

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

GARY LAIRD WICKERSHAM,

Defendant.

Case No: 21-CR-606 (RCL)

40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G)

*let this be filed
by G.C. Laithe
U.S.D.C. 10/15/21*

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, Gary Laird Wickersham, 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 separate chambers of 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 \$1.4 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.

Gary Laird Wickersham's Participation in the Capitol Riot on January 6, 2021

8. The defendant, Gary Laird Wickersham, lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania. On the morning of January 6, 2021, he traveled from Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C., on a bus with other supporters of former President Trump. The purpose of the defendant's trip to Washington, D.C., was to protest Congress' certification of the Electoral College.

9. In the early afternoon of January 6, 2021, Wickersham entered the Capitol Grounds, a restricted area, on the west side of the Capitol. Wickersham walked up a set of steps on the west side of the Capitol near the temporary scaffolding that made up the inaugural stage, and into a plaza on the northwest side of the Capitol. The crowd breached a window to the north of a door that leads to a first floor, north-south running hallway in the Senate Wing (commonly referred to as the Senate Wing Door) at approximately 2:13:02 PM. At approximately 2:13:29 PM, two

individuals kicked open the Senate Wing Door from the inside. At approximately 2:13:58 PM, Wickersham entered the Capitol through the Senate Wing Door.

10. Wickersham was wearing a white baseball cap with a blue brim, a dark colored leather jacket, a dark colored backpack, blue jeans, and sneakers.

11. During his time in the Capitol, Wickersham walked down a hallway that led past several offices and into the Crypt. Wickersham then walked through another hallway to the south west of the Crypt that led by other offices. At various times and at various locations inside the Capitol, the path forward for Wickersham and other individuals was obstructed by members of law enforcement that were attempting to keep Wickersham and the other individuals back. Wickersham eventually made his way to the first-floor door that exits out to the Upper West Terrace of the Capitol, and he left through that door at approximately 2:35 PM.

12. At the time he entered the Capitol, Gary Laird Wickersham knew that he did not have permission or authority to enter the building. While inside the Capitol, Wickersham paraded, demonstrated, or picketed.

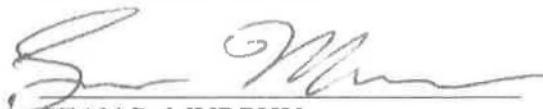
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13. Wickersham was interviewed by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on January 15, 2021. During that interview, Wickersham admitted that he traveled to Washington, D.C. and admitted to entering the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS
Acting United States Attorney
D.C. Bar No. 415793

By:

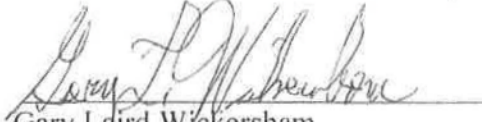


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DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, Gary Laird Wickersham, 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: 10/5/21


Gary Laird Wickersham
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: 10/5/21


Michael Noone
Attorney for Defendant