	_				1
- 1	()	11	$\sigma_1$	na	ш
	$\sim$	11	<b>~</b> 1	110	ш

Duplicate Original

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

# **SEALED**

for the

Southern District of California

	In the Matter of the Search of  (Briefly describe the property to be searched or identify the person by name and address)  428 South 46th Street, San Diego, CA, 92113  )  Case No.  121 MJ02101	
	WARRANT BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS	
o:	Any authorized law enforcement officer	
identif	An application by a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government requests the search and seizure following person or property located in the Southern District of California  the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):  Attachment A-2, incorporated herein by reference.	3
	I find that the affidavit(s), or any recorded testimony, establish probable cause to search and seize the person or proped above, and that such search will reveal (identify the person or describe the property to be seized):  Attachment B, incorporated herein by reference.	erty
	YOU ARE COMMANDED to execute this warrant on or before	•
	from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the place where the y was taken.	
s req	The officer executing this warrant, or an officer present during the execution of the warrant, must prepare an inventor ired by law and promptly return this warrant and inventory to The Honorable Michael Berg	ry 
270. prope	Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3103a(b), I find that immediate notification may have an adverse result listed in 18 U.S.C. (except for delay of trial), and authorize the officer executing this warrant to delay notice to the persuappropriate box) for days (not to exceed 30)	
	Printed now and title College	/

# Case 3:21-mj-02101-MSB \*SEALED\* Document 2 (Court only) Filed 05/26/21 PageID.40 Page 2 of 4 AO 93C (08/18) Warrant by Telephone or Other Reliable Electronic Means (Page 2)

Return						
Case No.: '21 MJ02101	Date and time warrant executed:	Copy of warrant and inventory left with:				
Inventory made in the presence	of:	·				
Inventory of the property taken	and name(s) of any person(s) seized:					
	Certification					
	Cerunication	1				
I declare under penalty designated judge.	of perjury that this inventory is correct	and was returned along with the original warrant to the				
Date:		Executing officer's signature				
		Printed name and title				

#### **ATTACHMENT A-2**

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY TO BE SEARCHED**

428 South 46th Street, San Diego, CA, 92113

The residence (depicted below) is a single story family residence, with cream stucco exterior with white trim with gray asphalt shingle roof. 428 S. 46<sup>th</sup> St., is located on west side of 46<sup>th</sup> St., and two house north of Oceanview Boulevard. Front white metal security screen door faces east toward 46<sup>th</sup> St. The numbers 428 are black in color and located on left side of the front metal security screen door.



**ATTACHMENT B** 

#### ITEMS TO BE SEIZED AND SEARCHED

There is probable cause that the following constitute evidence of violations of 21 U.S.C. Sections 841(a)(1), 843(b), 846, 952, 960, 963, and 18 U.S.C. Sections 1956-1957 (the "Target Offenses") and that they will be found in the **Target Locations** and **Target Vehicles**:

1. Controlled substances.

- 2. Paraphernalia for packaging, using, weighing, cutting, testing, distributing, and identifying controlled substance(s).
- 3. Records, items, and documents, reflecting drug trafficking and money laundering and/or travel in furtherance of drug trafficking and or money laundering.
- 4. Money, assets, and evidence of assets derived from or used in drug trafficking and money laundering; including all banking and financial institution records.
- 5. Photographs and video and audio recordings which document an association with other coconspirators and/or which display narcotics, firearms, or money and proceeds from narcotics transactions.
- 6. Weapons, firearms, firearms accessories, and ammunition and documents relating to the purchase and/or possession of such items.
- 7. Items or personal property tending to show identity of persons in ownership, dominion, and / or control of the **Target Locations** and **Target Vehicles**; and
- 8. **Seizure Only**: All electronic devices, including cellular telephones, personal computers, tablets, and other electronic communication devices, which may contain evidence of drug trafficking and money laundering.

All of the above constituting: (1) evidence of a violation of the Target Offenses; (2) contraband, fruits of the Target Offenses or other items illegally possessed; or (3) property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing these Target Offenses.

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

**SEALED** 

Southern District of California

In the Matter of the Search		)		
(Briefly describe the property to be or identify the person by name and	s searched d address)	) Case No.	'21 MJ02101	
428 South 46th Street, San Die	go, CA, 92113	)		
APPLICATION FOR A WAR	RANT BY TELEPHO	ONE OR OTHER REL	IABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS	
I, a federal law enforcement penalty of perjury that I have reason property to be searched and give its location See Attachment A-2, incorporated	to believe that on the n):	for the government, requ following person or prop	uest a search warrant and state under perty (identify the person or describe the	
located in the Southern  person or describe the property to be seized,	District of	California	, there is now concealed (identify the	
See Attachment B, incorporated he	rein by reference.			
The basis for the search und evidence of a crime		(c) is (check one or more):		
contraband, fruits or	f crime, or other items	illegally possessed;		
property designed for	or use, intended for us	e, or used in committing	a crime;	
<b>☑</b> a person to be arrest	ted or a person who is	unlawfully restrained.		
The search is related to a vio	olation of:			
Code Section 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), §843(b) §846, 952, 960, and 963 18 U.S.C. §§1957-1957	Conspiracy to Distr	ibute a Controlled Subst	ription wful Use of a Communications Facility; ance; Conspiracy to Import a der Monetary Instruments	
The application is based on	these facts:			
See attached Affidavit of DEA	Task Force Officer So	cott Faiferlick		
<b>✓</b> Continued on the attach	ed sheet.			
Delayed notice of 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the b		date if more than 30 days: orth on the attached sheet	is requested under	
			Applicant's signature	
		-	lick, DEA Task Force Officer	
		I	Printed name and title	
Attested to by the applicant in accordance Telephone		ments of Fed. R. Crim. I ify reliable electronic means).	•	
D. 4 05 0004		052		
Date: May 25, 2021			Judge's signature	
City and state: San Diego, CA		Hon, Michae	l Berg. U.S. Magistrate Judge	

Printed name and title

#### **ATTACHMENT A-2**

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY TO BE SEARCHED**

428 South 46th Street, San Diego, CA, 92113

The residence (depicted below) is a single story family residence, with cream stucco exterior with white trim with gray asphalt shingle roof. 428 S. 46<sup>th</sup> St., is located on west side of 46<sup>th</sup> St., and two house north of Oceanview Boulevard. Front white metal security screen door faces east toward 46<sup>th</sup> St. The numbers 428 are black in color and located on left side of the front metal security screen door.



ATTACHMENT B

#### ITEMS TO BE SEIZED AND SEARCHED

There is probable cause that the following constitute evidence of violations of 21 U.S.C. Sections 841(a)(1), 843(b), 846, 952, 960, 963, and 18 U.S.C. Sections 1956-1957 (the "Target Offenses") and that they will be found in the **Target Locations** and **Target Vehicles**:

1. Controlled substances.

- 2. Paraphernalia for packaging, using, weighing, cutting, testing, distributing, and identifying controlled substance(s).
- 3. Records, items, and documents, reflecting drug trafficking and money laundering and/or travel in furtherance of drug trafficking and or money laundering.
- 4. Money, assets, and evidence of assets derived from or used in drug trafficking and money laundering; including all banking and financial institution records.
- 5. Photographs and video and audio recordings which document an association with other coconspirators and/or which display narcotics, firearms, or money and proceeds from narcotics transactions.
- 6. Weapons, firearms, firearms accessories, and ammunition and documents relating to the purchase and/or possession of such items.
- 7. Items or personal property tending to show identity of persons in ownership, dominion, and / or control of the **Target Locations** and **Target Vehicles**; and
- 8. **Seizure Only**: All electronic devices, including cellular telephones, personal computers, tablets, and other electronic communication devices, which may contain evidence of drug trafficking and money laundering.

All of the above constituting: (1) evidence of a violation of the Target Offenses; (2) contraband, fruits of the Target Offenses or other items illegally possessed; or (3) property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing these Target Offenses.

#### AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANTS

I, Scott Faiferlick, being duly sworn, declare and state:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. This affidavit is made in support of an application to search the following residences and vehicles described as follows:
  - a) 195 East Hall Avenue, Apartment E, San Ysidro, CA 92173 ("**Target** Location 1");
  - b) 428 South 46th Street, San Diego, CA, 92113 ("Target Location 2");
  - c) Black 2011 Dodge Nitro bearing CA plate 8KIN967 VIN: 1D4PT4GKXWBW52906 registered to Gloria SANDOVAL ("Target Vehicle 1");
  - d) Black 2017 GMC Acadia bearing CA plate 8AJM738, VIN: 1GKKVSKD1HJ247673 registered to Gloria SANDOVAL ("Target Vehicle 2");
  - e) Red Ford pickup bearing Mexico plate AM2501A ("Target Vehicle 3");
  - f) 4850 Mount Saint Helens Drive, San Diego, CA 92117 ("**Target** Location 3"); and
  - g) Brown multi-colored 2015 Thor Motorcoach Outlaw motorhome with Arizona license plate CFB8919, VIN 1F66F5DY8E0A12901, currently parked at Mission Bay RV Resort, Space 93, located at 2727 De Anza Road, San Diego, CA 92109 ("Target Location 4") (collectively referred to as the Target Locations and Target Vehicles)

For evidence of violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 843(b), 846, 952, 960, 963 and Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956-1957. **Target Location 1** has been identified as the residence of Reyes ESPINOZA in San Diego. **Target Location 2** has been identified as a narcotics stash house for ESPINOZA as well as the residence of Gloria SANDOVAL. **Target Vehicles 1-3** are either registered to SANDOVAL or have been observed at **Target Location 2** and or been used by

SANDOVAL and Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez. Target Location 3 has been identified as narcotics and money stash house for David VILLEGAS as well as the residence of David SANTA MARIA. Target Location 4 has been identified as the residence of David VILLEGAS. As discussed in more detail below, I believe that probable cause exists that evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of violations of federal criminal laws may be found at the Target Locations and Target Vehicles as well as a person or persons to be arrested.

#### TRAINING AND EXPERTISE

- 2. I am a Deputy Sheriff employed by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department (SDSD) and have been so employed for over 10 years. I was previously employed as a Deputy Sheriff, by the Dallas County Sheriff's Office, State of Iowa, for approximately 11 years. I am currently deputized as a federal Task Force Officer (TFO) assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Narcotics Task Force in North San Diego County, where I have worked since May of 2014. I was previously assigned as a detective to the Street Narcotics Gang Detail at the Vista Patrol Station for one year and eight months. Prior to that assignment, I was assigned to the K-9 Unit as a patrol deputy at the Vista Patrol Station. Prior to this assignment, I was assigned to the San Diego Central Courts as a Deputy Sheriff.
- 3. During my law enforcement career, I have received formal training in narcotics investigations. I have participated in multiple separate investigations involving the distribution of controlled substances and firearms. As part of these investigations, I have used various investigative techniques, including physical and stationary surveillance, informants and cooperating sources, court authorized interceptions, pen register/trap and trace devices, telephone toll analysis, undercover operations, search warrants, mail covers, and electronic examinations of evidence. Through these previous investigations, I have obtained knowledge regarding the ordinary meaning of controlled substance slang and jargon. I have monitored and reviewed hundreds of recorded telephone calls and text messages pursuant to Title III court orders in narcotics and gang

related investigations as well as handled confidential sources with access to drug dealers and gang members.

4. Based on my training and experience, I am familiar with how drug traffickers communicate and operate. For example, I am aware that drug traffickers frequently discuss criminal activity using cellular telephones and often use coded language to obscure these conversations. I am also familiar with the typical make up and operation of gangs and drug trafficking organizations, including the distribution, storage, and transportation of the drugs, the collection of money, which represents the proceeds of drug trafficking and other criminal activity.

#### BASES FOR CONCLUSIONS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- 5. The following is based my own investigation, oral and written reports by other law enforcement officers and agents, physical surveillances, interviews, database and public records checks, searches, telephone toll analysis, other investigation and court authorized wire and electronic interceptions. Since this affidavit is for a limited purpose, I have not included every fact I know about this investigation. I set forth only facts necessary to establish foundation for the requested warrants. Conversations and discussions below are set forth in substance unless noted. I have included in parentheses or in brackets my explanations of coded or veiled speech, based on my training and experience, as well as my familiarity with the facts of this investigation. Dates and times are approximate.
- 6. I respectfully submit that the facts contained below demonstrate that there is probable cause to believe that fruits, instrumentalities, and evidence of a violation of the following offenses: Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 843(b), 846, 952, 960, 963 and Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1956-1957 (collectively referred to as the "Target Offenses"), as well as a person or persons to be arrested, will be found at the **Target Locations** and **Target Vehicles**, which are more fully described in Attachments A-1 through A-7.

### PROBABLE CAUSE - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 7. OCDETF Operation Crystal Hydra is a long-term investigation led by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service, and the Postal Inspection Service targeting a sophisticated methamphetamine distribution and money laundering network led by Reyes ESPINOZA, David VILLEGAS, John BOMENKA, Dennis JONES, and Darren MOSIER. This San Diego based network supplied multi-kilogram quantities of methamphetamine to dozens of subdistributors located throughout San Diego County as well as the United States, including Hawaii, Arizona, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. And in return, tens of thousands of dollars in narcotics proceeds were returned to the network's leaders via shipments of bulk cash, structured cash deposits into bank accounts, and online money transfer systems like PayPal, Zelle, Venmo, and Cash App. In conjunction with the wiretaps, investigators ultimately seized approximately 73 kilograms of methamphetamine (actual), 1 firearm, and \$47,566 in drug proceeds.
- 8. The investigation began in the spring of 2020 based on information obtained from a confidential source (CS-1), who identified John BOMENKA as an individual selling multiple ounce quantities of methamphetamine in San Diego. In March, April, and May 2020, CS-2 conducted four controlled purchases of methamphetamine from BOMENKA using TT1. Investigators then identified David VILLEGAS as the principal source of supply for BOMENKA. VILLEGAS, in turn, operated a drug distribution and money laundering network, which supplies multi-kilogram quantities of methamphetamine to subdistributors throughout San Diego and the United States.
- 9. On June 9, 2020, investigators obtained authorization to intercept wire and electronic communications of John BOMENKA (TT1). Interceptions began on June 9, 2020 and continued until July 8, 2020. During the first round of intercepts, investigators intercepted hundreds of phone calls and text messages detailing BOMENKA's drug trafficking and money laundering activities. These intercepts confirmed that BOMENKA

is a prolific methamphetamine distributor in San Diego County. In addition, agents confirmed that VILLEGAS was supplying BOMENKA. Lastly, agents identified BOMENKA's close associates, Frank TUCKER and Cameron GRAFF. As investigators subsequently learned, GRAFF shipped methamphetamine to other distributors across the United States, including to subdistributors in Iowa and Massachusetts.

- 10. On July 16, 2020, investigators obtained authorization to intercept wire and electronic communications of John BOMENKA (TT1), David VILLEGAS (TT2), Frank TUCKER (TT3), and Cameron GRAFF (TT4). Interceptions began on July 16, 2020 and continued until August 14, 2020. During the second round of intercepts, agents identified Reyes ESPINOZA as the principal source of supply to VILLEGAS as well as two of VILLEGAS's major subdistributors, Darren MOSIER, and Dennis JONES. Agents coordinated multiple enforcement operations against this network, and identified multiple targets, including Kristina BROWN (VILLEGAS's girlfriend and key associate), Danny MILLER, Mario ESPINOZA, Shawn MORRILL, Hilleal GRANT, Lewis RICH, Terry HAITH, Tansy STEINHAUER, and Jessica POMEROY.
- 11. On September 4, 2020, investigators obtained authorization to intercept wire and electronic communications of David VILLEGAS (TT2), Darren MOSIER (TT5), and Dennis JONES (TT6). Interceptions began on September 4, 2020 and continued until October 3, 2020. During this third round of interception, agents continued to penetrate VILLEGAS's network. In addition, agents learned that MOSIER was involving in shipping large quantities of methamphetamine to subdistributors in Texas. Agents coordinated multiple enforcement operations against this network, and identified multiple defendants, including Shadow SEGURA, Jasmine LUCAS, Phillip ABBAS, Peter FULLER, Eduardo OSUNA, Frank CARRILLO, and Stephen MYRICK.
- 12. On September 23, 2020, investigators obtained authorization to intercept wire and electronic communications of Reyes ESPINOZA (TT7). Interceptions began on September 23, 2020 and continued until October 19, 2020. During this fourth round of intercepts, agents continued to identify the operations of ESPINOZA's network, including

- his principal customers, David VILLEGAS and Charles Lee MILLER as well as his family run network of associates, including his wife, Christian LOPEZ-Villegas, and relatives Carlos ESPINOZA (courier), Mario ESPINOZA (courier) and Gloria SANDOVAL (stash house operator). Based on a seizure on October 8, 2020, agents also identified a new telephone number used by Reyes ESPINOZA (TT10).
- 13. Prior to the next round of intercepts, on October 31, 2020, agents executed a state search warrant at the residence of Dennis JONES after he overdosed on fentanyl (he survived) and seized a substantial quantity of methamphetamine and cash.
- 14. On November 3, 2020, investigators obtained authorization to intercept wire and electronic communications of David VILLEGAS (TT2); Darren MOSIER (TT5); Reyes ESPINOZA (TT7) and (TT10); Charles MILLER (TT8); and Christian LOPEZ-VILLEGAS (TT9). Interceptions began on November 3, 2020 and continued until December 2, 2020. During this fifth round of intercepts, agents continued to seize parcels mailed by MOSIER and identified his principal Texas and New York based subdistributors, Ashley HILTON, and Joseph OCCHIOGROSSO, as well as his San Diego based partners, Gary BEASLEY, and Terry TYLER. Agents also conducted enforcement operations against Arnulfo RODRIGUEZ, Alexandro LARIOS-Flores, Jose VARGAS, Michael NAGLE, and Raymond STERLING.
- 15. Prior to the final round of intercepts, on December 23, 2020, agents stopped one of Darren MOSIER's sources of supply, Victor YAMASAKI, at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry with methamphetamine and heroin. And on February 1, 2021, CS-3 conducted a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from David VILLEGAS, who used both TT2 and a new telephone number, TT11.
- 16. On February 19, 2021, investigators obtained authorization to intercept wire and electronic communications of David VILLEGAS (TT2 and TT11). Interceptions began on February 19, 2021 and continued until March 20, 2021. During this sixth and final round of intercepts, agents conducted additional enforcement operations against VILLEGAS's network including against Chris PASCHKE and Charles GERARDI.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- 17. On May 25, 2021, a federal grand jury sitting in the Southern District of California returned an indictment charging dozens of defendants in this investigation, including Reyes ESPINOZA, Mario ESPINOZA, David VILLEGAS, Gloria SANDOVAL, Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez, David SANTA MARIA and others with multiple offenses, including conspiracy to distribute 50+ grams of methamphetamine (actual) and for Reyes ESPINOZA and VILLEGAS, conspiracy to launder monetary instruments. Arrest warrants for them were also issued and to date, they remain fugitives.
- 18. Agents are currently preparing for a multi-state and multi-jurisdictional takedown to begin in early June 2021. As part of that takedown, agents are seeking these warrants to uncover additional evidence related to the Target Subjects' drug trafficking and money laundering activities, as well as locate them for arrest.
- 19. During the course of the investigation, agents conducted extensive physical surveillance in conjunction with the six rounds of wiretap intercepts (along with GPS tracking devices on many of the Target Telephones). Based on this surveillance and in conjunction with the extensive intercepts, investigators identified multiple locations utilized by the Target Subjects to conduct their drug trafficking and money laundering activities. For example, agents learned that Reves ESPINOZA used multiple stash houses, including his residence, Target Location 1, and the residence of Gloria SANDOVAL and Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez, Target Location 2. In addition, Gloria SANDOVAL is the registered owner of Target Vehicles 1-2. Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez has been observed driving **Target Vehicle 1** and SANDOVAL has been observed driving Target Vehicle 2. SANDOVAL droved Target Vehicle 3 from Mexico into United States on April 16, 2021. The **Target Vehicles** were also recently observed at SANDOVAL and GASTELUM-Sanchez's residence (Target Location 2). ESPINOZA's principal distributor, David VILLEGAS also used his residence, Target Location 4 and his stash house, Target Location 3, to further his drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

#### **TARGET LOCATION 1**

- 20. During the investigation, agents identified **Target Location 1** as the San Diego residence of Reyes ESPINOZA. On numerous occasions, agents have observed Reyes ESPINOZA and or his co-conspirators travel to **Target Location 1** as part of their drug trafficking and money laundering activities. For example, on July 17, 2020, at approximately 5:26 p.m., officers observed ESPINOZA arrive at **Target Location 1** in a white Ford F-150. Agents then observed ESPINOZA walk around to the northside of the multi-dwelling building and enter the west door on the north side of the structure. Most recently, on May 18, 2021, at approximately 10:55 a.m., agents observed a white 2013 Ford pickup bearing CA plate 06863Y2 arrive and park in the driveway of **Target** Location 1. Agents observed Mario ESPINOZA exit the driver's seat and walk to residence. At approximately 10:59 a.m., surveillance units observed Mario ESPINOZA exit the door on the north side of residence and the far west door of the building. Mario ESPINOZA was carrying a garbage bag to his vehicle and placed it in the back. Mario ESPINOZA exited the driveway and left the residence. Based on this recent surveillance, I believe that Reyes ESPINOZA and his co-conspirators are still using Target Location 1 to further their drug trafficking and money laundering activities.
- 21. On October 5, 2020, agents conducted surveillance at **Target Location 1** and based on the intercepts discussed below, observed Charles MILLER conduct a drug transaction with Christian LOPEZ-Villegas (Reyes ESPINOZA's wife). For example, on October 5, 2020, at approximately 10:28 a.m., Charles MILLER using TT8, texted ESPINOZA at TT7, "Brother is cool still to come by after work today?" ESPINOZA replied using TT7, "il be gone all week. il be here for like 2 hours and then leave. What time yoy [you] thinking." Based on this intercepted text message exchange, agents believe MILLER was contacting ESPINOZA in order to set up a methamphetamine transaction at ESPNOZA's residence (**Target Location 1**).
- 22. At approximately 10:32 a.m., MILLER using TT8 called ESPINOZA at TT7. During the call, MILLER said he "was at the shop at South Coast" and ESPINOZA said

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

"okay." MILLER asked if ESPINOZA could swing by there [South Coast]. ESPINOZA said yeah, he "was at the border right now, so he would be over here in about 1 hour." ESPINOZA said he "would be ready in 1 hour and 30 minutes and could meet MILLER in 1 hour and 30 minutes." MILLER said he "was going to leave his car unlocked in the parking lot." ESPINOZA said yeah. MILLER told ESPINOZA "to go ahead and throw it [methamphetamine] in there and lock the car." ESPINOZA asked what time MILLER got off and MILLER said he got off at 2:30 p.m. ESPINOZA said he would see MILLER at 2:30 p.m. then. ESPINOZA told MILLER not to worry. ESPINOZA said he would be ready around that time. MILLER said okay. MILLER said he "would meet ESPINOZA at his [ESPINOZA's] pad (Target Location 1)." ESPINOZA said that was fine.

- 23.At approximately 1:30 p.m., Reves ESPINOZA using TT7 called Christian LOPEZ-Villegas at TT9. LOPEZ-Villegas asked, "What happened." ESPINOZA told LOPEZ-Villegas to "ask Yoli where she [Gloria SANDOVAL] wanted to do it [deliver methamphetamine] and at what time." LOPEZ-Villegas referred to ESPINOZA as "love," and said it would be "after 2:30 [p.m.], since she [SANDOVAL] was working." ESPINOZA said he knew. LOPEZ-Villegas said "she [Yoli] had told her [LOPEZ-Villegas] to let her [Yoli] know the time." ESPINOZA asked "if at whatever time." LOPEZ-Villegas said "the time and place." ESPINOZA said he "was going to tell him at 3:30 [p.m.] at Baskin Robbins." LOPEZ-Villegas asked "where that one [Baskin Robbins] was." ESPINOZA said "just like that." LOPEZ-Villegas asked ESPINOZA to "send her how it [Baskin Robbins] was written." ESPINOZA said "she [Yoli] would know," and added "he [ESPINOZA] did not even know where it [Baskin Robbins] was at." ESPINOZA said they [Yoli and David VILLEGAS] were the ones who knew where it [Baskin Robbins] was." LOPEZ-Villegas said "okay." ESPINOZA said "all right." Based on this intercepted call, agents believe LOPEZ-Villegas was assisting with arranging the delivery of methamphetamine from ESPINOZA to David VILLEGAS through the courier Gloria SANDOVAL.
- 24. At approximately 1:44 p.m., Christian LOPEZ-Villegas using TT9 called Reyes ESPINOZA at TT7. ESPINOZA asked "what was up." LOPEZ-Villegas said "she

[LOPEZ-Villegas] told Yoli already." ESPINOZA told LOPEZ-Villegas to tell her [SANDOVAL] that it was a no after all." LOPEZ-Villegas cursed, and asked "what now." ESPINOZA apologized, and said "that guy [VILLEGAS] did not need them [methamphetamine] after all." LOPEZ-Villegas cursed. ESPINOZA said "it would be until tomorrow." LOPEZ-Villegas said "okay." Based on this intercepted call, agents believe that ESPINOZA and LOPEZ-Villegas were discussing how the delivery of methamphetamine to VILLEGAS previously planned was cancelled.

- 25. At approximately 1:48 p.m., MILLER using TT8, texted ESPINOZA at TT7, "T'm headed you way now my brother." ESPINOZA replied using TT7, "Ok im at home depot. Knok [knock] on the door." MILLER using TT8, responded, "Ok." Based on this intercepted text message exchange, agents believe that ESPINOZA directed MILLER to travel to ESPINOZA's residence (**Target Location 1**) to obtain methamphetamine.
- 26. At approximately 2:08 p.m., Reyes ESPINOZA using TT7 called Christian LOPEZ-Villegas at TT9. During the call, ESPINOZA said "Chucky [MILLER] was going to stop by," and ESPINOZA thought MILLER would be there (Target Location 1) shortly. LOPEZ-Villegas asked where ESPINOZA was and ESPINOZA said he was leaving Home Depot. ESPINOZA told LOPEZ-Villegas "to give him [MILLER] the one that said number 7." LOPEZ-Villegas asked "where it [one with number 7] was." ESPINOZA said it was all right if LOPEZ-Villegas gave MILLER the one with number 7. ESPINOZA said, "it [one with number 7] was in the closet." LOPEZ-Villegas said, "okay." ESPINOZA said it was just that he "put it in a lot of bags." ESPINOZA told LOPEZ-Villegas to take some bags off. LOPEZ-Villegas said okay. ESPINOZA told LOPEZ-Villegas "to just leave the last white one [white bag]." LOPEZ-Villegas asked what Home Depot ESPINOZA was at. ESPINOZA said the one on Palm. ESPINOZA said it was just in case he [MILLER] arrived and LOPEZ-Villegas said okay. Based on this intercepted call, agents believe that ESPINOZA was directing LOPEZ-Villegas to distribute 7 units of methamphetamine to MILLER.
- 27. At approximately 2:09 p.m., agents observed Charles MILLER arrive at 195 East Hall Avenue, San Ysidro, California (**Target Location 1**) in a grey Dodge Avenger,

bearing California license 7KYU914. Moments later, agents observed MILLER walk towards **Target Location 1** and out of sight on the north side of the structure. At approximately 2:11 p.m., agents observed MILLER return to his vehicle empty handed and depart.

- 28. At approximately 2:14 p.m., Reyes ESPINOZA using TT7 called Christian LOPEZ-Villegas at TT9. During the call, ESPINOZA asked if LOPEZ-Villegas had called. LOPEZ-Villegas told ESPINOZA "to call him [MILLER], because he [MILLER] stopped by." LOPEZ-Villegas said "he [MILLER] was outside, but she could not see him." LOPEZ-Villegas told ESPINOZA "to tell him [MILLER] to go on in." ESPINOZA asked if MILLER had left already. LOPEZ-Villegas said she did not know, and told ESPINOZA to call him [MILLER]. ESPINOZA asked if MILLER had gone over or not. LOPEZ-Villegas said yes, but she thought MILLER was outside. ESPINOZA said, "okay." Based on this intercepted call, agents believe that ESPINOZA was coordinating with LOPEZ-Villegas to distribute methamphetamine to MILLER.
- 29. At approximately 2:16 p.m., Reyes ESPINOZA using TT7 called Christian LOPEZ-Villegas at TT9. During the call, LOPEZ-Villegas asked, "what happened." ESPINOZA said MILLER was not answering. LOPEZ-Villegas said "who knew what was going on." ESPINOZA asked if MILLER went over, knocked, and left. LOPEZ-Villegas said she "told MILLER to give her 2 minutes while looked for that [bag with number 7]. LOPEZ-Villegas said she went outside, and she could not see MILLER outside. ESPINOZA said he was going to see what was up. LOPEZ-Villegas said okay. Based on this intercepted call, agents believe that ESPINOZA was coordinating with LOPEZ-Villegas to distribute methamphetamine to MILLER.
- 30. At approximately 2:20 p.m., agents observed MILLER return to **Target Location 1** in the grey Dodge. Moments later, agents observed MILLER walk back around to the north side of the structure. At approximately 2:24 p.m., agents observed MILLER walk back to the grey Dodge with a large grey bag in his left hand. Moments later, agents observed MILLER depart the area in the grey Dodge. Based on this

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

surveillance and intercepted calls and text messages described above, agents believe that ESPINOZA directed LOPEZ-Villegas to supply MILLER with 7 units of methamphetamine and that the transaction occurred at **Target Location 1**.

31. Thus, based on the above intercepted calls and multiple surveillances conducted during this long-term investigation, I believe that Reyes ESPINOZA and his coconspirators use **Target Location 1** to further their drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

#### **TARGET LOCATION 2 and TARGET VEHICLES 1-3**

32. During the investigation, agents identified **Target Location 2** as a stash house for Reyes ESPINOZA and the residence of Gloria SANDOVAL and Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez. Gloria SANDOVAL is the registered owner of Target Vehicles 1-2. GASTELUM-Sanchez has been observed driving Target Vehicle 1 and SANDOVAL has been observed driving Target Vehicle 2. SANDOVAL droved Target Vehicle 3 from Mexico into United States on April 16, 2021. Most recently, on May 18, 2021, the **Target** Vehicles were observed at SANDOVAL and GASTELUM-Sanchez's residence (Target Location 2). On multiple occasions, agents have observed SANDOVAL, GASTELUM-Sanchez and their co-conspirators at **Target Location 2** and using **Target Vehicles 1-3**. In addition, SDG&E utility account records confirmed that Gloria SANDOVAL is the registered account owner at **Target Location 2**. And most recently, on May 18, 2021, at approximately 10:59 a.m., surveillance units observed Mario ESPINOZA exit the door on the north side of **Target Location 1** and the far west door of the building. Mario ESPINOZA was carrying a garbage bag to his vehicle and placed it in the back. Mario ESPINOZA exited the driveway and left the residence. At approximately 11:16 a.m., agents observed Mario ESPINOZA arrive at Target Location 2, and park in the driveway of the residence. At approximately 11:30 a.m., Mario ESPINOZA left Target Location 2 driving his white Ford pickup. During this surveillance, agents observed Target Vehicles 1-3 which are either registered to Gloria SANDOVAL or crossed by her into the United States parked on the street in front of **Target Location 2**. Based on this

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

recent surveillance, I believe that Reyes ESPINOZA, Gloria SANDOVAL, Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez and their co-conspirators are still using **Target Location 2** and **Target Vehicles 1-3** to further their drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

- 33. On September 7, 2020, agents intercepted telephone calls between David VILLEGAS and Reyes ESPINOZA regarding the delivery of twenty-two pounds of methamphetamine. Subsequently, agents conducted surveillance of the meeting between VILLEGAS and Gloria SANDOVAL and Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez at the Bank of America parking lot, 5851 Balboa Avenue, San Diego, California. Later, agents observed VILLEGAS selling four pounds of methamphetamine to Patrick LANE in the parking lot of the San Diego County Credit Union, 5555 Mildred Street, San Diego, California. At approximately 3:01 p.m., agents observed Gloria SANDOVAL and Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez in the rear parking lot of the Bank of America in a black GMC Arcadia, bearing California license 8AJM738 (Target Vehicle 2). At approximately 3:11 p.m., agents observed black GMC Arcadia pull away. At that time, agents observed VILLEGAS pull away from the same area in a silver Buick, bearing California license 5DNX616. At approximately 3:17 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS arrive at 4850 Mt. St Helens Drive, San Diego, California (Target Location 3). Based on this surveillance and intercepted calls, I believe that SANDOVAL and GASTELUM-Sanchez used Target Vehicle 2 to drop off methamphetamine to VILLEGAS.
- 34. On September 9, 2020, agents intercepted telephone calls between Reyes ESPINOZA and David VILLEGAS regarding the delivery of 22 pounds of methamphetamine. Subsequently, agents conducted video surveillance of Gloria SANDOVAL's residence at 428 S. 46th Street, San Diego (**Target Location 2**). At approximately 3:14 p.m., the video shows Gloria SANDOVAL loading big box in the back of black GMC Arcadia, bearing California license 8AJM738 (**Target Vehicle 2**) that was parked in the driveway of 428 South 46th Street. At approximately 3:17 p.m., the video shows Mario ESPINOZA arriving back at 428 South 46th Street in his white Ford pickup.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

At approximately 3:18 p.m., the video shows Mario ESPINOZA and Gloria SANDOVAL depart in the Black GMC (**Target Vehicle 2**) with Mario ESPINOZA driving.

35. On September 10, 2020, agents intercepted telephone calls between Reyes ESPINOZA and David VILLEGAS regarding the delivery of approximately 11 pounds of methamphetamine. Subsequently, agents conducted video surveillance of Gloria SANDOVAL's residence at 428 S. 46th Street, San Diego, California (**Target Location 2**). At approximately 1:06 p.m., the video recording shows Mario ESPINOZA arrived at 428 South 46th Street in white Ford pickup, bearing California license 37476Z2. At approximately 1:17 p.m., the video recording shows Mario ESPINOZA crawling under the front of the truck. At approximately 1:34 p.m., the video shows Mario ESPINOZA departing from 428 South 46th Street in white Ford pickup. At approximately 2:52 p.m., incoming text message #5429 was intercepted on Target Telephone (619)925-2490 to David VILLEGAS from Reyes ESPINOZA at Target Telephone (760)592-5415. The text message read, "4 [pounds of methamphetamine]? Bank [Bank of America]?" At approximately 3:01 p.m., VILLEGAS replied with text message #5433 that read, "Is it possible to make around sometime like 5 o'clock or 530 I'm kind in the middle of something right now" ESPINOZA replied at approximately 3:04 p.m., with text message #5436 that read, "5:30 then". VILLEGAS replied with text message #5438 that read, "Ok thank you". At approximately 5:05 p.m., the video shows Gloria SANDOVAL depart from 428 South 46th Street in the Black GMC, bearing California license 8AJM738 (Target Vehicle 2) At approximately 10:15 p.m., outgoing call #5508 was intercepted on Target Telephone (619)925-2490 from David VILLEGAS to Reyes ESPINOZA at Target Telephone (760)592-5415. During the call, VILLEGAS and ESPINOZA greeted. VILLEGAS said that one [delivery of methamphetamine] was another half [half pound over. ESPINOZA asked if really. VILLEGAS said yeah, and it [methamphetamine] was 11½ [pounds of methamphetamine]. VILLEGAS said he owed 17 [\$1700] for the one [pound of methamphetamine] and another 8 or 850 [\$800 or \$850]. ESPINOZA said yeah. VILLEGAS said that was what he owed, when ESPINOZA came back. ESPINOZA said

okay, and he would write it down. VILLEGAS said he owed ESPINOZA 25-50 [\$2550]. ESPINOZA said okay. VILLEGAS said it was not under and this time it was over. ESPINOZA said okay. VILLEGAS said ESPINOZA needed to hurry up and get back here [California]. ESPINOZA said almost. VILLEGAS said okay. VILLEGAS said he was telling ESPINOZA's brother's wife [Gloria SANDOVAL] that Mario [Mario ESPINOZA] was fired. ESPINOZA said yeah, and he [Mario ESPINOZA] could not count right. VILLEGAS said he told her [SANDOVAL] that he [VILLEGAS] and a few years, so they [VILLEGAS and ESPINOZA] were always good.

- 36. On September 16, 2020, at approximately 5:30 a.m., agents established surveillance of 428 S. 46th St., San Diego, CA (**Target Location 2**). At approximately 6:10 a.m., agents observed two males exit the residence and get into black Dodge Nitro, bearing CA plate 8KIN967 (**Target Vehicle 1**). The Dodge Nitro proceeded east on Oceanview Blvd., and then turned north on 47th St. At approximately 6:12 a.m., San Diego Police Officer J. Garzanti conducted a traffic enforcement stop of the black 2011 Dodge Nitro (**Target Vehicle 1**) at Imperial and 47th St., in San Diego, California. Officer Garzanti identified the driver with a California driver's license as Esteban Ruben GASTELUM-Sanchez and passenger was identified as with a United States Passport Card as Jose Antonio CASTELLANOS. GASTELUM-Sanchez stated he lives at 428 S. 46th Street, San Diego, California and listed phone number as 619-642-7689.
- 37. On October 8, 2020, agents conducted surveillance at a stash house belonging to Reyes ESPINOZA located at 428 South 46th Street, San Diego (**Target Location 2**). This stash house was run by Gloria SANDOVAL. During that surveillance, agents observed Carlos ESPINOZA dropped off approximately 10 pounds of methamphetamine. Agents then seized the methamphetamine, which was approximately 4.185 kilograms of methamphetamine (actual). Following this seizure, agents intercepted a series of telephone calls between Reyes ESPINOZA using TT7, David VILLEGAS using TT2, and Charles MILLER using TT8 discussing this seizure.

- 38. On October 8, 2020, at approximately 9:39 a.m., agents observed Carlos ESPINOZA arrive at 428 South 46th Street, San Diego (**Target Location 2**), in a white Ford pickup, bearing California license plate 6C12755. Agents observed Carlos ESPINOZA exit the pickup and crawl under the front of the truck. At approximately 9:50 a.m., agents observed Carlos ESPINOZA carry a dark-colored plastic garbage bag from the front of the truck over to the gate leading into the backyard of **Target Location 2**. Agents observed Carlos ESPINOZA reach over the fence and unlatch the gate and place the bag behind the fence. Moments later, agents observed Carlos ESPINOZA walk from the gate back to the rear of the vehicle, where he placed some paper towels into the garbage can. They then observed Carlos ESPINOZA get into the white Ford and depart.
- 39. At approximately 10:35 a.m., agents approached **Target Location 2** on foot. Agents approached the gate of the fence and were able to see a dark-colored plastic garbage bag sitting on a small chair behind the fence. Agents unlatched the gate and seized the bag. Agents returned to their vehicle where they inspected the contents of the dark-colored plastic garbage bag. Inside the bag, agents discovered five plastic wrapped bundles that were covered in a red-colored grease. Upon unwrapping they discovered the bundles contained a white crystalline substance.
- 40. At approximately 11:03 a.m., agents observed Mario ESPINOZA arrive at 428 South 46th Street (**Target Location 2**) in his white Ford pickup truck, bearing California license plate 37476Z2. During the next 20 to 25 minutes, agents observed Mario ESPINOZA appear to crawl under the pickup truck and unload methamphetamine from under the front of the truck.
- 41. At approximately 11:32 p.m., agents observed Mario ESPINOZA make a telephone call on his cellular telephone. Moments later, agents observed Mario ESPINOZA walk back into the rear of the residence through the gate.
- 42. At approximately 11:36 a.m., agents observed Mario ESPINOZA walk back to the driveway and observed him talking on his cellular telephone again. Agents observed Mario ESPINOZA walk over to a black Nissan parked in the driveway and look inside.

After the call, agents observed Mario ESPINOZA standing near the rear of his white Ford pickup truck conversing with Aimee CASTELLANOS for several minutes, who appeared to come from the residence discussed earlier. At approximately 11:44 p.m., agents observed Mario ESPINOZA and CASTELLANOS return to the backyard of the residence.

- 43. At approximately 11:47 a.m., agents observed Mario ESPINOZA walk back to the driveway and talk on his cellular telephone again. Agents observed Mario ESPINOZA walk over to a black Nissan parked in the driveway and look inside. After the call, agents observed Mario ESPINOZA enter his white Ford pickup and depart from the residence.
- 44. At approximately 1:01 p.m., Sheriff LNU at Mexican telephone number (664) 781-9251 called ESPINOZA at TT7. During the call, ESPINOZA said he was going to look into that issue over here and it seemed they [10 pounds of methamphetamine] were stolen. ESPINOZA said Yoli [Gloria SANDOVAL] mentioned nobody knew anything, and a bunch of bullshit. SHERIFF LNU said that was odd and asked who could had stolen them. ESPINOZA said perhaps a neighbor that found out what those dudes [Carlos and Mario ESPINOZA] where doing, that those dudes [Carlos and Mario ESPINOZA] were leaving something there. SHERIFF LNU said yeah, and they [unknown neighbors] took them [10 pounds of methamphetamine]. ESPINOZA said it was too risky though. SHERIFF LNU said perhaps it was someone that was being nosy. ESPINOZA said he thought Esteban [Esteban GASTELUM-SANCHEZ] could have told someone to steal it [10 pounds of methamphetamine]. SHERIFF LNU said who knew, but maybe. ESPINOZA said either or, because it was too much of a risk for someone to go in since there was people at the house.
- 45. At approximately 1:58 p.m., ESPINOZA using TT7 texted MILLER at telephone number (619) 905-9202 "I have problems someone stole my stuff [10 pounds of methamphetamine] today." MILLER texted back "I'm in Idaho right now if you need anything let me know and I'll call my wife." ESPINOZA texted "No that's fine brother spread the word someone stole 10 Ls [10 pounds of methamphetamine] from me on imperial ave [428 S. 46th Street]. ESPINOZA then texted "2 long pakages and 2 fat ones

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

all whit grease". ESPINOZA continued with text "Today around 11 am" and then "After unloading the car".

46. At approximately 2:04 p.m., ESPINOZA using TT7 called VILLEGAS at telephone number (619) 634-5089. During the call, VILLEGAS asked what happened. ESPINOZA said someone stole it [10 pounds of methamphetamine] this morning, after they [Carlos ESPINOZA] unloaded the things [bundles of methamphetamine]. VILLEGAS asked if all of them [methamphetamine] ESPINOZA said it was only 10 [pounds of methamphetamine]. ESPINOZA said the first car would get there [Target Location 2], they [Carlos ESPINOZA] would unload it and leave it [methamphetamine] there. ESPINOZA added then the second car would get there, they [Mario ESPINOZA] would unload it [methamphetamine] and ESPINOZA would go and get it [pounds of methamphetamine] from there [Target Location 2]. ESPINOZA said whenever the chick [Gloria SANDOVAL] went to deliver she [Gloria SANDOVAL] would just grab it from there [Target Location 2] and would deliver to VILLEGAS. ESPINOZA said this time after the second car [Mario ESPINOZA] got there [Target Location 2], he [Mario ESPINOZA called and asked where the other one [10 pounds of methamphetamine] was and ESPINOZA mentioned it [10 pounds of methamphetamine] was on the chair. ESPINOZA said he [Mario ESPINOZA] mentioned it was not there, he [Mario ESPINOZA] sent a picture and it [pounds of methamphetamine] was gone. ESPINOZA said he did not know what was going on, so he called the guy [Carlos ESPINOZA] back, asked where it [methamphetamine] was and he [Carlos ESPINOZA] said it [methamphetamine] was on the chair. ESPINOZA said there was like a little gate, so the dogs were out, and the gate was open. ESPINOZA said after they [Carlos ESPINOZA] unloaded the first car somebody went in there and stole the stuff [10 pounds of methamphetamine]. VILLEGAS said somebody talked. ESPINOZA said exactly, and ESPINOZA thought it had to be someone from the inside. VILLEGAS said it had to be, otherwise how they [unknown persons] would had not known. ESPINOZA said exactly. ESPINOZA said he was in TJ [Tijuana, Mexicol and just came right now to check that. ESPINOZA added he had about 13 [pounds

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

of methamphetamine at his house, because he was saving those [pounds of methamphetamine]. VILLEGAS asked what ESPINOZA was going to do with them [pounds of methamphetamine]. ESPINOZA said he was just going to have those ones until Thursday, the next ones. VILLEGAS said that was not going to work for him. ESPINOZA said he knew and asked if VILLEGAS needed the 13 [pounds of methamphetamine] right now and if VILLEGAS could wait until Tuesday. VILLEGAS said no, there was no way, and VILLEGAS was halfway through the ones [pounds of methamphetamine] he got last time. ESPINOZA said okay. VILLEGAS said he had the 12 [\$12,000] that he owed ESPINOZA. ESPINOZA said okay. VILLEGAS asked if ESPINOZA had 13 [pounds of methamphetamine] more. ESPINOZA said yeah. VILLEGAS said that [13 pounds of methamphetamine] would not even last VILLEGAS until Tuesday. ESPINOZA said he could do 11 [pounds of methamphetamine] on Saturday. VILLEGAS asked if ESPINOZA could not do anything today. ESPINOZA said just the 13 [pounds of methamphetamine]. VILLEGAS asked if nothing tomorrow. ESPINOZA said nothing tomorrow, until Saturday, the 11 [pounds of methamphetamine]. VILLEGAS said he would take what he could get. ESPINOZA asked if that would work. VILLEGAS said he guessed so, it had to. VILLEGAS asked what ESPINOZA wanted VILLEGAS to do about the guys, the inside job. ESPINOZA said for VILLEGAS to have his ear up since they [unknown persons] might try to sell them [10 pounds of methamphetamine] for cheap. ESPINOZA added he was sure they [unknown persons] would sell it [10 pounds of methamphetamine] for cheap, possibly 1,000 bucks or something since it was stolen stuff [methamphetamine]. ESPINOZA said he was spreading the word right now and everybody was looking around for it [pounds of methamphetamine]. VILLEGAS asked how many people knew. ESPINOZA said just the chick [Gloria SANDOVAL], the drivers [Mario and Carlos ESPINOZA] and him [Reves ESPINOZA]. VILLEGAS said it was one of them. ESPINOZA said he was checking right now, because he was told at the apartments that somebody that smoke [methamphetamine] lived across the street. ESPINOZA said they [ESPINOZA and others] had someone right now checking. ESPINOZA said maybe they [unknown

persons] noticed the sketchy stuff they [ESPINOZA and others] were doing and went inside real quick and grabbed them [pounds of methamphetamine] once the car [Carlos ESPINOZA] left. ESPINOZA said yeah, all the time, it was a shitty neighborhood. ESPINOZA added he was trying to find out right now. VILLEGAS said all together with ESPINOZA had and what he [VILLEGAS] owed ESPINOZA already then it would be 31-5 [\$31,500]. ESPINOZA said okay, and ESPINOZA had 13 [pounds of methamphetamine] right now. VILLEGAS said he definitely wanted them [13 pounds of methamphetamine]. VILLEGAS said he would have the 12,000 that he owed ESPINOZA plus the rest. ESPINOZA said okay. ESPINOZA said he would try to find out right now, and if VILLEGAS heard anything to let him know, so they [ESPINOZA and others] could go knock on some few doors. VILLEGAS asked if they [pounds of methamphetamine] were already unwrapped, or if he had to unwrap them. ESPINOZA said they were already unwrapped and those were the ones [pounds of methamphetamine] ESPINOZA had them at the house. VILLEGAS asked if they [pounds of methamphetamine] were new. ESPINOZA said yeah, everything was new.

- 47. At approximately 2:20 p.m., MILLER using telephone number (619) 905-9202 texted ESPINOZA at TT7 "Ok my friends who lives around that area said he would keep his ears open." ESPINOZA texted back "Ok I will give 1000 dlls [\$1000] reward just for knowing ho [who] it was so I can go use MYRICK 12g [12 guage] haha."
- 48. At approximately 2:48 p.m., VILLEGAS using telephone number (619) 634-5089 called ESPINOZA at TT7. During the call, VILLEGAS asked if 14 [pounds of methamphetamine] of the new. ESPINOZA said yeah. VILLEGAS said he (VILLEGAS) had that, plus the 12 [\$12,000] he owed ESPINOZA. ESPINOZA said he found another one [pound of methamphetamine] all the way at the bottom of the bag. VILLEGAS said he had a guy coming down from Ramona and would be there in about 40 minutes. VILLEGAS asked when ESPINOZA wanted to meet. ESPINOZA asked if when or where. VILLEGAS said both. ESPINOZA said at the bank in like 30 minutes. VILLEGAS said alright. ESPINOZA said he was going to send his nephew [Mario ESPINOZA]. VILLEGAS asked if

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

it was the guy [Mario ESPINOZA] who could not count. ESPINOZA laughed, and said yes, that one [Mario ESPINOZA]. VILLEGAS said okay. VILLEGAS said he had 33 [\$33,000] for ESPINOZA all together. ESPINOZA said okay, he [Mario ESPINOZA] was on his way. VILLEGAS asked if half an hour at the bank. ESPINOZA said yeah. VILLEGAS asked what he [Mario ESPINOZA] was driving. ESPINOZA said a brown Prius. VILLEGAS asked if the little brown one he had seen ESPINOZA in, and ESPINOZA said yes.

At approximately 3:31 p.m., Abraham LNU using Mexican telephone number (664) 477-5904 called ESPINOZA at TT7. During the call, ESPINOZA said he had been staying in Tijuana, but he was currently in San Diego. ABRAHAM asked if ESPINOZA could talk. ESPINOZA said yes. ABRAHAM asked if everything was okay. ESPINOZA said 10 [pounds of methamphetamine] were stolen today from him. ABRAHAM asked what ESPINOZA meant. ESPINOZA said his guy [Carlos ESPINOZA] would arrive, unload them [pounds of methamphetamine] and leave them somewhere. ESPINOZA said whenever the second one [Mario ESPINOZA] came, the first stuff [methamphetamine] was no longer there, someone took them [10 pounds of methamphetamine]. ABRAHAM asked if out on the street. ESPINOZA said no, at a house. ABRAHAM said it was weird. ESPINOZA said it was in the backyard, and it was weird. ESPINOZA said it was the back porch, there was a wooden door and one would go to the back. ABRAHAM said right. ESPINOZA said he was looking into it. ABRAHAM said someone must have been keeping an eye. ESPINOZA said right. ABRAHAM said it might not be cops but thieves. ESPINOZA said right. ABRAHAM said ESPINOZA should change it up. ESPINOZA said yes, and he was looking into it right now. ABRAHAM asked how everything else was going. ESPINOZA said everything was fine and everything had been really slow. ABRAHAM said it [methamphetamine] was cheap right now. ESPINOZA said yes, and that was the problem. ABRAHAM said there was a lot of work [methamphetamine] inside [the United States]. ESPINOZA said that was the problem. ABRAHAM said they [pounds of methamphetamine] were even going down [in price] in Los Angeles. ESPINOZA asked if that was so. ABRAHAM said he was selling them for 2 [\$2000] and now they [possibly

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

customers] wanted to pay 18 [\$1800]. ESPINOZA said he (ESPINOZA) was doing 1,600 [\$1600]. ABRAHAM said it was really cheap. ABRAHAM said he had some on stand still in "Los Vientos" [winds], Chica [Chicago]. ESPINOZA said things were tough. ABRAHAM said half was paid to him but kept the other half there. ESPINOZA said all right.

- At approximately 5:15 p.m., MILLER using telephone number (619) 905-9202 50. called ESPINOZA at TT7. During the call, MILLER said if ESPINOZA needed something then he could go by his [MILLER's] house. MILLER said if ESPINOZA needed some money there was some money there [MILLER's house] too. ESPINOZA told MILLER not to worry. MILLER asked if it happened there behind on Imperial. ESPINOZA said yeah, Imperial. ESPINOZA said one would get off on the 805 [I-805], go right and it was the first street. MILLER said okay and asked if it [10 pounds of methamphetamine] was in a car. ESPINOZA said no, it was in a house. ESPINOZA said he thought that somebody was already checking them [ESPINOZA and others], because as soon as that fool [Carlos ESPINOZA left it [pounds of methamphetamine] the other [Mario ESPINOZA] came and 30 minutes had not passed, when somebody got it [methamphetamine]. MILLER asked what they [unknown persons] got. ESPINOZA said it was [10 pounds of methamphetamine] and ESPINOZA thought it was a black dude [unidentified neighbor], because the neighbor thought it was a black dude [unidentified neighbor]. ESPINOZA told MILLER to let ESPINOZA if MILLER heard anything.
- 51. Subsequent DEA laboratory testing confirmed that ESPINOZA supplied approximately 4.185 kilograms of methamphetamine (actual) which was intended for VILLEGAS and MILLER but intercepted.
- 52. Thus, based on the above intercepted calls, multiple surveillances, and seizure, I believe that Reyes ESPINOZA, Gloria SANDOVAL, Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez and their co-conspirators use **Target Location 2** as a stash house for their drug trafficking and money laundering activities as well as **Target Vehicles 1-3** to further their criminal activities.

#### TARGET LOCATION 3

53. During the investigation, agents identified **Target Location 3** as stash house used by David VILLEGAS and the residence of David SANTA MARIA. On numerous occasions, agents have observed VILLEGAS and or SANTA MARIA at Target Location 3 in order to conduct drug trafficking transactions. Most recently, on May 12, 2021 at approximately 8:00 p.m., agents established surveillance in the vicinity of **Target Location 3**. Agents observed VILLEGAS walk to **Target Location 3**. Based on this recent surveillance, I believe that David VILLEGAS and his co-conspirators are still using **Target Location 3** to further their drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

54. On February 1, 2021, CS-3¹ purchased approximately 341 grams of methamphetamine (actual) from David VILLEGAS for \$1,500. This purchase occurred at Circle K located at 4360 Genesee Avenue, San Diego and is discussed in more detail below. On February 1, 2021, at approximately 1:30 p.m., agents provided CS-3 with \$1,500 to purchase one pound of methamphetamine from VILLEGAS. Prior to this, agents searched CS-3 and CS-3's vehicle for contraband with negative results. At approximately 1:43 p.m. CS-3 placed a telephone call to VILLEGAS at TT2 in the presence of the agents, who verified that CS-3 called TT2. During the conversation, VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he would call CS-3 back.

55. At approximately 1:55 p.m., CS-3 received a telephone call from VILLEGAS at telephone number (858) 717-7746 (TT11). During the conversation, CS-3 asked VILLEGAS if this was his number [858-717-7746 (TT11)] and VILLEGAS said it was his

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In July 2020, CS-3 was arrested in Kansas for distribution of approximately 3 pounds of methamphetamine. CS-3 agreed to cooperate with investigators in order to reduce CS-3's criminal liability from this arrest. Prior to this arrest, CS-3 did not have any criminal history. CS-3 returned to San Diego at the direction of investigators and met with agents in this investigation. In August 2020, agents met with CS-3 and CS-3 admitted that he had provided false information to agents in Kansas regarding the source of the 3 pounds of methamphetamine. CS-3 told San Diego agents that he had in fact obtained the methamphetamine from VILLEGAS and not from a third party as CS-3 had told the Kansas agents. In light of the false information that CS-3 had provided to Kansas agents, CS-3 was subsequently deactivated as a confidential source in Kansas. In January 2021, CS-3 was signed up a confidential source by investigators in San Diego in order to identify VILLEGAS's new telephone number. Much of the information provided by CS-3 has been corroborated by further investigation. I believe that the information provided by CS-3 is credible and reliable.

"burner phone" [temporary telephone number]. VILLEGAS said that he now has "people [customers] call me on my regular number [TT2]" and then VILLEGAS calls them back "from my burner number [TT11]." VILLEGAS said he "changes it [burner telephone] once a week just to be safe." VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he has a female customer that comes in from Hawaii to purchase methamphetamine from him. VILLEGAS told CS-3 "the price of methamphetamine in Hawaii is \$800 per ounce." VILLEGAS said the unidentified female customer flies "from Hawaii to San Diego and then mails the methamphetamine back to herself in Hawaii." CS-3 asked VILLEGAS the price for a pound of methamphetamine and VILLEGAS said, "15 [\$1,500] a piece." CS-3 asked if VILLEGAS could meet up with CS-3 and VILLEGAS said yes. VILLEGAS said he "needed to see another customer" also so VILLEGAS could take care of both of them. CS-3 asked VILLEGAS if they could meet after 3:30 p.m., and VILLEGAS said, "Yes." VILLEGAS told CS-3 he had to meet a maintenance guy regarding VILLEGAS's motorhome (Target Location 4) first. VILLEGAS asked CS-3 how many CS-3 wanted, "one or two [pounds of methamphetamine]" and CS-3 said just one.

- 56. At approximately 3:19 p.m., CS-3 placed a telephone call to VILLEGAS at telephone number TT2. During the conversation, VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he "would call CS-3 back." At approximately 3:35 p.m., CS-3 received a telephone call from VILLEGAS at TT11. During the conversation, VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he was "still waiting on the maintenance guy." CS-3 asked VILLEGAS if he wanted to meet CS-3 in their normal spot. VILLEGAS told CS-3 no, "not the jack [Jack in the Box]" and that he had to meet a couple of people. CS-3 told VILLEGAS to let him know where they could meet and VILLEGAS said he, "would call back." At approximately 4:12 p.m., CS-3 received a telephone call from VILLEGAS at TT2. During the conversation, VILLEGAS told CS-3 to get to the "Clairemont area" and VILLEGAS would let CS-3 "know where to go."
- 57. At approximately 4:29 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS arrive at **Target Location 3** in a maroon Buick Rainer, bearing California license plate 5LFF336. Agents observed VILLEGAS exit the vehicle and walk up the driveway of **Target Location 3**. At

approximately 4:33 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS talking with an unidentified male in the driveway of **Target Location 3**. At approximately 4:36 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS depart in the maroon Buick. At approximately 4:37 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS park across the street from 4850 Mt. St. Helens Drive. Moments later, agents observed VILLEGAS exit the vehicle and walk towards the residence carrying a black bag.

- 58. At approximately 4:41 p.m., CS-3 received a telephone call from VILLEGAS at TT2. During the conversation, VILLEGAS told CS-3 to meet him at the Circle K on Genesee Avenue. At approximately 4:45 p.m., agents followed CS-3 as he traveled to the predetermined location. At approximately 4:51 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS walk back to the maroon Buick carrying the same black bag. Moments later, agents observed VILLEGAS depart in the maroon Buick. At approximately 4:53 p.m., agents observed CS-3 arrive at the Circle K, located at 4360 Genesee Avenue, San Diego, California.
- 59. At approximately 4:55 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS arrive at the Circle K in the maroon Buick and park next to CS-3's vehicle. Moments later, agents observed VILLEGAS exit his vehicle and open the passenger door of CS-3's vehicle. At that time, CS-3 purchased approximately one pound of methamphetamine from VILLEGAS for \$1,500.
- 60. During the meeting, VILLEGAS told CS-3 that the car he was using was just for drop-offs [deliveries of methamphetamine] and that he uses low profile cars that don't stand out and blend in. VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he has other vehicles that he drives when he's not delivering drugs that he parks at mechanic's houses who works on them. VILLEGAS showed CS-3 a picture of a 2015 Thor Outlaw motorhome (**Target Location** 4) that VILLEGAS just purchased for \$91,000. VILLEGAS told CS-3 he would give CS-3 10 or 20 pounds to take to his customers in Missouri but would probably charge CS-3 a little more. VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he slowed down for a little while but still picks up 20 to 40 pounds a week. VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he used to do 30 or 40 pounds a day before. VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he had some customers before that would do 20 pounds of methamphetamine per week. VILLEGAS told CS-3 that he doesn't want to meet anyone

new. VILLEGAS said he buys "burner" phones at Walmart for \$30 and calls his customers back on the burner. VILLEGAS said he gets a new phone every week so if they [law enforcement] want to record his calls that VILLEGAS doesn't have the number long enough for them [law enforcement] to get on to him. VILLEGAS told CS-3 if he/she calls VILLEGAS' regular number he [VILLEGAS] will call back from the burner phone.

- 61. At approximately 5:06 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS standing near the CS-3's vehicle and talking on a cellular telephone. Moments later, agents observed VILLEGAS get back into the maroon Buick and depart the area. At approximately 5:11 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS return to **Target Location 3** and walk towards the residence. Subsequent DEA laboratory testing confirmed that VILLEGAS sold CS-3 approximately 341 grams of methamphetamine (actual).
- 62. Between February 22, 2021 and March 3, 2021, agents intercepted telephone calls between David VILLEGAS and Chris PASCHKE regarding the delivery of ten pounds of methamphetamine. On March 3, 2021, investigators observed VILLEGAS deliver the methamphetamine to PASCHKE. Agents then coordinated with SDPD officers to stop PASCHKE and Charles GERARDI in the parking lot of the La Quinta Inn & Suites at 4610 De Soto Street, San Diego. There officers seized approximately 4.080 kilograms of methamphetamine (actual) and approximately \$27,896 in U.S. currency.
- 63. On February 22, 2021, at approximately 5:09 p.m., Chris PASCHKE using telephone number (858) 285-9018 called David VILLEGAS at TT2. During the call, PASCHKE said he was just giving VILLEGAS a heads up and they [PASCHKE and GERARDI) were probably going to do that like in week or 5 days. VILLEGAS said his guy [Reyes ESPINOZA] was out of town until like Wednesday. PASCHKE said okay. VILLEGAS said he would try to get a hold of him [ESPINOZA] on the phone right now. VILLEGAS asked if the same [amount of methamphetamine]. PASCHKE said no, double at least. VILLEGAS said okay. PASCHKE said what they talked about or shooting for 50 [pounds of methamphetamine] or something. VILLEGAS said he needed to know a for sure the number [pounds of methamphetamine]. PASCHKE said it would be at least 40

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

[pounds of methamphetamine], but he was just giving VILLEGAS a heads up that it would be going down in about a week, that he [GERARDI] would be back. VILLEGAS told PASCHKE to let him know the exact day, when PASCHKE found out. VILLEGAS said he would tell him [ESPINOZA] tonight. PASCHKE said okay. PASCHKE said he would keep VILLEGAS informed. VILLEGAS said okay.

- On February 28, 2021, at approximately 4:26 p.m., Chris PASCHKE using 64. telephone number (858) 285-9018 called David VILLEGAS at TT2. During the call, PASCHKE asked if there was any chance that he would see VILLEGAS tomorrow. VILLEGAS asked if on that large thing [methamphetamine]. PASCHKE said yeah. VILLEGAS said he was not sure about that [methamphetamine], but VILLEGAS would do his best. PASCHKE said okay. VILLEGAS said he had mentioned about the problems with the flow of things [amount of methamphetamine] right now. PASCHKE said okay. VILLEGAS said he was going to give him [ESPINOZA] a call as soon as VILLEGAS was done with that job and would call PASCHKE back when he knew the results. PASCHKE said okay. PASCHKE said he was looking like at 60 or 80 thousand. VILLEGAS asked if PASCHKE had it there in front of him. PASCHKE said he would tomorrow. VILLEGAS said okay. PASCHKE said he was just giving VILLEGAS the heads up and they would do what they could. VILLEGAS said it might take a little longer than a week to get that [methamphetamine], but they [VILLEGAS and PASCHKE] would do what they could per day. PASCHKE said yeah, whatever. VILLEGAS said okay. PASCHKE said they would talk tomorrow around 12:00 or 1:00 p.m. VILLEGAS said okay.
- 65. On March 1, 2021, at approximately 10:36 a.m., Chris PASCHKE using telephone number (858) 285-9018 texted David VILLEGAS at TT2, "Hey this is Chris [PASCHKE] if u can stop by anytime after 12:00 or call me please thanks". At approximately 12:14 p.m., VILLEGAS replied, "I have to run a couple errands and then after I'm done I will come by the house and talk to you."
- 66. On March 3, 2021, at approximately 12:42 p.m., VILLEGAS texted PASCHKE, "Good morning Chris [PASCHKE] I will pick all it [methamphetamine] up

somewhere around four 430 [between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m.] then I got it and wrap it [methamphetamine] put a gather and bring it [methamphetamine] over so send me a text back and let me know what time you think you'll be ready."

- 67. At approximately 3:55 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS' maroon Buick Rainer, bearing California license 5LFF336 parked in front of the Sufi Mediterranean Cuisine, 5915 Balboa Avenue, San Diego. Agents then observed VILLEGAS standing at the passenger door of a black GMC Acadia, bearing California license 8AJM738 (**Target Vehicle 2**). At that time, agents observed VILLEGAS talking to Gloria SANDOVAL through the passenger side of the black GMC. At approximately 3:58 p.m., agents observed SANDOVAL depart the parking lot in the black GMC (**Target Vehicle 2**). At approximately 4:08 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS depart the area.
- 68. At approximately 4:12 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS arrive at the Rite Aid, 5270 Balboa Avenue, San Diego. Moments later, agents observed Jasmine LUCAS approach the maroon Buick and meet with VILLEGAS. At approximately 4:15 p.m., agents observed LUCAS walk away from VILLEGAS' vehicle and get into a white Acura, bearing California license 7CZJ209. Agents observed LUCAS depart the Rite Aid shortly thereafter. At approximately 4:27 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS depart the Rite Aid. Shortly thereafter, agents lost sight of VILLEGAS but at approximately 4:45 p.m., agents located the maroon Buick parked across the street from **Target Location 3**.
- 69. At approximately 5:46 p.m., Chris PASCHKE using telephone number (858) 285-9018 called David VILLEGAS at TT2. During the call, PASCHKE asked if VILLEGAS would be coming by later or not. VILLEGAS said yeah, he was putting it [ten pounds of methamphetamine] together right now. PASCHKE said right on, and that he would see VILLEGAS when VILLEGAS got there.
- 70. At approximately 6:19 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS walk across the street from **Target Location 3** carrying what appeared to be a white bag. At approximately 6:24 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS depart in the maroon Buick. At approximately 6:31 p.m., agents observed the maroon Buick arrive at 5402 Cole Street,

San Diego. Moments later, agents observed VILLEGAS exit the vehicle and meet with PASCHKE in the street. Agents observed VILLEGAS and PASCHKE walk towards the south side of the residence. At that time, agents observed VILLEGAS carrying two white or light-colored plastic bags in his hand. At approximately 6:50 p.m., agents observed VILLEGAS and PASCHKE return to the maroon Buick. At that time, VILLEGAS was not carrying anything in his hands, agents observed VILLEGAS depart shortly thereafter.

- 71. At approximately 7:10 p.m., agents observed a black Toyota, bearing California license 8NEX710 depart from the area of 5402 Cole Street. Agents followed the vehicle, which arrived at the La Quinta Inn & Suites at 4610 De Soto Street, San Diego, California at approximately 7:22 p.m. At approximately 7:24 p.m., agents observed Charles GERARDI exit the driver's seat of the black Toyota and walk towards the hotel office. At that time, agents observed PASCHKE sitting in the front passenger seat of the black Toyota.
- 72. At approximately 7:30 p.m., agents directed officers from the San Diego Police Department to make contact with PASCHKE and GERARDI in the parking lot of the La Quinta Inn & Suites. During a search of GERARDI and his possessions, officers found two light grey Walmart bags containing a total of ten clear Ziploc bags that contained a white crystalline substance and \$27,896 in U.S. Currency. During the search, PASCHKE was found in possession of a small amount of personal use methamphetamine. PASCHKE was subsequently cited and released from the scene by San Diego Police. Officers placed GERADI under arrest and transported him to the San Diego County Central Jail. Subsequent DEA laboratory testing confirmed that VILLEGAS supplied PASCHKE and GERARDI with approximately 4.080 kilograms of methamphetamine (actual).
- 73. Thus, based on the above intercepted calls, multiple surveillances, and seizures, I believe that David VILLEGAS and his co-conspirators use **Target Location 3** as a stash house for their drug trafficking and money laundering activities.

#### **TARGET LOCATION 4**

- 74. During the investigation, agents identified **Target Location 4** as the residence of David VILLEGAS. On numerous occasions, agents have observed David VILLEGAS enter or exit **Target Location 4** before traveling to or from narcotics transactions. In addition, agents have intercepted calls in which VILLEGAS discusses counting drug proceeds at **Target Location 4**. On January 30, 2021, at about 1000 a.m., agents conducted surveillance at Mission Bay RV Resort located at 2727 De Anza Road, San Diego, CA 92109. While driving through the campground, agents observed David VILLEGAS walking with his dog through the campground. Agents then observed VILLEGAS walk to **Target Location 4**. Agents observed a red 2004 Buick Rainer bearing CA license plate 5LFF336, parked in front of the **Target Location 4** which is currently being driven by VILLEGAS. Most recently on May 18, 2021, agents observed **Target Location 4** parked in space 93, at the Mission Bay RV Resort.
- 75. As discussed above, during a recorded conversation with CS-3, VILLEGAS admitted to purchasing **Target Location 4** in cash. The current registered owner of the motorhome is Virginia Bondi in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. A currency transaction report from US Bank on Virginia Bondi was filed on December 18, 2020, because she deposited \$88,600 in U.S. currency into her bank account on December 11, 2020. Based on this recorded conversation with CS-3 and the suspicious transaction involving Virginia Bondi, I believe that VILLEGAS purchased **Target Location 4** but to conceal his ownership of **Target Location 4**, arranged for Bondi to be the registered owner.
- 76. Thus, based on the above recorded conversation, financial records, and surveillance, I believe that David VILLEGAS and his co-conspirators use **Target Location 4** to further their drug trafficking and money laundering activities. In addition, I believe that VILLEGAS can be located and arrested at **Target Location 4**.

#### BASIS FOR EVIDENCE SOUGHT IN SEARCH WARRANTS

77. Based upon my training and experience, consultation with other law enforcement officers experienced in drug investigations, and all the facts and opinions set

forth in this affidavit, I believe that probable cause exists that the **Target Locations** and are being used to further the drug trafficking and money laundering activities by Reyes ESPINOZA, Gloria SANDOVAL, Mario ESPINOZA, David VILLEGAS, and David SANTA MARIA and their coconspirators discussed above.

#### 78. In addition, I know that:

- a. Individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering often maintain the following items in their residences and vehicles: controlled substances and paraphernalia for packaging, weighing, cutting, testing, distributing and manufacturing controlled substances. They will commonly have this contraband on hand, secreted at their premises or on their person or in their vehicle, in order to maintain the confidence of their customers as well as to satisfy their own habits. The selling of such contraband is an ongoing type of business, because it takes time to develop clientele, the nature of drug abuse requires a steady supply, and the business tends to be too lucrative to abandon. They also have fruits of their illegal sales on hand, including United States currency and other valuables.
- b. Individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering often maintain records of their drug and money transactions and other records of evidentiary value for months or years at a time. It is common, for example, for drug traffickers and money launderers to keep pay/owe sheets or other records of drugs sold and proceeds of unlawful activity owed. Such pay/owe sheets or papers are used as a basis for accounting and for settling existing debts. Such records are often maintained for a substantial period of time even after the debts are collected. I have found in my training and experience that such records are invaluable to drug traffickers and money launderers and that such records are rarely discarded. Finally, it has also been my experience that such records and pay/owe sheets also frequently include the names, identities and telephone numbers of suppliers, customers, and other coconspirators. It is also my opinion and belief that the above-described documents are currently possessed by drug traffickers and money launderers much the same way a legitimate business will maintain records and tools of its

trade whether or not the business has a particular item in inventory on a given date. These documents are kept by drug traffickers and money launderers whether or not the individual is in possession of any drugs or drug proceeds at any given moment. I believe that the seizure of such documents will provide evidence of the events set forth in this affidavit and that such documents can be found at this location despite any lapse of the time between the events described and the anticipated search pursuant to these warrants.

- c. Individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering must often rely on others to obtain their controlled substances and unlawful proceeds and to help them market the drugs and launder their illicit proceeds. Frequently, drug traffickers and money launderers maintain evidence of the identities of these co-conspirators at their residence and their vehicles.
- d. Individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering often utilize stash houses to store controlled substances; weigh, cut and package the illegal narcotics; store narcotics proceeds, and/or store information relating to their drug trafficking business.
- e. Individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering commonly earn income in the form of cash and try to legitimize these profits. In order to do this, drug traffickers and money launderers frequently attempt to secrete, transfer and conceal the money by means, including, but not limited to: placing assets in names other than their own to avoid detection while maintaining control; laundering the money through what appears to be legitimate business or businesses; hiding money in their homes, safes and safety deposit boxes; or using the money to buy assets which are difficult to trace. Records of these and other types of transactions are often found at the residences of individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering.
- f. Individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering often keep and maintain large amounts of United States currency at their residences and in their vehicles. Such funds are often used for every-day expenditures and to maintain and finance their ongoing drug trafficking and money laundering businesses.

- g. Additionally, individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering often amass and maintain assets at their residence, which were generated by their trafficking activities, or purchased with the cash earned from their illegal activity.
- h. Individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering often maintain weapons, firearms and ammunition on their person or in their residence and/or vehicles. Such weapons and firearms are used, and can be used, as an instrumentality of drug trafficking and money laundering. Furthermore, I am aware of instances in which drug traffickers and money launderers have maintained such items in their residences and vehicles in order to protect themselves and guard their drugs, firearms and profits, as well as for enforcement purposes during their narcotics and firearms dealings.
- i. Residences and premises used by individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering usually contain articles of personal property evidencing the identity of person(s) occupying, possessing, residing in, owning, frequenting or controlling the residence, premises, and vehicles.
- j. Individuals involved in drug trafficking and money laundering frequently communicate with coconspirators by means of cellular telephones and other electronic devices, such as computers, and tablets, and usually maintain these items on their person and/or in their residences and vehicles. I have participated in investigations where computers, internet-enabled cellular "smartphones," and conventional cellular telephones were seized and searched pursuant to court authorized search warrants that contained digital photographs of bulk cash and pictures of the target with smuggling and drug associates, as well as text messages referencing smuggling and drug transactions. Drug traffickers and money launderers, often use e-mail, social networking websites, and the internet to further their criminal activity, by, among other things, communicating with their coconspirators, meaning others who are involved with and/or or provide assistance with the illegal purchase, possession or manufacture or distribution of controlled substances, and posting information about their exploits.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

#### REQUEST FOR NIGHT SERVICE

Agents anticipate arresting approximately sixty Target Subjects (including 79. Reyes ESPINOZA, Gloria SANDOVAL, Esteban Rueben GASTELUM-Sanchez, Mario ESPINOZA, David VILLEGAS, and David SANTA MARIA and their coconspirators) of this investigation during a coordinated multi-state and multi-agency takedown on or about early June 2021 and executing these search warrants contemporaneously with the planned takedown. To that end, I am seeking authorization to execute these search warrants at any time in the day or night for the following reasons: (1) in an effort to minimize the risk of discovery of the coordinated multi-state takedown which will involve arrests in multiple judicial districts located throughout the United States; (2) in an effort to minimize the risk of any violent confrontations with the Target Subjects and or their conspirators in light of the agents having seized a firearm from members of the network and intercepted multiple communications in which the Target Subjects discussed employing firearms and violence to protect their drug trafficking and money laundering activities; and (3) during the investigation, agents have intercepted communications in which the Target Subjects have discussed fleeing to Mexico or other remote locations in the United States if they learned about any planned law enforcement action against the network. Based on these reasons, I believe that there is good cause to authorize executing these search warrants at any time in the day or night. In addition, from my training and experience, I know that it is often safer for law enforcement agents and members of the general public for law enforcement to execute search warrants in the late evening or early morning hours. Thus, based on the unique circumstances of this investigation described throughout the affidavit, including the sophistication, potential violence, and risk of flight for the Target Subjects and in light of the planned takedown in June 2021, I believe that executing the search warrants at any time in the day or night would be safer for agents and would diminish the real risks described above.

REQUEST FOR SEALING

80. This is an ongoing investigation of which the Targets Subjects are unaware. It is very likely, based upon the above, that evidence of the crimes under investigation exists in the direct and indirect control of the Target Subjects. There is reason to believe, based on the above, that premature disclosure of the existence of the warrants will result in destruction or tampering with that evidence and seriously jeopardize the success of the investigation. Accordingly, it is requested that these warrants and their related materials be sealed until further order of the Court.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

- 81. Based on all of the above, my experience and training, a review of documents and other relevant information I believe to be reliable, and discussions with other law enforcement officers, it is my opinion that the items listed in Attachment B are fruits, instrumentalities or evidence of the Target Offenses. It is also my opinion that there is probable cause to believe that the items set forth in Attachment B are present at the **Target Locations** and **Target Vehicles** as more fully described in Attachments A-1 through A-7.
- 82. With the above information, I formally request the issuance of a search warrant authorizing a search of the **Target Locations** and **Target Vehicles**, and the seizure of items described with particularity in Attachment B to the Application and Affidavit for Search Warrant.
- 83. I declare under penalty and perjury the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Scott Faiferlick DEA Task Force Officer

5. All tout

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone on this 25th day of May 2021.

The Honorable Michael S. Berg United States Magistrate Judge

## **SEALED**

1 RANDY S. GROSSMAN Acting United States Attorney MATTHEW J. SUTTON Assistant U.S. Attorney Illinois State Bar No. 6307129 Federal Office Building 880 Front Street, Room 6293 San Diego, California 92101-8893 5 Telephone: (619)546-8941 E-mail: Matthew.Sutton@usdoj.gov 6 Attorneys for United States of America 7 8 9 IN THE MATTER OF SEARCH OF:

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

428 South 46th Street, San Diego, CA, 92113

No. '21 MJ02101

MOTION TO SEAL 1) SEARCH WARRANT; 2) APPLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT; AND 4) THIS MOTION AND ORDER THEREON

#### [FILED UNDER SEAL]

The United States of America, by its counsel, moves to seal the 1) Search Warrant, 2) Application and Affidavit for Search Warrant, and 3) this Motion and Order in the above-captioned matter. These documents disclose an ongoing covert investigation. Disclosure in the public record at this time likely would cause the targets to destroy or discard evidence and otherwise seriously jeopardize the investigation.

DATED: May 25, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

RANDY S. GROSSMAN.

Acting United States Attorney

Matthew Sutton
MATTHEW SUTTON
Assistant U.S. Attorney

SO ORDERED.

DATED: May 25, 2021

The Honorable Michael Berg United States Magistrate Judge

20

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28