

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
	:	CRIMINAL NO. 21-cr-207 (GMH)
v.	:	
	:	
MATTHEW COUNCIL	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

UNITED STATES' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

The United States of America hereby moves this Court for a protective order pursuant to Rule 16(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, seeking to prevent the dissemination or misuse of discovery material containing sensitive information as further described below. Defendant Matthew Council, through counsel Joanne Slaight, do not object to the Court's entry of the proposed protective order.

1. Defendant is charged via complaint with offenses related to crimes that occurred at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. On that date, as a Joint Session of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate convened to certify the vote of the Electoral College of the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election, members of a large crowd that had assembled outside the Capitol violently forced their way through Capitol Police barricades and into the Capitol. Multiple law enforcement officers protecting the Capitol were threatened, assaulted and overwhelmed by an enormous mob, which included a number of individuals with weapons, bulletproof vests, and pepper spray. The Joint Session and the entire official proceeding of the Congress was halted while the Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies worked to clear the Capitol of hundreds of

unlawful occupants and ensure the safety of elected officials. This event in its entirety is hereinafter referred to as the “Capitol Attack.”

2. Over 220 individuals have been publicly charged in connection with the Capitol Attack. Investigations have been opened into several hundred additional individuals, and the government expects that more investigations will be opened. The spectrum of crimes charged and under investigation in connection with the Capitol Attack includes (but is not limited to) trespass, engaging in disruptive or violent conduct in the Capitol or on Capitol grounds, destruction of government property, theft of government property, assaults on federal and local police officers, firearms offenses, civil disorder, obstruction of an official proceeding, possession and use of destructive devices, murder, sedition and conspiracy.

3. Multiple individuals charged or under investigation are: (a) charged or expected to be charged with crimes of violence; (b) associated with anti-government militia organizations and other groups (e.g., Proud Boys, Oathkeepers, Three Percenters, Cowboys for Trump) that deny the legitimacy of the United States government; (c) coordinated and/or participated in the violent events which took place at the Capitol; and (d) have made statements indicating an intention to continue in similar violent endeavors until the current administration is overthrown. Dozens of the individuals charged have been detained pending trial because a judicial officer determined that the release of such person will not reasonably assure the appearance of the person, as required; will endanger the safety of any other person or the community; and/or will pose a risk of obstruction of justice.

4. In connection with the above-described cases and on-going investigations, law enforcement and the government have obtained and continue to obtain voluminous amounts of information and evidence relating to both charged and uncharged individuals. By way of

illustration, such information and evidence includes but is not limited to: (a) surveillance videos from the U.S. Capitol and Grounds (constituting hundreds of hours of video); (b) digital downloads of hundreds of digital devices and social media accounts that belong to individuals involved in or associated with the Capitol Attack; (c) hundreds of law enforcement body-worn camera videos; (c) hundreds of financial records, telephone records, motor vehicle and criminal history records; (d) thousands of tips; and (e) hundreds of witness and source interviews.

5. Consistent with Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure Rule 16, the government intends to provide or make available to Defendant those documents and objects in its possession that are material to the preparation of the defense, that the government intends to use in its case-in-chief at trial, or that were obtained from or belong to Defendant. Given the number of defendants charged and the number of open investigations, such discovery materials may include large volumes of highly sensitive private and confidential information of numerous individuals other than Defendant, as well as materials which, if more widely disseminated, could jeopardize the government's on-going investigations and the security of witnesses, e.g.:

- a. Records obtained from digital device downloads, and searches of electronic communications (e.g., e-mail and social media), of individuals other than Defendant;
- b. Records of personal identifying information of individuals other than Defendant, including another individual's date of birth, social security number, address, telephone number, email address, driver's license number, professional license number, or family members' names, as well as contact information for, photographs of, and private conversations with family members and associates not related to the criminal conduct in this case, which such individuals may reasonably wish to protect from unnecessary dissemination ("Personal Information");
- c. Financial information of individuals other than Defendant, or entities controlled by Defendant, including bank account numbers, credit or debit card numbers, account passwords, contact information, or taxpayer identification numbers ("Financial Information");

- d. Information regarding the government's confidential source(s) or source(s) of information, including criminal histories, arrest records and summaries of information provided to the government ("Confidential Source Information");
- e. Sealed documents, to include search warrant applications and their contents (affidavits, orders) and other court-ordered authorizations (e.g., pen registers, geolocation orders, tracking orders) ("Sealed Information"), that contain Personal Information, Financial Information, or Confidential Source Information;
- f. Tips and law enforcement reports and/or notes, including reports of interviews of individuals other than defendant, which may contain Personal Information;
- g. Grand jury transcripts and exhibits;
- h. Surveillance footage from the U.S. Capitol and Grounds;
- i. Hundreds of body-worn camera videos from the Metropolitan Police Department, Arlington County Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies operating on January 6, 2021, in support of the protection of the Capitol (constituting thousands of hours of body-worn cameras); and
- j. Other investigative information not yet publicly known, the dissemination of which could jeopardize the government's on-going investigations or the security of its witnesses, which the government will identify as "Sensitive".

6. Under the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, a court "may, for good cause, deny, restrict, or defer discovery or inspection, or grant other appropriate relief" relating to discovery by entering a protective order. Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(d)(1). "The burden of showing 'good cause' is on the party seeking the order[.]" *United States v. Cordova*, 806 F.3d 1085, 1090 (D.C. Cir. 2015) (citations and alterations omitted). Once a showing of good cause has been made, the court has relatively unconstrained discretion to fashion an appropriate protective order. *See United States v. O'Keefe*, No. 06-CR-0249, 2007 WL 1239204, at *2 (D.D.C. Apr. 27, 2007) (describing the court's discretion as "vast"); *Cordova*, 806 F.3d at 1090 ("[A] 'trial court can and should, where appropriate, place a defendant and his counsel under enforceable orders against

unwarranted disclosure of the materials which they may be entitled to inspect.” (quoting *Alderman v. United States*, 394 U.S. 165, 185, 89 S.Ct. 961, 22 L.Ed.2d 176 (1969)).

7. “Protective orders vary in range and type ‘from true blanket orders (everything is tentatively protected until otherwise ordered) to very narrow ones limiting access only to specific information after a specific finding of need.” *United States v. Bulger*, 283 F.R.D. 46, 52 (D. Mass. 2012). “Courts use protective orders . . . to expedite the flow of discovery in cases involving a large amount of sensitive information.” *United States v. Johnson*, 314 F. Supp. 3d 248, 252 (D.D.C. 2018)(internal quotations and citations omitted).

8. Courts also use protective orders when necessary to protect the integrity of on-going investigations. “[W]here public disclosure of certain materials might officially reveal the sources and methods law-enforcement officials have used, and will continue to use, to investigate other criminal conduct related to the publicly filed charges, courts have found it appropriate to enter a protective order.” *United States v. Smith*, 985 F. Supp. 2d 506, 531 (S.D.N.Y. 2013), citing *United States v. Bin Laden*, No. 98–CR–1023, 2001 WL 66393, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 25, 2001)(noting that the court adopted a protective order because dissemination of discovery materials would “jeopardize the ongoing Government investigation into the activities of alleged associates of the Defendants”).

9. In determining whether to issue a protective order, courts also take into account “the safety of witnesses and others, a particular danger of perjury or witness intimidation, and the protection of information vital to national security.” *Cordova*, 806 F.3d at 1090 (citations and alterations omitted). “Considering the type of crime charged helps assess the possible threats to the safety and privacy of the victim. Defendants accused of securities fraud or shoplifting, for instance, may not pose as great a danger to victims as those charged with crimes of violence.”

United States v. Dixon, 355 F. Supp. 3d 1, 4 (D.D.C. 2019). “A long record of convictions for violent crimes may suggest a substantial danger to the safety of others. Similarly, a history of failures to follow court orders may justify a more restrictive protective order.” *Id.*

10. The entry of this order will permit the government to produce expeditiously the disclosure material without further litigation or the need for redaction. It will also afford the defense prompt access to those materials, in unredacted form, which will facilitate the preparation of the defense.

11. Defense counsel has authorized the government to state that Defendant has no objection to this motion.

WHEREFORE, to expedite the government’s disclosure of discovery materials, and to adequately protect the privacy interests of the persons identified therein and the integrity of the government’s on-going investigations and the security of witnesses, the government requests that pursuant to the Court’s authority under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(d)(1), the Court enter the attached proposed order.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS
Acting United States Attorney

By: /s/ Vivien Cockburn

Vivien Cockburn
Assistant United States Attorney
555 4th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 252-7245
Vivien.cockburn@usdoj.gov

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MATTHEW COUNCIL,

Defendant.

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Case No. 21-cr-207 (GMH)

PROTECTIVE ORDER GOVERNING DISCOVERY

To expedite the flow of discovery material between the parties and adequately protect the United States' legitimate interests, it is, pursuant to the Court's authority under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16(d)(1) and with the consent of the parties, ORDERED:

1. **Materials Subject to this Order.** This Order governs materials provided by the United States at any stage of discovery during this case and which the United States has identified as either "Sensitive" or "Highly Sensitive." Examples of materials that the United States may designate as "Sensitive" or "Highly Sensitive" pursuant to this Order include but are not limited to:

- a. Personal identity information as identified in Rule 49.1 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, as well as telephone numbers, email addresses, driver's license numbers, and similar unique identifying information;
- b. Information regarding the government's confidential sources;
- c. Information that may jeopardize witness security;
- d. Contact information for, photographs of, and private conversations with individuals that do not appear to be related to the criminal conduct in this case;
- e. Medical or mental health records;
- f. Sources and methods law-enforcement officials have used, and will continue to use, to investigate other criminal conduct related to the publicly filed charges;
- g. Surveillance camera footage from the U.S. Capitol Police's extensive system of cameras on U.S. Capitol grounds;¹

¹ To be clear, this does not include footage from body worn cameras from other police departments that responded on January 6, 2021, the vast amount of which the United States will *not* designate as Sensitive or Highly Sensitive. (Body worn camera footage will be marked Sensitive or Highly Sensitive only if it contains material described in paragraph one above or for a similar reason not anticipated by this Order.)

- h. Repair estimates from the Architect of the Capitol;
- i. Materials designated as “security information” pursuant 2 U.S.C. §1979; and
- j. Tax returns or tax information.

This Order will not be used to designate materials as Sensitive or Highly Sensitive unless such designation is necessary for one of the reasons stated in this paragraph or for a similar reason not anticipated by this Order. The government agrees to make every effort to provide discovery in a manner that will allow for most discovery to be produced without such designations.

2. **Defendant.** Any reference to “Defendant” herein refers individually to each defendant identified in the caption above.

3. **Legal Defense Team.** The “legal defense team” includes defense counsel (defined as counsel of record in this case, including any post-conviction or appellate counsel) and any attorneys, investigators, paralegals, support staff, and expert witnesses who are advising or assisting defense counsel in connection with this case.

4. **Rules for the Handling of Sensitive and Highly Sensitive Materials.**

- a. **Limitations on Use.** Defendant and the legal defense team may use Sensitive and Highly Sensitive discovery materials solely in connection with the defense of this case and any other case connected to the events at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, including any post-conviction or appellate litigation, and for no other purpose, and in connection with no other proceeding, without further order of this Court.
- b. **Limitations on Dissemination.** No Sensitive or Highly Sensitive materials, or the information contained therein, may be disclosed to any persons other than Defendant, the legal defense team, or the person to whom the Sensitive or Highly Sensitive information solely and directly pertains or his/her counsel, without agreement of the United States or prior authorization from the Court.
- c. **Limitations on Reproduction.** Defendant, the legal defense team, and authorized persons shall not copy or reproduce the Sensitive or Highly Sensitive materials except in order to provide copies of the materials for use in connection with this case by Defendant, the legal defense team, the person to whom the Sensitive or Highly Sensitive information solely and directly pertains or his/her counsel, and other persons to whom the Court may authorize disclosure (collectively, “authorized persons”).

If defense counsel provides Defendant access to Sensitive or Highly Sensitive materials, defense counsel must advise Defendant that Defendant may not record any personal identity information as identified in Rule 49.1 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or any telephone numbers, email addresses, driver's license numbers, and similar unique identifying information. By signing the attached affirmation, Defendant agrees not to do so.

Copies and reproductions, and any notes or records made in relation to the contents of the Sensitive and Highly Sensitive materials, are to be treated in the same manner as the original materials.

- d. **Court Filings.** Absent prior agreement by the parties or permission from the Court, no party shall disclose materials designated as Sensitive or Highly Sensitive in any public filing with the Court. Such materials shall be submitted under seal. The Clerk shall accept for filing under seal any filings so marked by the parties pursuant to this Order.
- e. **Court Hearings.** The restrictions in this Order shall not limit either party in the use of the materials in judicial proceedings in this case. The procedures for use of designated Sensitive and Highly Sensitive materials during any hearing or the trial of this matter shall be determined by the parties and the Court in advance of the hearing or trial. No party shall disclose materials designated Sensitive or Highly Sensitive in open court without agreement by the parties that such materials may be disclosed in open court or prior consideration by the Court.

5. **Additional Rules for Handling of Sensitive Materials.** The following additional terms apply to Sensitive materials:

- a. **Storage.** Sensitive materials must be maintained in the custody and control of Defendant, the legal defense team, and authorized persons. This restriction shall not apply to the person to whom the Sensitive information solely and directly pertains or his/her attorney.

6. **Additional Rules for Handling of Highly Sensitive Materials.** The following additional rules apply to Highly Sensitive materials:

- a. **Additional Limitations on Dissemination.** Defense counsel may not provide a copy of Highly Sensitive materials to Defendant or permit Defendant to view such materials unsupervised by defense counsel or an attorney, investigator, paralegal, or support staff person employed by defense counsel. The parties agree that defense counsel or an attorney, investigator, paralegal,

or support staff person employed by defense counsel, may supervise Defendant by allowing access to Highly Sensitive materials through a cloud-based delivery system that permits Defendant to view the materials but does not permit Defendant the ability to download; provided that, prior to doing so, defense counsel first provides notice to the United States and allow the United States to file an objection with the Court if no agreement is reached.

- b. **Additional Limitations on Reproduction.** Counsel agrees that prior to showing materials to Defendant designated as Highly Sensitive, counsel or an attorney, investigator, paralegal, or support staff person employed by defense counsel will read Defendant the relevant parts of this Order, and remind Defendant of the consequences of violating the Order. If Defendant takes notes regarding Highly Sensitive materials, counsel or an attorney, investigator, paralegal, or support staff person employed by defense counsel must take reasonable steps to determine whether Defendant has copied any personal identity information as identified in Rule 49.1 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or any telephone numbers, email addresses, driver's license numbers, and similar unique identifying information.
- c. **Storage.** Highly Sensitive materials must be maintained in the custody and control of the legal defense team and authorized persons. This restriction shall not apply to the person to whom the Highly Sensitive information solely and directly pertains or his/her attorney.

7. **Viewing by Incarcerated Defendants.** If Defendant is in the custody of the United States Marshals Service, defense counsel is authorized to provide a copy of discovery materials to the appropriate point of contact so that the defendant can view the discovery materials, subject to the terms of this Order.

8. **Disputes.** The parties shall make a good faith effort to resolve any dispute about a sensitivity designation before requesting the Court's intervention. The United States may agree to remove or reduce a sensitivity designation without further order of this Court. Whenever the redaction of specified information will resolve the basis for which a sensitivity designation was applied, the United States will agree to redaction, and such redaction will render the materials no longer subject to this Order. Any agreement to reduce or remove a sensitivity designation or to redact specific information shall be memorialized in writing.

9. **Modification Permitted.** Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from seeking modification of this Order nor prevent the defense from contesting a sensitivity designation. The parties agree that the burden of demonstrating the need for a protective order remains with the government at all times.

10. **Failure not Waiver.** The failure by the United States to designate any materials as Sensitive or Highly Sensitive upon disclosure shall not constitute a waiver of the United States' ability to later designate the materials as Sensitive or Highly Sensitive but the government must separately identify and memorialize the changed status of those materials in writing.

11. **Automatic Exclusions from this Order.** This Order does not apply to materials that:

- a. Are, or later become, part of the public court record, including materials that have been received in evidence in this or other public trials or hearings;
- b. Were derived directly from Defendant or that pertain solely to Defendant. Examples of such materials include Defendant's own financial records, telephone records, digital device downloads, social media records, electronic communications, arrest records, and statements to law enforcement;² and
- c. Materials that the defense obtains by means other than discovery.

12. **Government's Discovery Obligations.** Nothing in this Order modifies the United States' obligations at any stage of discovery in this case pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 16 and 26.2, Local Criminal Rule 5.1, 18 U.S.C. § 3500 (the Jencks Act), and the government's general obligation to produce exculpatory and impeachment information in criminal cases.

² Discoverable materials that were derived directly from Defendant or that pertain solely to Defendant are exempt from this Order regardless of whether the United States has designated any such materials as "Sensitive" or "Highly Sensitive" because the same materials are being provided or made available to co-defendants or other persons charged in connection with the events at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

13. **Defense Counsel's Obligations.** Defense counsel must provide a copy of this Order to, and review the terms of this Order with, members of the legal defense team, Defendant, and any other person, before providing them access to Sensitive or Highly Sensitive materials. Defense counsel must obtain a fully executed copy of Attachment A before providing Defendant access to Sensitive or Highly Sensitive materials, and must file a copy with the Court within one week of execution.

14. **No Ruling on Discoverability or Admissibility.** This Order does not constitute a ruling on the question of whether any particular material is properly discoverable or admissible and does not constitute any ruling on any potential objection to the discoverability or admissibility of any material.

15. **Duration.** The terms of this Order shall remain in effect after the conclusion of this case and the parties shall be bound by it unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

SO ORDERED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

HONORABLE G. MICHAEL HARVEY
United States Magistrate Judge

ATTACHMENT A

Defendant's Acceptance

I have read this Protective Order and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I am fully satisfied with the legal services provided by my attorney in connection with this Protective Order and all matters relating to it. I fully understand this Protective Order and voluntarily agree to it. No threats have been made to me, nor am I under the influence of anything that could impede my ability to understand this Protective Order fully.

Date

Matthew Council
Defendant