

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLUMBIA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Criminal No: 3:17-775

v.

PLEA AGREEMENT

ERIC HUGHES

General Provisions

This PLEA AGREEMENT is made this 15th day of October, 2018, between the United States of America, as represented by United States Attorney SHERRI LYDON, Assistant United States Attorney Jim May; the Defendant, **ERIC HUGHES**, and Defendant's attorney, James Rogers.

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual promises made herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 1 and 2 of the Indictment now pending, which charges "conspiracy to distribute a U-47700, a Schedule I controlled substance,,," a violation of Title 21, United States Code, § 846 (Count 1) and "conspiracy to commit money laundering," a violation of Title 18, United States Code, § 1956(h) (Count 2).

In order to sustain its burden of proof, the Government is required to prove the following:

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Count 1

- a. the defendant agreed with one or more persons;
- b. to distribute a Schedule I controlled substance, that is U-47700
- c. the defendant did so knowingly.

The penalty for this offense is:

0-20 years, up to a \$1,000,000, a term of supervised release of at least three years, and a special assessment of \$100.

Count 2

- a. the defendant agreed with one or more persons;
- b. to conduct a financial transaction that had at least a minimal effect on interstate or foreign commerce, or used a financial institution which is engaged in interstate or foreign commerce;
- c. the property that was the subject of the transaction was the proceeds of a specified unlawful activity, drug trafficking;
- d. the defendant knew the property represented some form of unlawful activity; and
- e. the defendant knew the transaction was designed in whole or part to 1. Further the unlawful activity, or 2.

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Conceal or disguise the nature, the location, the ownership or the source of the proceeds.

The penalty for this offense is:

A maximum term of imprisonment of not more than 20 years, a fine of \$500,000 or twice the value of the property involved in the transaction - whichever is greater, and a term of supervised release of not more than three years in addition to any term of imprisonment, plus a special assessment of \$100.00.

2. The Defendant understands and agrees that monetary penalties [i.e., special assessments, restitution, fines and other payments required under the sentence] imposed by the Court are due immediately and subject to enforcement by the United States as civil judgments, pursuant to 18 USC § 3613. The Defendant also understands that payments made in accordance with installment schedules set by the Court are minimum payments only and do not preclude the government from seeking to enforce the judgment against other assets of the defendant at any time, as provided in 18 USC §§ 3612, 3613 and 3664(m). The Defendant further agrees to enter into the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Financial Responsibility Program if sentenced to a term of incarceration with an unsatisfied monetary

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penalty. The Defendant further understands that any monetary penalty imposed is not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

A. Special Assessment: Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3013, the Defendant must pay a special assessment of \$100.00 for each felony count for which he is convicted. This special assessment must be paid at or before the time of the guilty plea hearing.

B. Restitution: The Defendant agrees to make full restitution under 18 U.S.C. § 3556 in an amount to be determined by the Court at the time of sentencing, which amount is not limited to the count(s) to which the Defendant pled guilty, but will include restitution to each and every identifiable victim who may have been harmed by his scheme or pattern of criminal activity, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663. The Defendant agrees to cooperate fully with the Government in identifying all victims.

C. Fines: The Defendant understands that the Court may impose a fine pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3571 and 3572.

3. Provided the Defendant complies with all the terms of this Agreement, the United States agrees to move to dismiss the

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remaining counts of the Indictment [and any other indictments under this number] at sentencing. The Defendant understands that the Court may consider these dismissed counts as relevant conduct pursuant to §1B1.3 of the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

4. The Defendant understands that the obligations of the Government within the Plea Agreement are expressly contingent upon the Defendant's abiding by federal and state laws and complying with any bond executed in this case. In the event that the Defendant fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Agreement, either express or implied, the Government will have the right, at its sole election, to void all of its obligations under this Agreement and the Defendant will not have any right to withdraw his plea of guilty to the offense(s) enumerated herein.

Forfeiture

5. The Defendant agrees to voluntarily surrender to, and not to contest the forfeiture by, the United States of America of any and all assets and property, or portions thereof, owned or purchased by the Defendant which are subject to forfeiture pursuant to any provision of law and which are in the possession or control of the Defendant or Defendant's

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nominees. The assets to be forfeited specifically include, but are not limited to, a money judgment in an amount to be determined by the Court, representing the amount of gross proceeds of the offense(s) of conviction.

Following the entry of this plea agreement, defendant agrees to the Court's prompt entry of a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture incorporating a money judgment as mandated by Fed.R.Crim.P. 32.2, which shall in any event, be submitted for entry before sentencing. Defendant acknowledges that he understands that the entry of a forfeiture money judgment is part of the sentence that will be imposed in this case, and waives any failure by the Court to advise him of this, pursuant to Rule 11(b)(1)(J) or otherwise, at any time his guilty plea is accepted.

The Defendant agrees that the United States shall, at its option, be entitled to the forfeiture of any property (substitute assets) of the Defendant up to the value of the money judgment. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to settle any disputes arising from application of this clause. The Defendant agrees that forfeiture of substitute assets as authorized herein shall not be deemed an alteration of the

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Defendant's sentence. The Defendant understands that he is jointly and severally liable for payment of the money judgment, along with any co-defendants against whom a money judgment is imposed.

The Defendant agrees to take all steps necessary to identify and locate all substitute assets and to transfer custody of such assets to the United States before the Defendant's sentencing. The Defendant agrees to take all steps necessary to assist the government in obtaining clear title to any substitute assets before the Defendant's sentencing. In addition to providing full and complete information about substitute assets, these steps include, but are not limited to, the surrender of title, the signing of a consent decree of forfeiture, and signing of any other documents necessary to effectuate such transfers.

Merger and Other Provisions

6. The Defendant represents to the court that he has met with his attorney on a sufficient number of occasions and for a sufficient period of time to discuss the Defendant's case and receive advice; that the Defendant has been truthful with his attorney and related all information of which the Defendant is aware pertaining to the case; that the Defendant and his

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attorney have discussed possible defenses, if any, to the charges in the Indictment including the existence of any exculpatory or favorable evidence or witnesses, discussed the Defendant's right to a public trial by jury or by the Court, the right to the assistance of counsel throughout the proceedings, the right to call witnesses in the Defendant's behalf and compel their attendance at trial by subpoena, the right to confront and cross-examine the government's witnesses, the Defendant's right to testify in his own behalf, or to remain silent and have no adverse inferences drawn from his silence; and that the Defendant, with the advice of counsel, has weighed the relative benefits of a trial by jury or by the Court versus a plea of guilty pursuant to this Agreement, and has entered this Agreement as a matter of the Defendant's free and voluntary choice, and not as a result of pressure or intimidation by any person.

7. The Defendant is aware that 18 U.S.C. § 3742 and 28 U.S.C. § 2255 afford every defendant certain rights to contest a conviction and/or sentence. Acknowledging those rights, the Defendant, in exchange for the concessions made by the Government in this Plea Agreement, waives the right to contest either the conviction or the sentence in any direct appeal or other post-conviction action, including any proceedings under

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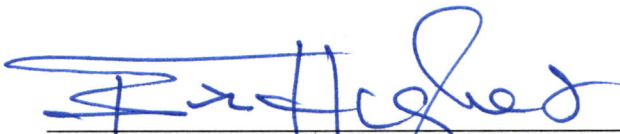
28 U.S.C. § 2255. This waiver does not apply to claims of ineffective assistance of counsel, prosecutorial misconduct, or future changes in the law that affect the defendant's sentence. This agreement does not affect the rights or obligations of the Government as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b). Nor does it limit the Government in its comments in or responses to any post-sentencing matters.

8. The Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.
9. The parties hereby agree that this Plea Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties; that this Agreement supersedes all prior promises, representations and statements of the parties; that this Agreement shall not be binding on any party until the Defendant tenders a plea of guilty to the court having jurisdiction over this matter; that this Agreement may be modified only in writing signed by all parties; and that any and all other promises, representations

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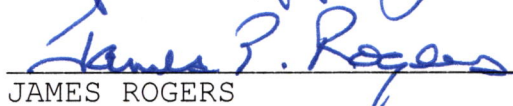
and statements, whether made prior to, contemporaneous with or after this Agreement, are null and void.

10/15/2018
Date



ERIC HUGHES, DEFENDANT

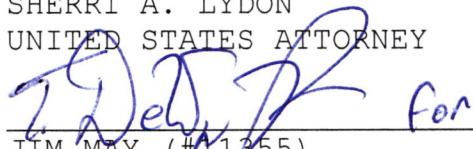
10-15-18
DATE



JAMES ROGERS
ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANT

SHERRI A. LYDON
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

10-15-18
Date



JIM MAY (#11255)
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Statement of Special Assessment Amount**

This statement reflects your special assessment only. There may be other penalties imposed at sentencing. This Special Assessment is due and payable at the time of the execution of the plea agreement.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION	
CRIM. ACTION NO.:	3:17-775
DEFENDANT'S NAME:	ERIC HUGHES
PAY THIS AMOUNT:	\$200.00
PAYMENT DUE ON OR BEFORE:	(date plea agreement signed)

**MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:
*CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT***

**PAYMENT SHOULD BE SENT TO:
Clerk, U.S. District Court
Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Courthouse
901 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201**

**OR HAND DELIVERED TO:
Clerk's Office
Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Courthouse
901 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201 (Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.)**

INCLUDE DEFENDANT'S NAME ON CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (Do Not send cash)

ENCLOSE THIS COUPON TO INSURE PROPER and PROMPT APPLICATION OF PAYMENT