 to 300 uh, uh, will be moved up in pieces of fruit [250-300 kilograms of cocaine would be transported and concealed in shipments of fruit].<sup>10</sup> I think they are about to leave... [ASIDE: Boss, when?] In the next two or three days, they are going to head out there, said the boss.

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<sup>10</sup> Based upon my training, experience, and familiarity with the investigation, I know that those involved in drug trafficking will sometimes commingle drugs shipped in cover loads of produce or other materials so as to evade law enforcement detection.



VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: And we in Honduras, uh, like, we will be on the 15th... that stuff will arrive to Chicago on the 15th [the cocaine would arrive to Chicago on November 15], you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: So then, we will meet on the 15th in Chicago. So now, about your money, your two hundred . . . the boss said he definitely doesn't want to get money in Mexico. Because, buddy, we've run into... [CHUCKLES] some issues, buddy.

VELAZQUEZ: Mm-hum.

CS-1: Where can you guys send it to, outside of it?

VELAZQUEZ: Well, buddy, like I told you. You asked me, [STAMMERS] if I can put it in an airplane... I have it ready, buddy [VELAZQUEZ would have the money for the cocaine].

CS-1: Yes, but the boss is telling me now that, that...

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: I made arrangements at once, and I had everything set up at once as it should be.

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CS-1: We will be with you guys on the 15th [November 15].

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: Because the stuff would be arriving by, by that date, you [STAMMERS] already know.

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: So then, that's what they... the boss is listening right here, right now what you are saying, so he wants you to confirm coming out of your mouth that you guys are going to be out there and we can negotiate the 300 [kilograms of cocaine] in Chicago. Because I'm telling him . . . because they have other people further ahead, in New York. But I told him that you guys can negotiate those 300 [kilograms of cocaine] in Chicago.

VELAZQUEZ: Yes, those [STAMMERS] can be done, but also for that [BACKGROUND: NOISE], um, we would need to arrive and once we arrive... um... once it arrives, once it arrives... I doubt the half would be ready, but maybe... I can have it for you in a week at the most. [VELAZQUEZ could pay for the entire amount of cocaine in less than one week.]

CS-1: No, no, in other words... uh... you don't... in other words... if you can at least pay something, because we need to pay something out there in Chicago, you get me? That's, that's the reason the boss needs the money.

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: How much do you need?

CS-1: The boss needs to pay at least a million [\$1,000,000] plus, buddy.

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: From a million to two million [\$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000], and [STAMMERS] including the Honduras stuff and the Chicago stuff. So then, he has some people up over there, further up from, from Chicago. So I told the boss that you guys have muscle in Chicago, you know what I mean?

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh. Okay.

CS-1: And he's telling me that if you guys have a buyer out there, they will give the 300 [kilograms of cocaine] to you guys. And I'm going to give you a price that's going to make you fall back once, once I tell you the price you are going to get. [LAUGHS]

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: If you get the 300 [kilograms of cocaine] from me, buddy... listen... [ASIDE: At 26? [\$26,000 per kilogram of cocaine] Okay.] [STAMMERS] The boss is saying that if you guys get the 300 [kilograms of cocaine], he'll price it to you guys for 26 or 27 per unit [\$26,000 or \$27,000 per kilogram of cocaine].

VELAZQUEZ: In Chicago?

CS-1: Placed in Chicago, but you guys need to solve the thing pertaining to Honduras and Chicago, buddy. And you will be in Honduras with us [CS-1 and CS-2 would deliver a portion of the cocaine to VELAZQUEZ in Honduras].

VELAZQUEZ: Listen, give me some time. Give me some time. I think so, but I need to talk to, to some people to . . . [VELAZQUEZ needed to talk with his co-conspirators.]

CS-1: Buddy, we'll get the money in Chicago, or in Indiana, wherever you want, but we will send that wherever you want out there.

VELAZQUEZ: Okay, so then, it, it would be... you want... for me to come up with a million and a half [\$1,500,000]?

CS-1: At least a million nine hundred [\$1,900,000], or two million [\$2,000,000], buddy, for all of the Honduras, and the, and the Chicago thing. And you'll be going with us. Once you guys are done working, we are going to fly again, but we are only flying to take with 200 or 300 [kilograms of cocaine], so we can pick the money up.

VELAZQUEZ: Okay, hold on, because as you know, I just turned in some money out there, so that it is not moved down [VELAZQUEZ still had drug proceeds in the Chicago area].

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VELAZQUEZ: That's right. But I'm ready right here. I'm ready right here where I'm at. I'm ready, buddy, with the paper and everything [VELAZQUEZ had the cash to purchase the cocaine located in Mexico currently]. If you want, I can send you a picture, a video, or whatever you want that I have your paper [money] right here. Ready.

CS-1: Okay.

VELAZQUEZ: [SIGHS]

CS-1: But, listen to me, do every possible thing, please, out there in Chicago . . . [BACKGROUND: BEEPING SOUND] While you guys give us something, or you guys move out something out there, once we arrive out there to Monterrey. But we want to move the Chicago thing out, because the boss already . . . I told him you guys have

potential, so we can start sending stuff directly to you guys though Honduras and also through Chicago, you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: Mm-hum. Yeah, yeah.

[VOICES OVERLAP]

CS-1: And I'll give you a good price, buddy. [STAMMERS] I'm going to get you situated like I told you out there, you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: Yeah, that's not, that's not the issue, buddy. That's not the issue. I mean, the issue is . . . Well, I already talked to my buddies from out here, and they are ready. They are expecting this. They asked me, "For when?" I told them, "On such date. We are ready." Just tell us a few days ahead. Let me know when you go to Honduras, so I can be ready, so I don't do anything, so I don't go out, or anything.

CS-1: Uh . . .

VELAZQUEZ: So then, we are already organized with this. We are ready with this and so if I change the game on them... then they're going to ask me, "Hey, hey, what's, what's wrong with you? What are you thinking? Things don't work like this . . ."

[VOICES OVERLAP]

CS-1: The issue is . . .

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: "...Are you serious or not?"

CS-1: The issue is, that's the issue, you get me? [STAMMERS] We've somewhat hit a snag out there, but like I said try your best and let me know. Do you agree?

VELAZQUEZ: [SIGHS] No, well, I think it's complicated, buddy, huh? I think it's complicated, but let me, let me check, let me check what I can do. I'll let you know tomorrow, tomorrow. I'll tell you, "You know what? This thing is possible or that other thing is possible." I'm not, I'm not going to lie to you. For real, if I can't do it, then I'll tell you, "I can't do it."

CS-1: Mm-hum.

VELAZQUEZ: Because I don't want to take on a deal that I can't deliver upon.

CS-1: Since [Individual A] said he had his people in Chicago and that he had potential that's the reason I told the boss that you guys had, buddy . . .

VELAZQUEZ: Yes, but, but listen, he does have them. So let's say you arrive... I can assure you that he can sell two or three hundred [200 or 300 kilograms of cocaine] for you in a week. But when you arrive, when you arrive there, he won't have the money there. You would have to wait for it. [VELAZQUEZ was telling CS-1 that Individual A would be able to sell 200-300 kilograms of cocaine in a week if delivered to Chicago but that CS-1 would have to wait for the full payment.]

CS-1: Uh-huh. That's why I'm saying if he can, if we give him 300 [kilograms of cocaine], can he have at least for a hundred? While we are in Honduras, you guys can move that out, you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: I need to talk to [Individual A]. I need to talk to him, and I need to talk to some other people I have there [in Chicago].

CS-1: Go ahead, then. So then, no problem, buddy. But . . .

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: And then, at 26 [\$26,000], that price really, um, is that [STAMMERS] the most he can do?

CS-1: Let me... [LAUGHS] Oh, buddy. Oh, this sucker. [LAUGHS]

VELAZQUEZ: No, buddy, it's, it's a big quantity.

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VELAZQUEZ: [SIGHS] Oh, no, fuck. Thing is, I had the other thing organized, it was all ready. I'm ready.

[VOICES OVERLAP]

CS-1: Get going, get going, get going, buddy, because we need money to pay some things out there, buddy. And the boss is rushing, because of that. We are going to meet up on the 15th out there in, in Honduras.

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: We are going to arrive over there. And God willing we are going to make money, buddy. [PAUSE] Talk to me.

VELAZQUEZ: Yeah. No, no, no, I'm thinking, I'm thinking. For real, buddy . . .

CS-1: Buddy, [STAMMERS] we'll be in touch, you hear me? Go ahead with it, take it easy. Take your time, there's still time left to the 15th . . . [STAMMERS] so we can go out there, but we need the money ready out there, you hear me? And I'll get the price situated for you, [STAMMERS] the twenty-six [\$26,000 per kilogram]. Let me talk to them and [STAMMERS] I'll write to you, I'll write to you.

VELAZQUEZ: Go ahead.

CS-1: All right, buddy.

VELAZQUEZ: Sounds good, then. I'll call you tomorrow and I'll let you know what . . . .

26. The next day, on or about October 30, 2018, at law enforcement's direction, CS-1 placed a consensually recorded WhatsApp voice call with VELAZQUEZ, who was using VELAZQUEZ Phone 1, during which, in summary, they discussed logistics of the transaction and had the following exchange:

CS-1: Of course, and how's everything? How's [Individual A] doing? Talk to me. Is everything all right?

VELAZQUEZ: Everything is all right. Everything is all right. Everything is all right. Individual A stayed out there where, where we met.

CS-1: Uh, so tell me, are we still on board?

VELAZQUEZ: Listen, buddy, I need you to be serious about this, buddy. Here goes the situation. How, how do you think we'll do the trip up over there [Honduras]?

CS-1: Okay, [STAMMERS] look, and I'll explain it to you, because I'm no, I'm no longer with the bosses, because I feel pressured when I'm in front of them, you get me, buddy? And that you guys could, we could send to you guys from Honduras, and also to Chicago. And that you guys could work and move work [cocaine] out. Because what's in our best interest is to have people who can answer and who can move work out, buddy. You get me? And . . .

VELAZQUEZ: That's right.

CS-1: That's where, where I profit, buddy, you get me? I'm talking to you . . . Buddy, I'm talking to you like a brother, buddy. And I'm going to talk to you [STAMMERS] like a negotiator. That's where I profit. I told them, "No, they have the potential." And so they told me, they told me that they are going to send it [cocaine] up over there. They have a fruit company that receives out there from 300 to 400 [kilograms of cocaine] each month, buddy. Here among us, you hear me? So then, I told them that you guys can also help out, because you guys have your people out there.

VELAZQUEZ: That's right.

CS-1: [STAMMERS] So then, the boss told me, "Okay, so then . . ." I told him, "But they are going to be with us in Honduras, boss. And we... they are responsible people and [CS-1 and CS-2's associate] is going to vouch for them." So then, he said . . . remember that the company always asks how much can be given up front, so we can give the work to you guys. Because what we want . . . what can I say? What we want is to work. How much can they . . . that's why I told him yesterday . . . because remember, buddy, they pay for their own transportation. They pay the people who receive the stuff for them out there [CS-1 and CS-2's bosses paid individuals to unload the cocaine at shipment points]. They have a responsibility with their own expenses, you get me? So, then . . .

CS-1: So then, if you guys can help us getting a line of work out there. Listen to me, it would be a great joy for me, if you

guys stay with us, with you. And I'll talk to you, like [CHUCKLES] like I said, like a friend. I'll earn a good commission right there. Why? Because I'm suggesting for you guys to receive it and you guys will practically become my, my line of work, you get me?

VELAZQUEZ: Mm-hum.

CS-1: The Honduras thing has been set aside already. So now, I want you to tell the people out there, "Listen, buddy, uh, you guys are going to collect some, some money. Give me 200, give me 150, give me 300 [kilograms of cocaine]." And we are going to carry out for you.

VELAZQUEZ: I understand everything, buddy. Yeah, I understand everything. Tell me for sure what we are going to do. The stuff from Honduras that you are going to send out here, is it still on board [referring to the load of cocaine to be sent from Honduras to Mexico]?

CS-1: Exactly, buddy. Everything is on board.

VELAZQUEZ: See, see, see, you are changing things on me again.

CS-1: But how? Explain to me, how so, buddy.

VELAZQUEZ: Because you told me, "Do me, do me a favor and pay me uh, up over there, up over there. Get me a million and a half [\$1,500,000] or two [\$2,000,000] and . . ."

CS-1: If you guys will give it to me in Chicago. You'll tell me... uh, uh, uh, buddy, we're all going to be out there in Honduras. You'll tell me, "Listen, buddy, give it to such person." That person will be part of your people, of your total trust. All of us together. You'll tell me, "Buddy, give, give this much to such person." Perfect, done deal, buddy. It'll be given. You'll tell the person out there, "Turn in the money and they are going to give you the work. Check it. Check the work." We'll check the money out there with the people. And it's a done deal, buddy, you get me? We'll leave for, we'll leave from Honduras . . .

VELAZQUEZ: Yeah, yeah, I'll . . . Buddy, you told me, "You know what? Head out there and I'll give it to you out there and you'll give it to me." So far so good, right? "So then, um, pay me up over there. Get for me a million and a half [\$1,500,000]



or two [\$2,000,000] and I'll give that stuff to you. And I'll send to you to Monterrey what, what we agreed upon." Let me keep explaining to you. I already talked, I already told them, "Hey, I need this and I need you guys to help me out with this and with this. What do you guys think?" They said, "Let's get to it, but we need to make sure it's for real." So then, I explained to them and told them, "You know what? I need you guys to receive this much up over there. What for? So they can bring down over here for me such amount and that's what's of interest to us. What's out there is to start off, and what's right here is to continue."

CS-1: Everything has been set up for the 15<sup>th</sup>, so we can all be out there in Honduras.

VELAZQUEZ: We are going to head out there [to Honduras]. I will tell you, "You know what, buddy? Give a 100 [100 kilograms of cocaine] to such person [VELAZQUEZ's associate in Chicago]. And he is going to give you a million [\$1,000,000]." "Give a 100 [kilograms of cocaine] to this [STAMMERS] other person [another of VELAZQUEZ's associates] and such person is going to give you another million [\$1,000,000]." And then, I'll let you know how long it'll take to move out the other a 100 [kilograms of cocaine].

CS-1: Perfect, so then . . . Okay. To whom will I give [STAMMERS] the . . .

VELAZQUEZ: That's with the commitment that you'll give me some right here in Monterrey, or wherever I tell you to out here in my areas. Because I'm not going make all these people move, just for the fun of it. Like I said, buddy, I'm not interested in getting some from you out there. Why? Because my business... just like you want to profit, I want to profit, as well. And my business [STAMMERS] is from where I'm located all the way to there.

CS-1: Okay, so I have a question. The people who are going to deliver [money] in, in Chicago, are they your people? Are they trustworthy?

VELAZQUEZ: Totally, buddy. I'm telling you that, if you don't have a place to arrive, I can let you use the place where to arrive.

CS-1: No worries. Don't worry. In Chicago . . . Like I was saying, once we are in Honduras you are going to see our organization, especially the recommendation that is coming from your end, you hear me?

VELAZQUEZ: And you are going to see how we work.

CS-1: No, dude, hold on, buddy. Listen, hear me out, we are... God willing, given that everything has been agreed upon like the way we do it. We would be in Chicago on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the latest or we'd be coming back on the 17<sup>th</sup>. And to Monterrey, we are... with all that has been agreed upon, it won't go past the 20<sup>th</sup>, you hear me?

VELAZQUEZ: All right.

CS-1: Hear me out. Listen, I'm not here wasting my time, buddy. We are, we are going to travel out there to Honduras.

VELAZQUEZ: Neither are we. So then, buddy, I'm already getting things set up. What for? So the stuff that you are going send to me right here where I'm at, so I can have the money out there in Chicago.

CS-1: There are no more changes. We need the money in Chicago. Uh, uh, uh, just talk to your people, and make sure they have the money handy and there are no more changes.

27. Also on or about October 30, 2018, at law enforcement's direction, CS-1 placed a consensually recorded WhatsApp voice call with VELAZQUEZ, who was using VELAZQUEZ Phone 1, during which, in summary, they discussed the type of airplane that would be used to transport a portion of the cocaine to Monterrey, VELAZQUEZ told CS-1 he would provide him/her with information on where to land the airplane, and they discussed meeting in Honduras in November to finalize the arrangements:

VELAZQUEZ: [STAMMERS] Um, in what device is it coming over? In what is it coming over? [VELAZQUEZ was asking CS-1

what type of aircraft would be used to transport the cocaine to Mexico.]

CS-1: In, uh, there where you guys are located, buddy?

VELAZQUEZ: Uh-huh.

CS-1: In the one I told you, buddy.

VELAZQUEZ: What is it?

CS-1: It's C . . .

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: I totally forgot, buddy, for real.

CS-1: It's C5 [a type of aircraft], you hear me, buddy?

VELAZQUEZ: C5.

CS-1: It's a, a private one. You'll see it out there in [Honduras], in... [STAMMERS] where we are going to, you hear me? Where we are going, you hear me?

VELAZQUEZ: Oh, okay. And the 600 [kilograms of cocaine] are coming over in that one?

CS-1: Yes, sir.

VELAZQUEZ: The 600 [kilograms of cocaine].

CS-1: You are going to see it out there when we get there. [STAMMERS] Where we mentioned we are going to, you remember? [CS-1 would show VELAZQUEZ the aircraft when they met in Honduras in November.]

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VELAZQUEZ: [STAMMERS] I . . . Yeah, so I can plan out where it's [the aircraft loaded with cocaine] going to arrive.

CS-1: Uh-huh. [STAMMERS] Exactly. The only thing that's of importance . . . it's . . .

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: Mm-hum.

CS-1: And I'm telling you, and listen carefully to me.

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: Mm-hum.

CS-1: Look into the logistics thoroughly, and make sure the coordinates are correct, but make sure they are correct, you hear me?

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: Yeah.

CS-1: Okay?

VELAZQUEZ: Exactly. Yes, that's why I'm trying to figure out, because I have several spots where to arrive. And, and so I can know what kind of, of, of [STAMMERS] device [aircraft] it is, so I can provide the best I have. [VELAZQUEZ was telling CS-1 that he had multiple locations where the aircraft could arrive and wanted to select the best one.]

CS-1: All right, all right. [STAMMERS] It's a new device [aircraft], you hear me? You are going to see it over there? You are going to see it over there, you hear me?

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CS-1: This guy is a sucker. Listen, now, so then, we already agreed the money is going to be in Chicago. There won't be any more changes, and . . .

VELAZQUEZ: There won't be any more changes.

CS-1: And the money will be in Chicago without a problem. I'll repeat it, buddy, because when... I like to reiterate, [STAMMERS] so we can be clear, buddy.

VELAZQUEZ: We are clear. [VELAZQUEZ was confirming that the money would be delivered in Chicago.] The price hasn't changed.

CS-1: [SPITS] I already . . .

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: You are just going to turn in the money for me in two or three portions and that's it.

CS-1: Good. What you need to let your people know, that once we are in Honduras to make sure they have the money ready. So we don't start yapping blah, blah, blah, blah, sucker.

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: When, when, listen, when do I need to be out there over by you [in Honduras]?

CS-1: The 15th, buddy.

VELAZQUEZ: And when are the things [cocaine] going to arrive up over there?

CS-1: Oh, they'll be by that date. I'll let you know in person, because I don't like to talk about that for security reasons.

VELAZQUEZ: No well, just [STAMMERS] so I can have the people ready.

CS-1: They'll, they'll be out there by, by the 15th, 16th, 17th or the 18th. Tell him to be ready, have them be ready.

VELAZQUEZ: Okay.

CS-1: Okay?

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: Okay.

CS-1: Don't tell him a specific date, so we don't end up . . . how can I put this, buddy? So we don't look like liars, but . . .

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: Yeah, I know, I know, I know. But thing is, I need you to let me know, um, a few days before [VELAZQUEZ wanted confirmation of when the cocaine would arrive in Honduras]. That's enough for me, that's enough for me.

CS-1: Good.

VELAZQUEZ: So I can have them [the individuals who would receive the cocaine] ready.

CS-1: Exactly. Remember, no later than the 20th, the 21st, that's the latest, but I doubt it'll get to that date we'll be flying by where you're at.

VELAZQUEZ: Go ahead, buddy.

CS-1: Okay? But I'm reminding you... like I told [STAMMERS] uh, I called [CS-2] just now before you called me. You guys already agreed you will have the, the money in Chicago without an issue, and everything is all right.

VELAZQUEZ: Of course, buddy.

CS-1: Listen, I'm going to tell you one thing . . .

[VOICES OVERLAP]

VELAZQUEZ: All right. This time, I can say with all confidence, "Go ahead, buddy."

CS-1: [LAUGHS]

VELAZQUEZ: Before I couldn't, buddy.

CS-1: [LAUGHS] Sucker. Listen, buddy, listen, I'm going to tell you something. I'm going to tell you in confidence like a friend, and like a brother. Pay close attention, buddy, they [STAMMERS] sponsored me for this thing [CS-1 was indicating that he/she risked his/her reputation on the deal], [STAMMERS] for this deal, so don't let me down, sucker, because if not, they are going to chop off my head, sucker.

VELAZQUEZ: Sucker, we are in the same boat.

CS-1: [LAUGHS]

VELAZQUEZ: Don't let me down and neither will I.

**E. Meetings with VELAZQUEZ and Individual B in Honduras Between November 15, 2018, and November 21, 2018**

28. On or about November 14, 2018, CS-1 received a consensually recorded call via WhatsApp from VELAZQUEZ, who was using VELAZQUEZ Phone 1, during which, in summary, VELAZQUEZ told CS-1 that he would be arriving the next day and provided the time his flight was supposed to land.

29. On or about November 15, 2018, VELAZQUEZ and Individual B arrived together at Ramon Villeda Morales international airport in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Between on or about November 15, 2018, and on or about November 21, 2018, CS-1 and CS-2 met with VELAZQUEZ and Individual B at a vacation rental house where they all stayed (the "Honduras residence").<sup>11</sup> The Honduras residence was equipped with a video and audio recording device inside.<sup>12</sup> CS-1 was also equipped with a concealed audio and video recording device. CS-1 was also provided with a vehicle that was equipped with an audio and video recording device.<sup>13</sup>

30. On or about November 15, 2018, at approximately 12:30 p.m., CS-1 drove VELAZQUEZ and Individual B from the airport to a restaurant, prior to driving them to the Honduras residence. Based upon a review of the consensually recorded audio of the conversation in the car, VELAZQUEZ told CS-1, in summary, that

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<sup>11</sup> The sources paid for the house rental with funds provided by DEA.

<sup>12</sup> After CS-1 became concerned that Individual B had possibly detected the video and audio recording device inside the house, CS-1 removed that device from the area. CS-1 later informed DEA.

<sup>13</sup> The audio and video recording device failed to record all of the meetings because its battery ran out of charge.

Individual A had some issues with “Interpol” that prevented him from traveling<sup>14</sup> but that Individual B was a trusted associate. During the recorded conversation, VELAZQUEZ told CS-1, “I have everything ready...do not fail me,” and, “I work with a friend indirectly who is the third most wanted [by DEA] . . . . First was El Chapo, then the second and he is the third.”<sup>15</sup> VELAZQUEZ, in summary, also implied that he would deliver the money for the cocaine in Chicago as requested, stating, “I have a surprise for you . . . what did you ask me for [money to be delivered in Chicago]?” Based upon a review of the recording, VELAZQUEZ also told CS-1, “What I am interested in the most is what is landing at the runway [the shipment of cocaine to be delivered in Durango],” and, “I have the line from where I am to the Rio [Mexican-United States border] . . . . There where you are landing [Durango, Mexico] you will be received by the Commander from that area [a police official would assure the safety of delivery of cocaine to the airstrip in Durango] . . . . He is my compadre . . . . From there to the border [United States border] is all ready and all the police is paid for . . . is about getting there and paying the plaza [VELAZQUEZ meant that the cocaine would be transported all the way to the United States border but they would be responsible for paying a toll to the plaza boss at the border].”<sup>16</sup> According to CS-1,

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<sup>14</sup> Individual A has a pending arrest warrant out of the Northern District of Illinois.

<sup>15</sup> Based upon DEA’s most wanted list, prior statements made by VELASQUEZ, and the fact that VELASQUEZ and Individual A are believed to be affiliated with the Sinaloa DTO, it is believed that VELASQUEZ may have been referring to a senior member of the Sinaloa DTO who is currently a fugitive.

<sup>16</sup> When they arrived at the house, CS-1 was able to photograph the luggage tags for both VELASQUEZ and Individual B and send those photos to law enforcement.



later that night, CS-1 and CS-2 agreed to distribute 300 kilograms of cocaine to VELAZQUEZ and Individual A in the Chicago area, at \$25,500 per kilogram, and 600 kilograms of cocaine to be sent from Honduras to Mexico, at \$6,000 per kilogram, and that VELAZQUEZ would pay \$2,500,000 to CS-1 and CS-2 in the Chicago area. According to CS-1, in his/her presence, VELAZQUEZ exchanged a phone call with Individual A during which VELAZQUEZ told Individual A, in summary, that everything was arranged and to have his people in Chicago move forward with the transaction.

**F. November 16, 2018, Display of 140 Kilograms of Sham Cocaine to VELAZQUEZ and Individual B in Honduras**

31. On or about November 16, 2018, CS-1 and CS-2 conducted consensually audio meetings with VELAZQUEZ and Individual B during which VELAZQUEZ and Individual B agreed that their people were ready in Chicago. Later that day, CS-1 and CS-2 showed VELAZQUEZ and Individual B approximately 140 brick-shaped packages of “sham” cocaine. At law enforcement’s direction, CS-1 and CS-2 informed VELAZQUEZ and Individual B that the shipment of cocaine had arrived in Honduras and that they would arrange to show a portion of the cocaine to VELAZQUEZ and Individual B before it was loaded onto the airplane.

32. At approximately 10:36 p.m., an undercover DEA agent (“UC-1”) drove CS-1 in the undercover car to the Honduras residence, followed by a separate car driven by three undercover Honduran National Police (“HNP”) officers posing as CS-1’s employees and loaded with approximately 140 brick-shaped packages of sham cocaine (each brick weighed approximately one kilogram). Law enforcement agents

conducting physical surveillance saw the car arrive at the Honduras residence, saw CS-1 exit the undercover car, and saw CS-1 instruct the car loaded with sham cocaine to park inside the Honduras residence's garage. According to CS-1 and CS-2, they showed VELAZQUEZ and Individual B the brick-shaped packages of sham cocaine wrapped in black tape and clear plastic wrap in the trunk of the car (with the three HNP undercover officers also present posing as security). According to CS-1 and CS-2, CS-2 then removed one of the brick-shaped packages of sham cocaine to show VELAZQUEZ and Individual B. According to CS-1 and CS-2, VELAZQUEZ then placed a video call to Individual A to show him the packages.<sup>17</sup> According to CS-1 and CS-2, during that video call, Individual A asked VELAZQUEZ to open one of the packages to evaluate the quality of the cocaine (there was no indication that VELAZQUEZ or Individual A did not believe it was real cocaine) but CS-1 and CS-2 indicated that they needed to transport the load quickly to another location.

**G. November 18, 2018, Display of Airplane to Be Used to Transport Cocaine to Mexico**

33. On or about November 18, 2018, at approximately 9 a.m., CS-2 connected VELAZQUEZ and Individual B, via a video call using WhatsApp, with a confidential source posing as an airplane pilot for the Colombian DTO ("CS-3"). According to CS-1 and CS-2, CS-3 showed VELAZQUEZ and Individual B the inside of an airplane (that would be used to transport their cocaine to Mexico) and discussed Individual B's accompanying the load scheduled to be delivered to Durango (including

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<sup>17</sup> According to CS-1, CS-1 was able to both see Individual A's face and recognize his voice.

Individual B's weight) the next day (November 20, 2018). According to CS-1 and CS-2, following that video call, VELAZQUEZ instructed CS-2 to take a photo of a WhatsApp chat conversation between VELAZQUEZ and VELAZQUEZ's associate, Individual C, during which Individual C provided GPS coordinates and landmarks for an airstrip in Durango, Mexico, that CS-1 and CS-2 were to use to deliver the cocaine.<sup>18</sup>

34. Later that day, on or about November 18, 2018, VELAZQUEZ provided CS-1 and CS-2 with Individual C's contact information and identified Individual C as someone who would assist with the part of the transaction in Chicago.

35. On or about November 19, 2018, during a consensually recorded meeting between CS-1, VELAZQUEZ, and Individual B, VELAZQUEZ agreed that portions of the approximately 375 kilograms of cocaine that were intended to be delivered in Chicago would first be delivered to VELAZQUEZ's associates, then to Individual A's associates, and finally to Individual B's associates.

36. On or about November 19, 2018, at approximately 10 a.m., CS-1 transported VELAZQUEZ back to Ramon Villeda Morales international airport. According to CS-1, VELAZQUEZ confirmed that Individual B would accompany CS-3 to transport the portion of cocaine to be delivered in Durango.

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<sup>18</sup> CS-2 subsequently provided DEA with that photo. Based upon a review of open source information including Google Maps, those GPS coordinates correspond with a non-commercial clandestine airstrip located in a remote region of Durango, Mexico.

**H. November 19, 2018, Display of Approximately 80 Kilograms of Sham Cocaine to Individual C in Chicago**

37. On or about November 18, 2018, CS-2 travelled to the Chicago area to coordinate the delivery of cocaine to, and receipt of money from, VELAZQUEZ's associates including Individual C.

38. On or about November 19, 2018, at law enforcement's direction and in their presence, CS-2 exchanged multiple consensually recorded phone calls and text messages over WhatsApp with Individual C during which they agreed to meet at a location in the Chicago area.<sup>19</sup>

39. On the morning of on or about November 19, 2018, CS-2 met with law enforcement agents in anticipation of the meeting with Individual C. Law enforcement searched CS-2 for contraband and excessive money, with negative results. CS-2 was also equipped with a concealed audio recording device.

40. At approximately 1:18 p.m., Individual C and an unidentified Hispanic male arrived at the meeting location and met with CS-2 and two undercover law enforcement officers posing as CS-2's associates ("UC-2" and "UC-3"). According to CS-2, Individual C told CS-2 that he had been in touch with VELAZQUEZ's associates but needed more time to collect the money. According to CS-2, during the meeting, CS-2 showed Individual C approximately 80 brick-shaped packages of sham cocaine concealed inside of a compartment and inside multiple bags within an undercover car. According to CS-2, after CS-2 showed Individual C the sham cocaine,

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<sup>19</sup> The calls were made in DEA's presence and CS-2 recorded the majority of the calls using a separate recording device.

Individual C spoke with someone over the phone. Following that conversation, CS-2 and Individual C agreed to meet later that afternoon and that Individual C would deliver \$2,550,000 to CS-2 as part of the cocaine transaction.<sup>20</sup>

41. Later that day, according to CS-1, Individual B told CS-1 that Individual C did not want to bring the money to the meeting location and Individual C reported that he did not see the entire load of cocaine, and therefore the transaction would have to be rescheduled.

**I. December 3, 2018, Meeting with VELAZQUEZ in Chicago**

42. Between on or about November 26, 2018, and on or about November 30, 2018, CS-1 exchanged multiple consensually recorded calls via WhatsApp with Individual B (who indicated that he was in touch with VELAZQUEZ and others) who was using the Mexican telephone number 52-XX-XXXX-9250 ("Individual B's Phone"). According to CS-1, during those calls, in summary, they agreed that VELAZQUEZ and Individual B would purchase 40 kilograms of cocaine in Chicago, VELAZQUEZ would personally meet CS-1 to conduct the transaction in Chicago, and, following this initial transaction, they would again meet in Honduras to proceed with the rest of the delivery of cocaine.

43. On or about November 30, 2018, CS-1 exchanged a series of text messages via WhatsApp with Individual B, during which Individual B's phone stated,

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<sup>20</sup> Meanwhile, CS-1 was still in Honduras with Individual B. According to CS-1, Individual B told him/her that Individual C was picking up money in the Chicago area that belonged to VELASQUEZ to fund the deal, while another individual, Individual D, was picking up money that belonged to Individual B.

“That is why you will meet with Robert [VELAZQUEZ] the day before to go over everything and confirm at what time on Tuesday or Wednesday the movement starts [Individual B was telling CS-1 that VELAZQUEZ would meet with him/her beforehand in Chicago to conduct the transaction on December 4 or December 5],” and, “Of course for us here we are aware of the magnitude of the project and the expansion that it represent for the team.” Between on or about November 30, 2018, and on or about December 3, 2018, at law enforcement’s direction, CS-1 exchanged multiple WhatsApp text messages during which they agreed to meet at a bar associated with a particular hotel in downtown Chicago, Illinois.

44. On or about December 3, 2018, at approximately 7:30 p.m., DEA met with CS-1 at a pre-arranged meeting location. Law enforcement searched CS-1 for the presence of contraband and excessive money, with negative results. CS-1 was then equipped with a concealed audio recording device.

45. At approximately 7:45 p.m., law enforcement established physical surveillance at the agreed-upon meeting location. At approximately 8:02 p.m., law enforcement saw CS-1 enter the bar area and meet with VELAZQUEZ, who was alone.

46. At approximately 8:38 p.m., law enforcement saw CS-1 and VELAZQUEZ depart separately. Law enforcement maintained surveillance on CS-1 until meeting up with CS-1 at a pre-arranged meeting location at approximately 8:45 p.m. Law enforcement again searched CS-1 for contraband and large amounts of money, with negative results, and removed the concealed audio recording device.

47. According to CS-1, during the meeting, in summary and in part, VELAZQUEZ and CS-1 agreed: (1) to meet the following day [December 4, 2018]; (2) that VELAZQUEZ would receive between 50 to 80 kilograms of cocaine; (3) and that VELAZQUEZ would pay for the load within a couple of days since CS-1 had to travel back to Colombia.

**J. December 4, 2018, Meeting with VELAZQUEZ in Stickney, Illinois**

48. According to CS-1, on or about December 4, 2018, at approximately 9:32 a.m., CS-1 exchanged WhatsApp chat messages with VELAZQUEZ during which CS-1 told VELAZQUEZ that they were getting the “work” [cocaine] ready and they agreed to meet at approximately 12:30 p.m. At approximately 1:48 p.m., VELAZQUEZ provided CS-1 with the address for a particular retail clothing store in the 3900 block of Harlem Avenue in Berwyn. Law enforcement met with CS-1 and CS-2, searched them and their vehicle (the “CS car”) for contraband and excessive money (with negative results), equipped the CS car with audio and video recording devices, and equipped both CS-1 and CS-2 with audio recording devices. Law enforcement then maintained surveillance on the CS car as it left the area to head to the meeting location.

49. At approximately 3:20 p.m., surveillance saw the CS car arrive and park in the parking lot of the store referenced in the above paragraph.

50. At approximately 3:27 p.m., surveillance saw a white Ford pick-up truck arrive and park next to the CS car.<sup>21</sup> Surveillance then saw CS-1 exit the CS car and enter the rear passenger seat of the truck. According to CS-1, both CS-1 (rear passenger side) and VELAZQUEZ (front passenger side) entered the truck, already occupied by Individual D (who was sitting in the driver's seat) and Individual E (who was sitting behind the driver). According to CS-1, VELAZQUEZ told him, in summary, that they currently had enough money to purchase ten kilograms of cocaine and wished to purchase an additional fifty kilograms with the objective of paying the remaining balance for the fifty kilograms the following day. According to CS-1, VELAZQUEZ told him, in summary, that they would then purchase the rest of the quantity<sup>22</sup> by the end of the week. According to CS-1 and CS-2, and corroborated by audio recording, CS-1 and VELAZQUEZ exited the truck and entered the car where CS-2 remained sitting.

51. At approximately 3:47 p.m., surveillance saw CS-1 and VELAZQUEZ exit the CS car and briefly talk outside the vehicles. According to CS-1, VELAZQUEZ and CS-1 briefly spoke before they both entered the CS car. According to CS-1, during that conversation, after CS-1 asked VELAZQUEZ how much money they currently had, VELAZQUEZ looked at Individual D who said that he has someone at his house right now with money for three kilograms of cocaine. According to CS-1 and CS-2

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<sup>21</sup> Vehicle registration records showed the truck was registered to Individual D's relative.

<sup>22</sup> Based upon the prior recorded conversations, it was established that 225 kilograms of cocaine would be delivered in Chicago.



(who was pretending to be CS-1's boss), and corroborated by the recording, VELAZQUEZ entered the CS car and confirmed to the terms as discussed with CS-1. Surveillance then saw VELAZQUEZ re-enter the truck and saw the CS car follow the truck out of the parking lot. Law enforcement maintained surveillance on the CS car and the truck as they drove to a particular residence in the 4200 block of Wisconsin Avenue in Stickney, Illinois. CS-1 then notified law enforcement that they were meeting inside a detached garage at the residence. According to CS-1 and CS-2, and corroborated by the audio recording of the meeting, VELAZQUEZ, Individual D, and Individual E spoke about other individuals who were on their way to the garage to provide money to purchase cocaine. According to CS-1, Individual D also indicated that he had a buyer available inside the residence who was ready to purchase three kilograms but that the buyer was getting anxious. According to CS-1 and CS-2, Individual D eventually went inside the house and returned with a duffle bag containing tens of thousands of dollars of U.S. currency. While inside the garage, VELAZQUEZ, in summary, told CS-1 that he previously shipped a ton of cocaine to the United States approximately every two weeks, that they had "ten offices" [drug distribution locations], and that he "had two years and a half being here [Chicago]" and "I had to leave because things got hot and we had lost 120 kilos and \$5 million dollars." According to CS-1, both VELAZQUEZ and Individual D indicated that VELAZQUEZ had to leave the Chicago area because of several murders, Individual D pulled up a news article to show CS-1 on his phone, and VELAZQUEZ indicated

that he previously reached out to a relative in U.S. law enforcement to ensure that VELAZQUEZ did not have any active warrants prior to flying to Chicago.

52. At approximately the same time, according to CS-1, a Hispanic male, Individual F, arrived at the garage with a box full of bundles of U.S. currency. According to CS-1 and corroborated by the audio recording, Individual F indicated that the box contained enough to purchase five kilograms.

53. At approximately 5:35 p.m., when law enforcement approached the garage, VELAZQUEZ, Individual D, Individual E, and Individual F ran from the garage. Specifically, law enforcement saw Individual F run (carrying a box) from the garage to a truck parked nearby where they seized the box containing approximately \$145,000 in U.S. currency.<sup>23</sup> Law enforcement was able to arrest Individual D, along with others that were waiting inside the residence to include Individual G, but could not locate VELAZQUEZ.

54. Law enforcement subsequently located a hotel room recently occupied by VELAZQUEZ and an associate, Individual H. After obtaining consent to search the hotel room from Individual H, law enforcement found VELAZQUEZ's Mexican

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<sup>23</sup> Based upon my training, experience, and familiarity with the investigation, \$145,000 is consistent with the price of five kilograms sold in the Chicago area at that time.

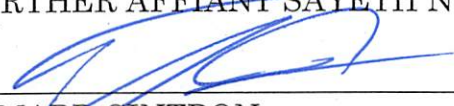
Law enforcement blocked the truck before it could exit. When they approached, they saw the box containing bundles of U.S. currency on the front passenger seat of the truck. After securing Individual F and Individual F's relative, law enforcement conducted a canine sniff which positively alerted to the presence of narcotics inside the car and inside the cardboard box. Law enforcement then received consent to search the car from Individual F's relative and found the box containing the currency.

passport and U.S. visa indicated he entered the country on or about December 2, 2018.<sup>24</sup>

### CONCLUSION

55. I submit that there is probable cause to support a complaint charging that beginning no later than October 23, 2018, and continuing to on or about December 4, 2018, in the Northern District of Illinois, and elsewhere, ROBERTO VELAZQUEZ MARTINEZ, also known as "Rafael," conspired with Individuals A, B, C, and others, to knowingly and intentionally possess with intent to distribute and distribute a controlled substance, namely, 5 kilograms or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

FURTHER AFFLIANT SAYETH NOT.

  
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JOMARR CINTRON  
Special Agent, Drug Enforcement  
Administration

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me on October 3, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFFREY CUMMINGS  
United States Magistrate Judge

<sup>24</sup> Customs and Border Protection records also verified that VELAZQUEZ entered the United States on or about December 2, 2018.