

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Case No.: 22-CR-66 (CJN)
	:	
v.	:	18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1)
	:	
MATTHEW JASON BEDDINGFIELD,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	
	:	

STATEMENT OF OFFENSE

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11, the United States of America, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and the defendant, Matthew Jason Beddingfield, with the concurrence of his attorney, agree and stipulate to the below factual basis for the defendant’s guilty plea—that is, if this case were to proceed to trial, the parties stipulate that the United States could prove the below facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

The Attack at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021

1. The U.S. Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C., is secured twenty-four hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police (USCP). Restrictions around the Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by USCP. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the Capitol.

2. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the Capitol was closed to members of the public.

3. On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in the Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election,

which had taken place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 PM. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 PM, the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

4. As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the Capitol. Temporary and permanent barricades, as noted above, were in place around the exterior of the Capitol, and USCP officers were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol and the proceedings underway inside.

5. At approximately 2:00 PM, certain individuals in the crowd forced their way through, up, and over the barricades. Officers of the USCP were forced to retreat and the crowd advanced to the exterior façade of the building. The crowd was not lawfully authorized to enter or remain in the building and, prior to entering the building, no members of the crowd submitted to security screenings or weapons checks as required by USCP officers or other authorized security officials.

6. At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway, and the exterior doors and windows of the Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the USCP attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, shortly after 2:00 PM, individuals in the crowd forced entry into the Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of law enforcement, as others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts. The riot resulted in substantial damage to the Capitol, requiring the expenditure of more than \$2.7 million dollars for repairs.

7. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 PM, members of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, all proceedings of the United States Congress, including the joint session, were effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 PM on January 6, 2021. In light of the dangerous circumstances caused by the unlawful entry to the Capitol—including the danger posed by individuals who had entered the Capitol without any security screening or weapons check—Congressional proceedings could not resume until after every unauthorized occupant had been removed from or left the Capitol, and USCP confirmed that the building was secured. The proceedings resumed at approximately 8:00 PM after the building had been secured. Vice President Pence remained in the Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the session resumed.

Matthew Jason Beddingfield's Participation in the January 6, 2021, Capitol Riot

8. The defendant, Matthew Jason Beddingfield, lives in Middlesex, North Carolina. On January 5, 2021, defendant traveled from North Carolina to Washington, D.C., via automobile with his father. The purpose of the defendant's trip to Washington, D.C., was to protest Congress' certification of the Electoral College.

Prior to January 6, on November 17, 2020,¹ while on conditions of pretrial release prohibiting him from accessing any social media, Beddingfield used his Instagram account with the handle @rightwing.dissident to engage in the following exchange:

Beddingfield: Fuck them bitches they knew they were coming to start shit at a trump rally. I was there 😊

¹ This is likely a reference to the violence that broke out between Trump supporters and counter protesters on November 14-15, 2020, following the so-called Million MAGA March.

IG User: They wernt at a trump rally but ok. It's funny how much of a hypocrite you are

Beddingfield: Yes they were lol that happened in dc. They were with the violent antifa crowd that was beating up elderly people after 99% of Trump supporters left Anyone who is in antifa deserves a slow death. They are literally communists.

9. On January 6, Beddingfield attended the "Stop the Steal" rally and then marched with his father and other protestors to the Capitol. At about 12:57 p.m., Beddingfield walked through restricted Capitol grounds and up the Maryland Walkway carrying his flag. Less than a minute later, he jumped a barricade and ran towards police officers on the West Plaza. At approximately 1:06 p.m. to 1:07 p.m., Beddingfield and other rioters yelled at and physically attacked police officers on the West Plaza. Beddingfield used the flagpole of the flag he was carrying to jab at and strike a police officer. Beddingfield then swung the flagpole at another police officer and threw a piece of the flagpole at the line of police officers.

10. Beddingfield made his way up to the Upper West Terrace of the Capitol and went inside during the brief period that the Upper West Terrace door was breached. Beddingfield then made his way to the Great Rotunda of the Capitol and joined rioters who were then attempting to breach a police line in the hallway that leads from the Grand Rotunda to the Senate Chamber. Beddingfield made his way to the front of that group of rioters before he was impacted by a chemical irritant and retreated to the Rotunda. Beddingfield then entered the office of Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, where he left his flag and got a bottle of water, before continuing to walk around the Capitol. Beddingfield eventually left through the North Door of the Capitol after having spent approximately thirty minutes inside the Capitol and over two hours on restricted Capitol grounds.

11. On January 19, 2022, Beddingfield used his Instagram account with the handle @rightwing.dissident to send the message, “I’d like to reclaim America and it is fine if a few of my peoples enemies are ‘hurt’ in the process.”

Elements of the Offense

12. Matthew Jason Beddingfield knowingly and voluntarily admits to all the elements of Assaulting, Resisting, or Impeding Certain Officers in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1). Specifically, Beddingfield admits that he forcibly assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, intimidated, or interfered with any person designated in 18 U.S.C. § 1114 while engaged in or on account of the performance of their official duties. Specifically, the defendant admits that he struck a law enforcement officer with a flagpole, a person who was an officer and employee of the United States Capitol Police. The defendant further admits that he knew at that time of the assault of, resisting, opposition to, impeding of, intimidation of, or interference with the officer that the officer was engaged in the performance of their official duties and that he assaulted, resisted, opposed, impeded, intimidated, or interfered with the officer on account of their performance of their official duties. Beddingfield agrees that the flagpole as he used it against the police officer on January 6, 2021, is a dangerous weapon. Beddingfield further agrees that the assault was a felonious assault that involved an intent to commit another felony, specifically 18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3), Civil Disorder.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW M. GRAVES
United States Attorney

By:



Sean P. Murphy
Assistant United States Attorney
D.C. Bar No. 1187821

DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, Matthew Jason Beddingfield, have read this Statement of the Offense and have discussed it with my attorney. I fully understand this Statement of the Offense. I agree and acknowledge by my signature that this Statement of the Offense is true and accurate. I do this voluntarily and of my own free will. No threats have been made to me nor am I under the influence of anything that could impede my ability to understand this Statement of the Offense fully.

Date: 1-31-23

Matthew Beddingfield
Matthew Jason Beddingfield
Defendant

ATTORNEY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read this Statement of the Offense and have reviewed it with my client fully. I concur in my client's desire to adopt this Statement of the Offense as true and accurate.

Date: 1-31-23

Leza Lee Driscoll
Leza Lee Driscoll
Attorney for Defendant