

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

BENJAMIN HEFFELFINGER,

Defendant.

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Case No.: 24-CR-51 (RC)

18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1)

STATEMENT OF OFFENSE

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11, the United States of America, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and the defendant, BENJAMIN HEFFELFINGER, with the concurrence of the defendant's 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 twenty-four hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police (USCP). Restrictions around the Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by USCP. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the Capitol.

2. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the Capitol was closed to members of the public. The grounds around the Capitol were posted and cordoned off, and the entire area as well as the Capitol building itself were restricted as that term is used in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1752, due to the fact that the Vice President and the immediate family of the Vice President, among others, would be visiting the Capitol complex that day.

3. On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the Capitol. 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 Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on Tuesday, 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 Capitol. Temporary and permanent barricades, as noted above, were in place around the exterior of the Capitol, and USCP officers were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol and the proceedings underway inside.

5. At approximately 2:00 PM p.m., certain individuals in the crowd forced their way through, up, and over the barricades. Officers of the USCP were forced to retreat and the crowd advanced to the exterior façade of the building. Officers with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department were called to assist officers of the USCP who were then engaged in the performance of their official duties. 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 as required by USCP officers or other authorized security officials.

6. At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway, and the exterior doors and windows of the Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the USCP 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 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 Capitol, requiring the expenditure of more than \$2.9 million dollars for repairs.

7. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m., members of the House of Representatives and of the 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. on January 6, 2021. In light of the dangerous circumstances caused by the unlawful entry to the Capitol—including the danger posed by individuals who had entered the Capitol without any security screening or weapons check—Congressional proceedings could not resume until after every unauthorized occupant had been removed from or left the Capitol, and USCP confirmed that the building was secured. The proceedings resumed at approximately 8:00 p.m. after the building had been secured. Vice President Pence remained in the Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the session resumed.

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

8. HEFFELFINGER and his father traveled from Ohio to Washington, D.C. to attend the "Stop the Steal" rally at the Ellipse on January 6, 2021. HEFFELFINGER is seen in the crowd at the rally in Image 1, below. Having listened to then-President Trump's speech at the Ellipse, HEFFELFINGER was aware that Congress was convening at the Capitol building.



Image 1: HEFFELFINGER at the "Stop the Steal" rally.

9. From the rally, HEFFELFINGER and his father walked to Capitol grounds.

10. Once on Capitol grounds, HEFFELFINGER scaled the wall of the Upper West Terrace Stairs, as captured in Image 2, to reach the Upper West Terrace.



Image 2: HEFFELFINGER scaling a wall on Capitol grounds.

11. While on the Upper West Terrace, HEFFELFINGER joined other rioters in a chant of “USA! USA!”, as captured in Image 3.



Image 3: HEFFELFINGER on the Upper West Terrace chanting "USA! USA!"

12. Despite knowing that the inside of the Capitol building was restricted and he was not authorized to enter, HEFFELFINGER entered the Capitol building with other rioters through the Senate Wing Door at 3:12 p.m., as seen in Image 4.



Image 4: HEFFELFINGER entering the Capitol building at 3:12 p.m.

13. HEFFELFINGER knew that he was engaging in disorderly and disruptive conduct, and he did so willfully, with the intent to disrupt the orderly conduct of the joint session of Congress that was occurring that day.

14. HEFFELFINGER entered the Crypt with other rioters at approximately 3:14 p.m., where he recorded the scene on his phone, as captured in Image 5.



Image 5: HEFFELFINGER inside the Crypt at 3:14 p.m.

15. HEFFELFINGER willfully and knowingly demonstrated and paraded around the Capitol building, and then exited the Capitol building with other rioters at 3:17 p.m. through the Senate Wing Door, as seen in Image 6.



Image 6: HEFFELFINGER exiting the Capitol building at 3:17 p.m.

16. HEFFELFINGER was inside the building for approximately five minutes.

Elements of the Offense

17. The parties agree that Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Capitol Building or Grounds, 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D), requires the following elements:

- a. First, the defendant engaged in disorderly or disruptive conduct in any of the United States Capitol Buildings or Grounds.
- b. Second, the defendant did so with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress.
- c. Third, the defendant acted willfully and knowingly.

2. The parties agree that Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in a Capitol Building, 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G), requires the following elements:

- a. First, the defendant paraded, demonstrated, or picketed in any of the United States Capitol Buildings.
- b. Second, the defendant acted willfully and knowingly.

Defendant's Acknowledgments

18. The defendant knowingly and voluntarily admits to all the elements as set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,

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DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, BENJAMIN HEFFELFINGER, have read this Statement of the Offense and have discussed it with my attorney, Eugene Ohm. 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: 3/8/24

Benjamin Heffelfinger
BENJAMIN HEFFELFINGER
Defendant

ATTORNEY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

Date: 3/8/24



EUGENE OHM
Attorney for Defendant