

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Case No. 22-cr-259-TNM
	:	
v.	:	18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3)
	:	
BERNARD JOSEPH SIRR,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

STATEMENT OF OFFENSE

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, the United States of America, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and the defendant, BERNARD JOSEPH SIRR, 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 24 hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by U.S. Capitol Police. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol.

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

3. On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the United States 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 United States Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on November 3, 2020. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., 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 U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

5. At approximately 2:00 p.m., certain individuals in the crowd forced their way through, up, and over the barricades and officers of the U.S. Capitol Police, 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 by U.S. Capitol Police Officers or other authorized security officials.

6. At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the U.S. Capitol Police attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, shortly after 2:00 p.m., individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. 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 U.S. Capitol, requiring the expenditure of more than \$1.4 million dollars for repairs.

7. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m., members of the United States House of Representatives and United States 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 p.m. the same day. In light of the dangerous circumstances caused by the unlawful entry to the U.S. Capitol, including the danger posed by individuals who had entered the U.S. Capitol without any security screening or weapons check, Congressional proceedings could not resume until after every unauthorized occupant had left the U.S. Capitol, and the building had been confirmed secured. The proceedings resumed at approximately 8:00 p.m. after the building had been secured. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the session resumed.

SIRR's Participation in the January 6, 2021, Capitol Riot

8. On January 6, 2021, BERNARD JOSEPH SIRR watched speeches at the rally near the ellipse and then walked to the Capitol. At approximately 2:45 p.m., SIRR approached the Lower West Terrace tunnel where a large group of rioters had formed and began entering the tunnel to push their way forward against law enforcement officers from the Metropolitan Police Department and the United States Capitol Police guarding the Lower West Terrace tunnel of the Capitol.

9. At approximately 3:08 p.m., SIRR entered the tunnel on the Lower West Terrace and made his way toward the front of the police line. SIRR was directly behind the front line of rioters who were engaged in an assault against police officers. SIRR was observed holding onto and pushing the individual in front of him, while that individual, later identified as Patrick

McCaughey, was pushing into the police line.¹ At one point, SIRR placed his hand on a police shield being used by law enforcement to defend themselves. At another point, the group of rioters surrounding SIRR began chanting “heave! ho!” in unison as they moved back and forth together against the team of police officers.

10. SIRR left the tunnel shortly thereafter, but stayed in the area and again attempted to gain entry into the tunnel around 4:14 p.m. At that time, SIRR reappeared near the tunnel doorway and pushed his way toward the front line of rioters who were engaged in a prolonged assault against police officers. SIRR remained near the front line of rioters facing off against police for approximately 11 minutes until he was ejected from the tunnel by law enforcement.

11. SIRR knew at the time he entered the Lower West Terrace tunnel to the U.S. Capitol building that he did not have permission to enter the building.

Elements of the Offense

12. SIRR knowingly and voluntarily admits to all the elements of 18 U.S.C. § 231(a)(3). Specifically, SIRR admits that he attempted to or did obstruct, impede, or interfere with a law enforcement officer engaged in the lawful performance of his official duties incident to and during the commission of a civil disorder, and that the civil disorder obstructed, delayed, or adversely affected commerce or the performance of a federally protected function.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW M. GRAVES
United States Attorney
D.C. Bar No. 481052

By:

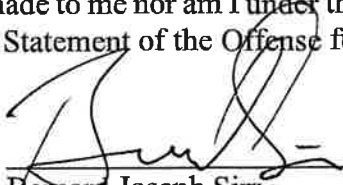

Stephen J. Rancourt
Assistant United States Attorney

¹ All available evidence indicates that SIRR is not acquainted with Patrick McCaughey.

DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, Bernard Joseph Sirr, 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: 1/11/23




Bernard Joseph Sirr
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: 1/11/23



Alfred Carry / Robert Driscoll
Attorney for Defendant