

UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

PATRICK E. MCCAUGHEY III,
TRISTAN CHANDLER STEVENS,
DAVID LEE JUDD,
CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH QUAGLIN,
ROBERT MORSS, and
GEOFFREY WILLIAM SILLS,

Defendants.

Case No. 21cr40

FILED UNDER SEAL

**GOVERNMENT'S MOTION TO SEAL INDICTMENT
AND TO DELAY ENTRY ON THE PUBLIC DOCKET
OF THE FILING OF THIS MOTION TO SEAL AND RELATED MATTERS**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e)(4), the United States, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, hereby respectfully submits this motion for limited sealing of the accompanying Third Superseding Indictment, as well as all other related pleadings, warrants, records, and files in this case, including the instant motion to seal and any order on the motion, and to delay entry on the public docket of this motion to seal and all related matters, until the Arrest Warrant is executed. The government requests a sealing order with a narrow exception that will permit the government to disclose the existence of the Third Superseding Indictment, unexecuted arrest warrants, as well as other records and files in this case, to the extent that is necessary to effectuate the defendant's arrest. In support of this motion, the government states as follows:

1. The Third Superseding Indictment charges the defendant Geoffrey Williams

SILLS with the violation of 18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1) and (b), 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2) and 2, 18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3), 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2) and (b)(1)(A), 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(4) and (b)(1)(A), 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D), and 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(F). SILLS is a United States citizen residing in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

2. The Third Superseding Indictment charges defendant SILLS with committing the above-referenced violations in connection with assaults on law enforcement and disruption of an official proceeding that took place at the United States Capitol on January 6th, 2021.

3. Defendant SILLS has not been arrested. Law enforcement is locating the defendant and preparing to arrest him. Placing the defendants' indictment on the public docket at this time could cause Defendant SILLS to flee or continue flight from prosecution, destroy or tamper with evidence, change patterns of behavior, or intimidate potential witnesses. These are compelling reasons for the sealing of these documents.

4. The government respectfully submits that premature public disclosure of the third superseding indictment and related material, and any unexecuted arrest warrant could compromise ongoing investigations and could undermine the development of critical evidence in those investigations. *See United States v. Hubbard*, 650 F.2d 293, 208 U.S. App. D.C. 399 (D.C. Cir. 1981); *In re Sealed Affidavits*, 600 F.2d 1256 (9th Cir. 1979); *Shea v. Gabriel*, 520 F.2d 879 (1st Cir. 1975). *Cf. In re Search Warrants issued on May 21, 1987*, 1990 WL 113874 (D.D.C. 1990) (information released after the government agreed there was no further need for secrecy). The government further submits that these circumstances present a compelling government interest under *Post v. Robinson*, 935 F.2d 282, 289 n.10 (D.C. Cir. 1991), and that said governmental interest requires sealing the third superseding indictment and other related pleadings, warrants, records, and files in this case, as well as delay in the public

docketing of the filing of these sealed pleadings and the accompanying order. Finally, the government submits that these circumstances will remain until the arrest of defendant SILLS.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this motion be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

Channing D. Phillips
Acting United States Attorney
D.C. Bar No. 415793

By:



MELISSA JACKSON
Assistant United States Attorney
D.C Bar Number 996787
United States Attorney's Office
555 Fourth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Telephone: (202) 815-8585
Email: Melissa.Jackson@USDOJ.GOV