

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Case No: 23-CR-155-RBW
	:	
v.	:	
	:	40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G)
AUSTIN BRENDLEN HARRIS,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	
	:	

**STATEMENT OF OFFENSE**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, the United States of America, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and the defendant, Austin Brendlen Harris, with the concurrence of his attorney, agree and stipulate to the below factual basis for the defendant’s guilty plea—that is, if this case were to proceed to trial, the parties stipulate that the United States could prove the below facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

***The Attack at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021***

1. The U.S. Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C., is secured 24 hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by U.S. Capitol Police. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol.
2. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the U.S. Capitol was closed to members of the public.
3. On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the United States Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States

Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the United States Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on November 3, 2020. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

4. As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

5. At approximately 2:00 p.m., certain individuals in the crowd forced their way through, up, and over the barricades, and officers of the U.S. Capitol Police, and the crowd advanced to the exterior façade of the building. The crowd was not lawfully authorized to enter or remain in the building and, prior to entering the building, no members of the crowd submitted to security screenings or weapons checks by U.S. Capitol Police Officers or other authorized security officials.

6. At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the U.S. Capitol Police attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, shortly after 2:00 p.m., individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of law enforcement, as others in the

crowd encouraged and assisted those acts. The riot resulted in substantial damage to the U.S. Capitol, requiring the expenditure of more than \$1.4 million dollars for repairs.

7. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m., members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, all proceedings of the United States Congress, including the joint session, were effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. the same day. In light of the dangerous circumstances caused by the unlawful entry to the U.S. Capitol, including the danger posed by individuals who had entered the U.S. Capitol without any security screening or weapons check, Congressional proceedings could not resume until after every unauthorized occupant had left the U.S. Capitol, and the building had been confirmed secured. The proceedings resumed at approximately 8:00 p.m. after the building had been secured. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the session resumed.

***Defendant's Participation in the January 6, 2021, Capitol Riot***

8. On or about December 27, 2020, Harris posted on his Parler account a request for information regarding hotels in DC for January 6, 2021: “Does anyone know which hotels in DC the Trump supporters will be staying at for the DC rally Jan 6th? I want to be with the MAGA crowd, not accidentally mixed in with the ‘wrong’ protesters [wink emoji].”

9. On January 5, 2021, Harris traveled to Washington, D.C. on a flight from Los Angeles to Baltimore via Spirit Airlines.

10. Surveillance videos and body worn cameras confirm Harris was present at the U.S. Capitol and inside the U.S. Capitol building on January 6, 2021. At approximately 2:00 p.m. on

January 6, 2021, Harris was on the Lower West Terrace of the Capitol Building next to the inauguration rafters. He can be overheard comparing the officers to Nazis.

11. Harris subsequently moved to the Upper West Terrace, and overlooked a wall where rioters were climbing. In addition to filming with his phone, Harris can be seen briefly encouraging rioters to come up and join them.

12. At 2:15 p.m., Harris breached the U.S Capitol Building, when he entered through the center door of the Senate Wing door. He appeared to capture video on his cell phone at the same time. About thirty seconds later, Harris entered the hallway leading to the Crypt where he attempted to bypass the line of officers and appeared to engage in a verbal confrontation with officers. Harris then moved past the line of officers when the crowd overran them and headed up the stairs to the second floor and entered Statuary Hall.

13. Harris eventually traveled down the hallways to the Speaker's Lobby. Eventually, law enforcement directed Harris and others out of the U.S. Capitol Building at approximately 2:56 EST through the the Upper House Door.

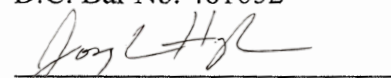
14. Harris returned to Los Angeles on January 7, 2021 via Alaska Airlines.

15. Harris willfully and knowingly entered the U.S. Capitol Building knowing that he did not have permission to do so. Defendant further admits that while inside the Capitol, defendant willfully and knowingly paraded, demonstrated, or picketed.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW M. GRAVES  
United States Attorney  
D.C. Bar No. 481052

By:



Joseph Huynh  
Assistant United States Attorney

DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, Austin Brendlen Harris, have read this Statement of the Offense and have discussed it with my attorney. I fully understand this Statement of the Offense. I agree and acknowledge by my signature that this Statement of the Offense is true and accurate. I do this voluntarily and of my own free will. No threats have been made to me nor am I under the influence of anything that could impede my ability to understand this Statement of the Offense fully.

Date: 5-3-23



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AUSTIN BRENDLEN HARRIS  
Defendant

ATTORNEY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read this Statement of the Offense and have reviewed it with my client fully. I concur in my client's desire to adopt this Statement of the Offense as true and accurate.

Date: 5/3/23



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SCOTT WEINBERG  
Attorney for Defendant