UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Case No. 22-cr-00061-RBW

V.

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JON HENEGHAN, :

:

Defendant. :

GOVERNMENT'S SENTENCING MEMORANDUM

The United States of America, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, respectfully submits this sentencing memorandum in connection with the above-captioned matter. For the reasons set forth herein, the government requests that this Court sentence Defendant Jon Heneghan to 30 days of incarceration, 1 year of supervised release, 60 hours of community service, and \$500 in restitution.

I. Introduction

Heneghan, a 58-year-old employed as a rideshare driver for Uber and Uzurv, participated in the January 6, 2021 attack on the United States Capitol—a violent attack that forced an interruption of Congress's certification of the 2020 Electoral College vote count, threatened the peaceful transfer of power after the 2020 Presidential election, injured more than one hundred police officers, and resulted in more than 2.8 million dollars in losses.¹

Heneghan pleaded guilty to one count of violating 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1). As explained herein, a sentence of incarceration is appropriate in this case because Heneghan: (1) entered the Capitol on two occasions; (2) entered highly sensitive locations, including the Speaker's Office in

¹ As of October 17, 2022, the approximate losses suffered as a result of the siege at the United States Capitol was \$2,881,360.20. That amount reflects, among other things, damage to the United States Capitol building and grounds and certain costs borne by the United States Capitol Police.

the Speaker's Suite; (3) spent nearly 20 minutes in the Capitol in multiple locations, including the Speaker's Chambers, Crypt and Rotunda; (4) and filmed violence against officers in the Rotunda.

The Court must also consider that Heneghan's conduct on January 6, like the conduct of hundreds of other rioters, took place in the context of a large and violent riot that relied on numbers to overwhelm police officers who were trying to prevent a breach of the Capitol Building, and disrupt the proceedings. Here, the facts and circumstances of Heneghan's crime support a sentence of 30 days of incarceration, 1 year of supervised release, 60 hours of community service, and \$500 in restitution.

II. Factual and Procedural Background

The January 6, 2021 Attack on the Capitol

To avoid unnecessary exposition, the government refers to the general summary of the attack on the U.S. Capitol. *See* ECF 44 (Statement of Offense), at 1-3.

Defendant Heneghan's Role in the January 6, 2021 Attack on the Capitol

On January 5, 2021, Heneghan and codefendant, Carol Kicinski, traveled to Washington, D.C. together by plane from their home in Florida to attend the "Stop the Steal" rally. On January 6, 2021, Heneghan and Kicinski attended the rally at the Ellipse and then made their way to the Capitol.

Heneghan arrived at the West Front of the Capitol at approximately 2:00 p.m. The scene there was one of chaos. Hundreds of police officers at the front of the inauguration stage, who had actively defended their position for over an hour, were flanked, outnumbered, and under continuous assault from the thousands of rioters directly in front of them, as well as members of the mob who had climbed up onto scaffolding above and to the side of them, many of whom were hurling projectiles. By 2:28 p.m., with their situation untenable and openings in the perimeter

having already led to breaches of the building, several large gaps appeared in the police defensive line at the West Front and a general retreat was called. With their defensive lines extinguished, several police officers were surrounded by the crowd. The rioters had seized control of the West Plaza and the inauguration stage. There were now no manned defenses between the crowd and several entrances into the United States Capitol Building, allowing the stream of rioters that had started entering the building around 2:13 p.m. to build to a torrent.

Heneghan initially entered the Capitol through the Senate Wing Door at 2:21 pm. The Senate Wing Door had been breached approximately 10 minutes earlier and had obvious damage to the door and both windows on either side of the door.



Figure 1: Heneghan's first entry through the Senate Wing Door

Heneghan stayed near the Senate Wing Door for approximately 30 seconds and then exited the Capitol through the same Senate Wing Door where he initially entered. Approximately one minute later, Heneghan again entered the Capitol along with Kicinski.



Figure 2: Heneghan's second entry through the Senate Wing Door

After entering the Capitol through the Senate Wing Door the second time, Heneghan and Kicinski made their way down the hallway to the Crypt. Heneghan and Kicinski then proceeded with the mob to the second floor near Room 227.



Figure 3: Heneghan and Kicinski heading up the stairs to the Speaker's Suite

Once at the top of the stairs, Heneghan and Kicinski entered the Speaker's Office and Speaker's Suite. Heneghan and Kicinski headed down the hallway towards the Rotunda upon exiting the Speaker's Office and Speaker's Suite.



Figure 4: Heneghan as part of the mob leaving the Speaker's Office suite

Heneghan and Kicinski made their way to the Rotunda, where they spent several minutes taking pictures and wandering around.



Figure 5: Heneghan in the Rotunda

Eventually, after spending approximately 20 minutes in the Capitol, Heneghan and Kicinski exited the Capitol out of the Rotunda Door at approximately 2:41 p.m. Heneghan and Kicinski then traveled back to Florida together on a plane the night of January 6, 2021.

While Heneghan was in the U.S. Capitol building, he took numerous photographs on his cell phone, including photographs of the broken window near the Senate Wing door where he entered the U.S. Capitol, photographs depicting the Speaker's Office, and photographs depicting an assault of an officer at the Rotunda door.

The Charges and Plea Agreement

On February 22, 2022, the United States charged Heneghan by criminal complaint with violating 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1), 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2), 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D), and 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G). On February 23, 2022, law enforcement officers arrested him at his home in Florida. On March 9, 2022 the United States charged Heneghan by a Superseding Information with violating 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1), 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2), 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D), and 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G). On November 8, 2022, pursuant to a plea agreement, Heneghan pleaded guilty to Count One of the Superseding Information, charging him with a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1). By plea agreement, Heneghan agreed to pay \$500 in restitution to the Architect of the Capitol.

III. Statutory Penalties

Heneghan now faces a sentencing on a single count of violating 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1). As noted by the plea agreement and the U.S. Probation Office, Heneghan faces up to one year of imprisonment, a term of supervised release of up to one year, and a fine of up to \$100,000. Heneghan must also pay restitution under the terms of his plea agreement. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3); *United States v. Anderson*, 545 F.3d 1072, 1078-79 (D.C. Cir. 2008).

IV. The Sentencing Guidelines and Guidelines Analysis

As the Supreme Court has instructed, the Court "should begin all sentencing proceedings by correctly calculating the applicable Guidelines range." *United States v. Gall*, 552 U.S. 38, 49 (2007). "As a matter of administration and to secure nationwide consistency, the Guidelines should be the starting point and the initial benchmark" for determining a defendant's sentence. *Id.* at 49. The United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Guidelines") are "the product of careful study based on extensive empirical evidence derived from the review of thousands of individual sentencing decisions" and are the "starting point and the initial benchmark" for sentencing. *Id.* at 49.

The government agrees with the Sentencing Guidelines calculation set forth in the PSR. According to the PSR, the U.S. Probation Office calculated Heneghan's adjusted offense level under the Sentencing Guidelines as follows:

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Base Offense Level (U.S.S.G. §2B2.3(a)) +4
Specific Offense Characteristics (U.S.S.G. §2B2.3(b)(1)(A)) +2
Acceptance of Responsibility (USSG §3E1.1(a)) -2
Total Adjusted Offense Level +4
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See PSR at ¶¶ 32 - 41.

The U.S. Probation Office calculated Heneghan's criminal history as a category I. PSR at ¶ 44. Accordingly, the U.S. Probation Office calculated Heneghan's total adjusted offense level, after acceptance, at 4, and his corresponding Guidelines imprisonment range at zero months to six months. PSR at ¶ 78. Heneghan's plea agreement contains an agreed-upon Guidelines' calculation that mirrors the U.S. Probation Office's calculation.

Here, while the Court must consider the § 3553 factors to fashion a just and appropriate sentence, the Guidelines unquestionably provide the most helpful benchmark. As this Court knows, the government has charged a considerable number of persons with crimes based on the

January 6 riot. This includes hundreds of felonies and misdemeanors that will be subjected to Guidelines analysis. In order to reflect Congress's will—the same Congress that served as a backdrop to this criminal incursion—the Guidelines are a powerful driver of consistency and fairness.

V. Sentencing Factors Under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)

In this misdemeanor case, sentencing is guided by 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), which identifies the factors a court must consider in formulating the sentence. In this case, as described below, the Section 3553(a) factors weigh in favor of 30 days of incarceration, 1 year of supervised release, 60 hours of community service, and \$500 in restitution.

A. The Nature and Circumstances of the Offense

The attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6 posed "a grave danger to our democracy." United States v. Munchel, 991 F.3d 1273, 1284 (D.C. Cir. 2021). The attack "endangered hundreds of federal officials in the Capitol complex," including lawmakers who "cowered under chairs while staffers blockaded themselves in offices, fearing physical attacks from the rioters." United States v. Judd, 21-cr-40, 2021 WL 6134590, at *5 (D.D.C. Dec. 28, 2021). While assessing Heneghan's participation in that attack to fashion a just sentence, this Court should consider various aggravating and mitigating factors. Notably, for a misdemeanor defendant like Heneghan, the absence of violent or destructive acts is not a mitigating factor. Had Heneghan engaged in such conduct, he would have faced additional criminal charges.

One of the most important factors in Heneghan's case is that he initially entered the Capitol through the damaged Senate Wing Door and then quickly exited the Capitol. However, Heneghan then chose to reenter the Capitol a second time for a significant period of time. Heneghan's time in the Capitol involved several different areas of the Capitol, to include the Speaker's Office and

Speaker's Suite, the Crypt as well as the Rotunda. Although Heneghan did not encourage violence, he was certainly aware of violence to police officers as he filmed an incident where an officer was assaulted in the Rotunda. Heneghan spent approximately 20 minutes in the Capitol where he observed damage to the Capitol as rioters overwhelmed police officers.

B. The History and Characteristics of Heneghan

Heneghan has no criminal history. See PSR ¶ 43.

C. The Need for the Sentence Imposed to Reflect the Seriousness of the Offense and Promote Respect for the Law

The attack on the U.S. Capitol building and grounds was an attack on the rule of law. As with the nature and circumstances of the offense, this factor supports a sentence of incarceration, as it will in most cases, including misdemeanor cases, arising out of the January 6 riot. *See United States v. Joshua Bustle and Jessica Bustle*, 21-cr-238-TFH, Tr. 08/24/21 at 3 ("As to probation, I don't think anyone should start off in these cases with any presumption of probation. I think the presumption should be that these offenses were an attack on our democracy and that jail time is usually -- should be expected") (statement of Judge Hogan).

D. The Need for the Sentence to Afford Adequate Deterrence

Deterrence encompasses two goals: general deterrence, or the need to deter crime generally, and specific deterrence, or the need to protect the public from further crimes by this defendant. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2)(B-C), *United States v. Russell*, 600 F.3d 631, 637 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

General Deterrence

The need for general deterrence weighs heavily in favor of incarceration in nearly every case arising out of the violent riot at the Capitol. Indeed, general deterrence may be the most compelling reason to impose a sentence of incarceration. "Future would-be rioters must be

deterred." (statement of Judge Nichols at sentencing, *United States v. Thomas Gallagher*, 1:21-CR-00041 Tr. 10/13/2021 at 37).

General deterrence is an important consideration because many of the rioters intended that their attack on the Capitol would disrupt, if not prevent, one of the most important democratic processes we have: the peaceful transfer of power to a newly elected President.

The gravity of these offenses demands deterrence. See United States v. Mariposa Castro, 1:21-cr-00299 (RBW), Tr. 2/23/2022 at 41-42 ("But the concern I have is what message did you send to others? Because unfortunately there are a lot of people out here who have the same mindset that existed on January 6th that caused those events to occur. And if people start to get the impression that you can do what happened on January 6th, you can associate yourself with that behavior and that there's no real consequence, then people will say why not do it again."). This was not a protest. See United States v. Paul Hodgkins, 21-cr-188-RDM, Tr. at 46 ("I don't think that any plausible argument can be made defending what happened in the Capitol on January 6th as the exercise of First Amendment rights.") (statement of Judge Moss). And it is important to convey to future potential rioters—especially those who intend to improperly influence the democratic process—that their actions will have consequences. There is possibly no greater factor that this Court must consider.

Specific Deterrence

The government credits Heneghan for taking responsibility and expressing remorse for his actions on January 6. In considering the need for specific deterrence, however, the government notes that Heneghan made repeated mistakes on January 6, entering the U.S. Capitol building twice, despite the obvious signs that he was not permitted to be there. He compounded his mistakes by venturing deep into the U.S. Capitol, including the highly sensitive office space of the Speaker

of the House. After entering the Rotunda, Heneghan stood by and took photographs of an assault on a police officer, as though the incident were just a spectacle. Heneghan's lack of judgment and repeated mistakes on January 6 suggest the need for specific deterrence. A short period of incarceration is warranted in order to deter Heneghan from repeating his mistakes the next time his favored presidential candidate does not win an election.

E. The Need to Avoid Unwarranted Sentencing Disparities

As the Court is aware, the government has charged hundreds of individuals for their roles in this one-of-a-kind assault on the Capitol, ranging from unlawful entry misdemeanors, such as in this case, to assault on police officers, to conspiracy to corruptly interfere with Congress.² This Court must sentence Heneghan based on his own conduct and relevant characteristics, but should give substantial weight to the context of his unlawful conduct: his participation in the January 6 riot.

Heneghan has pleaded guilty to Count One of the Superseding Information, charging him with Entering and Remaining in a Restricted Building or Grounds, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1). This offense is a Class A misdemeanor. 18 U.S.C. § 3559. The sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), including "the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct," 18 U.S.C.A. § 3553(a)(6), do apply, however.

Section 3553(a)(6) of Title 18 directs a sentencing court to "consider ... the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found

² A routinely updated table providing additional information about the sentences imposed on other Capitol breach defendants is available here: https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/capitol-breach-cases. To reveal that table, click on the link "SEE SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN CAPITOL BREACH CASES." The table shows that imposition of the government's recommended sentence in this case would not result in an unwarranted sentencing disparity.

guilty of similar conduct". So long as the sentencing court "correctly calculate[s] and carefully review[s] the Guidelines range, [it] necessarily [gives] significant weight and consideration to the need to avoid unwarranted disparities" because "avoidance of unwarranted disparities was clearly considered by the Sentencing Commission when setting the Guidelines ranges." *Gall v. United States*, 552 U.S. 38, 54 (2007). In short, "the Sentencing Guidelines are themselves an anti-disparity formula." *United States v. Blagojevich*, 854 F.3d 918, 921 (7th Cir. 2017). Consequently, a sentence within the Guidelines range will ordinarily not result in an unwarranted disparity.

Moreover, Section 3553(a)(6) does not limit the sentencing court's broad discretion "to impose a sentence sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to comply with the purposes" of sentencing. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). After all, the goal of minimizing unwarranted sentencing disparities in Section 3553(a)(6) is "only one of several factors that must be weighted and balanced," and the degree of weight is "firmly committed to the discretion of the sentencing judge." *United States v. Coppola*, 671 F.3d 220, 254 (2d Cir. 2012). The "open-ended" nature of the Section 3553(a) factors means that "different district courts may have distinct sentencing philosophies and may emphasize and weigh the individual § 3553(a) factors differently; and every sentencing decision involves its own set of facts and circumstances regarding the offense and the offender." *United States v. Gardellini*, 545 F.3d 1089, 1093 (D.C. Cir. 2008). "As the qualifier 'unwarranted' reflects, this provision leaves plenty of room for differences in sentences when warranted under the circumstances." *United States v. Brown*, 732 F.3d 781, 788 (7th Cir. 2013).

In cases for which the Sentencing Guidelines apply, "[t]he best way to curtail 'unwarranted' disparities is to follow the Guidelines, which are designed to treat similar offenses and offenders similarly." *United States v. Bartlett*, 567 F.3d 901, 908 (7th Cir. 2009). *See id.* ("A sentence within a Guideline range 'necessarily' complies with § 3553(a)(6)."). If anything, the

Guidelines ranges in Capitol siege cases are more likely to understate than overstate the severity of the offense conduct. *See United States v. Knutson*, D.D.C. 22-cr-31 (FYP), Aug. 26, 2022 Sent. Hrg. Tr. at 24-25 ("If anything, the guideline range underrepresents the seriousness of [the defendant's] conduct because it does not consider the context of the mob violence that took place on January 6th of 2021.") (statement of Judge Pan).

Although all the other defendants discussed below participated in the Capitol breach on January 6, 2021, many salient differences explain the differing recommendations and sentences. While no previously sentenced case contains the same balance of aggravating and mitigating factors present here, other judges of this court have sentenced Capitol breach defendants who spent time in other sensitive places within the Capitol. A defendant's entry into a sensitive space, such as the Speaker's Office in the Speaker's Suite, places that defendant in a more serious category of offenders than defendants who remained in hallways or central, more public spaces, such as the Rotunda. A defendant who entered a sensitive space took an extra step to occupy the Capitol and displace Congress and to display the dominance of the mob over the will of the people. That person's presence is even more disruptive. An unauthorized individual in a private office poses a greater threat and creates a greater impediment to members of Congress and staffers just trying to do their jobs than would a trespasser passing through a hallway.

One of the most famous photographs from January 6 is that of a rioter in Speaker Pelosi's office, with his feet on her desk. *See* Amended Complaint, *United States v. Richard Barnett*, 21-cr-38, ECF No. 3, at 2. That photograph has become notorious likely for exactly this reason, because of what invading the office of a member of Congress represents: a show of intimidation, an attempted display of power, above and beyond entering the building.

In *United States v. Derek Jancart and Erik Rau*, 21-cr-148 (JEB) and 21-cr-467 (JEB), the defendants pled guilty to misdemeanor charges of 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D) (disorderly conduct in the Capitol building) in connection with penetrating the Capitol building all the way to the Speaker's Conference Room. Judge Boasberg sentenced the defendants each to 45 days of incarceration. In *United States v. Courtright*, No. 21-cr-72 (CRC), a misdemeanant who reached the Senate Floor, even though she does not appear to have known where she was, also received a sentence of incarceration. In addition to entering a sensitive space, Courtright took a "members only" sign and was asked to return it, and stood by as others around her destroyed property. Heneghan, by contrast, stood by and took picture as rioters assaulted a police officer. Courtright pleaded guilty to 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1) and was sentenced to 30 days' incarceration.

In *United States v. Melody Steele-Smith*, No. 21-cr-77 (RDM), the defendant pleaded guilty to 18 U.S.C. §1752(a)(1) and received a sentence of 36 months' probation and 90 days home detention. The facts of Steele-Smith's case are remarkably similar to Heneghan's. Like Heneghan, Steele-Smith entered the Capitol at the West Front, and entered the private offices of the House Speaker. Steele-Smith was inside the U.S. Capitol for roughly 45 minutes while Heneghan was inside the U.S. Capitol for about 20 minutes and entered twice.

In any event, the goal of minimizing unwarranted sentencing disparities in § 3553(a)(6) is "only one of several factors that must be weighted and balanced," and the degree of weight is "firmly committed to the discretion of the sentencing judge." *United States v. Coppola*, 671 F.3d 220, 254 (2d Cir. 2012). The § 3553(a) factors that this Court assesses are "open-ended," with the result that "different district courts may have distinct sentencing philosophies and may emphasize and weigh the individual § 3553(a) factors differently; and every sentencing decision involves its own set of facts and circumstances regarding the offense and the offender." *United States v.*

Gardellini, 545 F.3d 1089, 1093 (D.C. Cir. 2008). "[D]ifferent district courts can and will sentence differently—differently from the Sentencing Guidelines range, differently from the sentence an appellate court might have imposed, and differently from how other district courts might have sentenced that defendant." *Id.* at 1095.

VI. Restitution

The Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 ("VWPA"), Pub. L. No. 97-291 § 3579, 96 Stat. 1248 (now codified at 18 U.S.C. § 3663), "provides federal courts with discretionary authority to order restitution to victims of most federal crimes." *United States v. Papagno*, 639 F.3d 1093, 1096 (D.C. Cir. 2011); *see* 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(1)(A) (Title 18 offenses subject to restitution under the VWPA). Generally, restitution under the VWPA must "be tied to the loss caused by the offense of conviction," *Hughey v. United States*, 495 U.S. 411, 418 (1990); identify a specific victim who is "directly and proximately harmed as a result of" the offense of conviction, 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(2); and is applied to costs such as the expenses associated with recovering from bodily injury, 18 U.S.C. § 3663(b). At the same time, the VWPA also authorizes a court to impose restitution "in any criminal case to the extent agreed to by the parties in a plea agreement."

See 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3). *United States v. Anderson*, 545 F.3d 1072, 1078-79 (D.C. Cir. 2008).

Those principles have straightforward application here. The parties agreed, as permitted under 18 U.S.C. § 3663(a)(3), that Heneghan must pay \$500 in restitution, which reflects in part

³ The Mandatory Victims Restitution Act, Pub. L. No. 104-132 § 204, 110 Stat. 1214 (codified at 18 U.S.C. § 3663A), "requires restitution in certain federal cases involving a subset of the crimes covered" in the VWPA, *Papagno*, 639 F.3d at 1096, including crimes of violence, "an offense against property ... including any offense committed by fraud or deceit," and any offense "in which an identifiable victim or victims has suffered a physical injury or pecuniary loss." 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(c)(1).

the role Heneghan played in the riot on January 6.⁴ Plea Agreement at ¶ 16. As the plea agreement reflects, the riot at the United States Capitol had caused "approximately \$2,881,360.20" in damages, a figure based on loss estimates supplied by the Architect of the Capitol and other governmental agencies as of October 2022. *Id.* Heneghan's restitution payment must be made to the Clerk of the Court, who will forward the payment to the Architect of the Capitol and other victim entities. *See* PSR ¶ 95.

VII. Conclusion

Sentencing requires the Court to carefully balance the § 3553(a) factors. Balancing these factors, the government recommends that this Court sentence Heneghan to 30 days of incarceration, 1 year of supervised release, 60 hours of community service, and \$500 in restitution. Such a sentence protects the community, promotes respect for the law, and deters future crime by imposing restrictions on his liberty as a consequence of his behavior, while recognizing his acceptance of responsibility for his crime.

Respectfully submitted,

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⁴ Unlike under the Sentencing Guidelines for which (as noted above) the government does not qualify as a victim, *see* U.S.S.G. § 3A1.2 cmt. n.1, the government or a governmental entity can be a "victim" for purposes of the VWPA. *See United States v. Emor*, 850 F. Supp.2d 176, 204 n.9 (D.D.C. 2012) (citations omitted).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On this 20 day of June, 2023, a copy of the foregoing was served upon all parties listed on the Electronic Case Filing (ECF) System.

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