

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

SEALED INDICTMENT

- v. - :

18 Cr. ____

JONATHAN RIENDEAU, and
JADE PLANTE, :

18 CRIM 444

Defendants. :

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COUNT ONE

(Conspiracy to Distribute Narcotics)

The Grand Jury charges:

THE SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

1. From at least in or about February 2014, up to and including in or about June 2018, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JONATHAN RIENDEAU and JADE PLANTE, the defendants, operated a scheme to distribute massive quantities of smokeable synthetic cannabinoids ("SSC"), containing controlled substances, throughout the United States.

2. JONATHAN RIENDEAU and JADE PLANTE, the defendants, operated three different websites on which they sold SSC, colloquially referred to as "K2" or "Spice," which included dried, shredded plant material onto which synthetic cannabinoid chemicals had been sprayed, and liquids containing synthetic

cannabinoid chemicals for users to vaporize and inhale with e-cigarettes or other similar devices. The SSC distributed by the scheme were branded with colorful graphics and distinctive names, including "Dead Man Walking," "Brainfreeze," "Klimax," "Twilite," "Delirium," "Purple Haze," "Diablo," "AK-47," "ScoobySnax," "F*cking Crazy," and "Dafuq." Many of the SSC were marketed as having flavors, including chocolate, apple, and strawberry. The SSC were sometimes marked "not for human consumption," or "potpourri."

3. SSC, which can be addictive, are often marketed as safe, legal alternatives to marijuana. In fact, SSC are not safe and may affect the brain much more powerfully than marijuana; their actual effects can be unpredictable and, in some cases, more dangerous or even life-threatening.

4. Over the course of the scheme, JONATHAN RIENDEAU and JADE PLANTE, the defendants, shipped approximately 6,000 packages of SSC through the United States mail to customers throughout the United States, including locations in Manhattan, the Bronx, and all 50 states, containing a total of more than 120 kilograms of SSC. RIENDEAU and PLANTE were paid more than \$1 million for SSC in the course of the scheme.

STATUTORY ALLEGATIONS

5. From at least in or about February 10, 2014, up to and including on or about April 10, 2017, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JONATHAN RIENDEAU and JADE PLANTE, the defendants, and others known and unknown, intentionally and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to violate the narcotics laws of the United States.

6. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that JONATHAN RIENDEAU and JADE PLANTE, the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substance analogues, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

7. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that JONATHAN RIENDEAU and JADE PLANTE, the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did deliver, distribute, and dispense controlled substances by means of the Internet, in a manner not authorized by law, and aid and abet such activity, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(h).

8. The controlled substance analogues involved in the offense were (a) methyl 2-(1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate) (known as "5F-ADB" or "5F-

MDMB-PINACA"), a controlled substance analogue, as defined in Title 21, United States Code, Section 802(32), of N-1(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-pentyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (known as "ADB-PINACA"), that was intended for human consumption and is treated as a controlled substance in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act; and (b) methyl 2-(1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3-methylbutanoate (known as "AMB-FUBINACA," "FUB-AMB," or "MMB-FUBINACA"), a controlled substance analogue, as defined in Title 21, United States Code, Section 802(32), of N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (known as "AB-FUBINACA"), that was intended for human consumption and is treated as a controlled substance in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 813 and 841(b)(1)(C).

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 846.)

COUNT TWO

(Conspiracy to Distribute Narcotics)

The Grand Jury further charges:

9. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this Indictment are repeated and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

10. From on or about April 10, 2017, up to and including on or about November 3, 2017, in the Southern District

of New York and elsewhere, JONATHAN RIENDEAU, the defendant, and others known and unknown, intentionally and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to violate the narcotics laws of the United States.

11. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that JONATHAN RIENDEAU, the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute and possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance and a controlled substance analogue, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

12. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that JONATHAN RIENDEAU, the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did deliver, distribute, and dispense controlled substances by means of the Internet, in a manner not authorized by law, and aid and abet such activity, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(h).

13. The controlled substance involved in the offense was methyl 2-(1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate) (known as "5F-ADB" or "5F-MDMB-PINACA"), in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

14. The controlled substance analogue involved in the offense was methyl 2-(1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3-methylbutanoate (known as "AMB-FUBINACA," "FUB-

AMB," or "MMB-FUBINACA"), a controlled substance analogue, as defined in Title 21, United States Code, Section 802(32), of N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (known as "AB-FUBINACA"), that was intended for human consumption and is treated as a controlled substance in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 813 and 841(b)(1)(C).

(Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.)

COUNT THREE

(Conspiracy to Distribute Narcotics)

The Grand Jury further charges:

15. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this Indictment are repeated and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

16. From on or about November 3, 2017, up to and including in or about June 2018, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, JONATHAN RIENDEAU, the defendant, and others known and unknown, intentionally and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to violate the narcotics laws of the United States.

17. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that JONATHAN RIENDEAU, the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did distribute and possess with intent to

distribute controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).

18. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that JONATHAN RIENDEAU, the defendant, and others known and unknown, would and did deliver, distribute, and dispense controlled substances by means of the Internet, in a manner not authorized by law, and aid and abet such activity, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(h).

19. The controlled substances involved in the offense were (a) methyl 2-(1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate) (known as "5F-ADB" or "5F-MDMB-PINACA"), and (b) methyl 2-(1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3-methylbutanoate (known as "AMB-FUBINACA," "FUB-AMB," or "MMB-FUBINACA"), in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(b)(1)(C).

(Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.)

FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

20. As a result of committing the controlled substance offense alleged in Count One of this Indictment, JONATHAN RIENDEAU and JADE PLANTE, the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, any and all property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of

said offense and any and all property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, said offense, including but not limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of proceeds traceable to the commission of said offense.

21. As a result of committing the controlled substance offenses alleged in Counts Two and Three of this Indictment, JONATHAN RIENDEAU, the defendant, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, any and all property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of said offenses and any and all property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, said offenses, including but not limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of proceeds traceable to the commission of said offenses.

Substitute Assets Provision

22. If any of the above described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

(a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

(b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;

(c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of
the Court;

(d) has been substantially diminished in value;
or

(e) has been commingled with other property which
cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21,
United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any
other property of the defendants up to the value of the above
forfeitable property.

(Title 21, United States Code, Section 853.)



Foreperson



GEOFFREY S. BERMAN

United States Attorney

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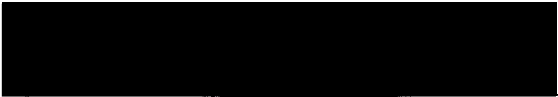
Defendants.

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(21 U.S.C. § 846.)

GEOFFREY S. BERMAN
United States Attorney.


Foreperson
