

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF AN
APPLICATION FOR CRIMINAL
COMPLAINT AND ARREST
WARRANT FOR:

CHRISTINE PRIOLA

Case No. _____

Filed Under Seal

**GOVERNMENT’S MOTION TO SEAL COMPLAINT
AND RELATED DOCUMENTS**

The United States of America, moving by and through its undersigned counsel, respectfully moves the Court for an Order placing the above-captioned warrant, complaint, and the application and affidavit in support thereof, and all attachments thereto and other related materials (collectively herein the “Arrest Warrant”) under seal. In support of this motion, the government states:

1. The Court has the inherent power to seal court filings when appropriate, including the Arrest Warrant. *United States v. Hubbard*, 650 F.2d 293, 315-16 (D.C. Cir. 1980) (citing *Nixon v. Warner Communications, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978)). More particularly, the Court may seal the Arrest Warrant to prevent serious jeopardy to an ongoing criminal investigation when, as in the present case, such jeopardy creates a compelling governmental interest in preserving the confidentiality of the Arrest Warrant. *See Washington Post v. Robinson*, 935 F.2d 282, 287-89 (D.C. Cir. 1991).

2. On June 13, 2021, the government applied for an Arrest Warrant in this matter. The Arrest Warrant details the facts supporting probable cause to believe that Christine Priola has violated Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1752 (a)(1), and Title 40, United States Code, Sections 5104(e)(2)(A) and (D), and 5104(f).

3. The government will continue its investigation after execution of the Arrest Warrant, and disclosure of the Arrest Warrant would jeopardize the investigation by providing the subject(s) of the investigation an opportunity to destroy evidence or flee and jeopardize the investigation by disclosing the details of facts known to investigators, the identities of witnesses, and the investigative strategy.

4. For the foregoing reasons, the government respectfully requests that the Arrest Warrant be sealed until further order of this Court, except as necessary to facilitate the enforcement of criminal law, including the execution of the Arrest Warrant, or to any federal official to assist the official receiving the information in the performance of that official's duties.

Respectfully submitted,

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ORDER

The United States has filed a motion to seal the above-captioned complaint and warrant and related documents, including the application and affidavit in support thereof and all attachments thereto and other related materials (collectively the “Arrest Warrant”).

The Court finds that the United States has established that a compelling governmental interest exists to justify the requested sealing, and that there is reason to believe that disclosure of the Arrest Warrant would jeopardize the investigation by providing the subject(s) of the investigation an opportunity to destroy evidence or flee and jeopardize the investigation by disclosing the details of facts known to investigators, the identities of witnesses, and the investigative strategy.

It is, therefore, the 13th day of January, 2021,

ORDERED that the motion is hereby GRANTED, and that the Arrest Warrant, the instant motion to seal, and this Order be SEALED until further order of the Court.

G. MICHAEL HARVEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE