

2. The Affidavit in Support of Criminal Complaint references evidence gathered in the course of the investigation. The evidence includes statements identifying the defendant by a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The public disclosure of the Government's evidence could compromise the integrity of the investigation, including the ability of the United States to locate and arrest the defendant, and could needlessly expose the statements of the identifying agent before the defendant has been apprehended. Premature disclosure of the charging documents may risk hampering those efforts or lead to the destruction of evidence. Thus, a sealing order is necessary to avoid hindering the ongoing investigation in this matter.

2. As stated in Washington Post v. Robinson, 935 F.2d 282, 288 (D.C. Cir. 1999), there is a presumption of access to Court proceedings. But, this can be overridden if ““(1) closure serves a compelling interest; (2) there is a substantial probability that, in the absence of closure, this compelling interest would be harmed; and (3) there are no alternatives to closure that would adequately protect the compelling interest.”” Id. at 290 (quoting Oregonian Pub. Co. v. United States Dist. Court, 920 F.2d 1462, 1466 (9th Cir. 1990)).

3. In this matter, the United States has a compelling interest in preserving the integrity of its investigation and arresting the defendant. A limited sealing order ensuring that filings related to the Criminal Complaint and Arrest Warrant are not accessible from the Court's public files is narrowly tailored to serve a compelling interest.

4. Furthermore, the United States respectfully submits that complying with the normal notice requirements of Washington Post would defeat the purpose of the motion to seal. Persons who know the criminal justice system also know that docketing a motion to seal an Affidavit in Support of Criminal Complaint and Arrest Warrant, or a resulting sealing order, means that the defendant is charged with a crime, and the Government intends to arrest him.

Thus, if this Motion or a sealing order were to become public, it would be the same as making public the Complaint and Arrest Warrant.

WHEREFORE, the United States respectfully requests that this Court issue an Order directing that the Clerk of the Court place and maintain under seal, until execution of the Arrest Warrant, the Affidavit in Support of Criminal Complaint, this Motion and Supporting Memorandum, the proposed Order attached to this Motion, and any Order granting this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
D.C. Bar No. 415793

By: /s/Douglas G. Collyer
DOUGLAS G. COLLYER
NY Bar No. 519096
Assistant United States Attorney
District of Columbia Detailee
14 Durkee Street, Suite 340
Plattsburgh, New York 12901
Telephone No. (518) 314-7818
Douglas.Collyer@usdoj.gov

public docket of the arrest warrant until it is executed.

Date:

JUDGE ROBIN M. MERIWEATHER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE