

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiff,

v.

Case 1:23-CR-132-GMH

DANIEL BIBONGE AMSINI,

Defendant.

**DEFENDANT DANIEL BIBONGE AMSINI'S
SENTENCING MEMORANDUM**

1. Plaintiff Daniel Bibonge Amsini, (“Amsini”), by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby submits to the Court his Sentencing Memorandum. **Defendant respectfully requests a sentence of one (1) year probation, no fine, and no restitution.** Amsini is a hardworking, college-educated citizen and a first-time offender. Probation is the presumed sentence for a first-time misdemeanor.¹
2. Amsini pled guilty to one count of theft under 18 U.S.C. § 641. A conviction under this offense “shall be fined or imprisoned not more than years; or both.” 18 U.S.C. § 641. However, if the value of such property does not exceed the sum of \$1,000, the defendant

¹ Research shows a “weak relationship between incarceration and crime reduction, and highlights proven strategies for improving public safety that are more effective and less expensive than incarceration.” The best way to promote public safety and ensure that convicted persons can lead law-abiding lives is through broad use of non-incarceration sentences, especially since “incarceration does little to change a person’s behavior” and persons sentenced to prison have 20 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2)(D). Vera Institute of Justice, Overview of The Prison Paradox: More Incarceration Will Not Make Us Safer (July 2017), <https://www.vera.org/publications/for-the-record-prison-paradox-incarceration-not-safer>

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. The presentencing report states that the replacement cost for the item that Amsini allegedly took from the Capitol is only \$249.00. Amsini has no prior criminal history. The Government has agreed to a two-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility. Amsini has pled guilty and has fully complied with law enforcement, the prosecution, and the orders of this court. Under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, an offense level 4, with 0 criminal history points equates to a sentence of 0-6 months of imprisonment. As this was a non-violent offense, for petty theft, the Defendant should be sentenced to no more than one-year of probation.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1. Defendant Amsini is almost certainly among the least culpable of all Jan. 6 defendants who have been prosecuted for entering the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Defendant Amsini was charged with one count of Theft of Government Property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §641. The defendant's estimated sentencing guidelines range is 0 to 6 months, imprisonment, and a fine range of \$500 to \$9,500 which the Defendant may request to be waived. Amsini has zero criminal history. Amsini has worked nearly his entire adult life. He worked his way through college to get a bachelor's degree. Amsini wants to put this behind him and continue studying to complete a property and casualty insurance certification. Further, he plans to study and sit for the Certified Public Accounting Exam. After the day of the events, Amsini has not made any posts on social media, appeared on any podcasts, or participated in any other public spaces supporting the events that occurred on January 6, 2021.

I. SENTENCING REQUESTED BY DEFENDANT

Defendant Amsini requests as the Court's resolution of this matter as follows:

- 1) **A sentence of one (1) year probation, no fine, and no restitution.** Amsini has been supervised by the District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency for 10 months.
- 2) Amsini has taken responsibility for his conduct. Amsini has fully complied with the investigation of this matter. Amsini has complied with all conditions of his release over the past year.
- 3) Amsini has no prior record of criminal history. To date, Amsini has never committed a violent offense.
- 4) Amsini works hard but still barely has enough income to survive, living on \$3,500 a month.

II. SENTENCING RECOMMENDED BY PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION REPORT

As stated in the Presentence Report, Amsini demonstrated acceptance of responsibility for the offense. Following the United States Sentencing Guidelines, the total offense level for Amsini is 2. Amsini is a zero-point offender with no criminal history. The recommended sentence for Amsini is 0-6 months of imprisonment.

III. THE COURT SHOULD DEPART FROM ANY INCARCERATION

Judges may exercise great discretion when applying the Sentencing Guideline recommendations. However, the Guideline for Amsini found appropriate 0 months of imprisonment.

The economic reality of the situation should authorize this court to refrain from imposing any incarceration time. Amsini only took one item, which was valued at a mere \$249. The damage to the US Capitol resulted in more than \$2.8 million dollars for repairs. The section that Amsini is being sentenced under, 2b1.1 is also used to determine sentences for **serious** economic crimes such as wire fraud, mail fraud, and securities fraud. These crimes are strikingly different from taking a ventilation hood during a riot.

The Guidelines' Commentary allows for the amount of loss to be considered in relation to determining the offense level. "Loss serves as a measure of the seriousness of the offense and the defendant's relative culpability and is a principal factor in determining the offense level under this guideline." *See* U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Manual § 2B1.1 cmt.n. (19)(B) (2006). The amount of damage that Amsini contributed to the US Capitol cannot even be equated to one-one thousandth of the entirety.

Loss is represented by actual loss as well as intended loss. Intended loss is the "pecuniary harm that was intended to result from the offense." *See* U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Manual § 2B1.1 cmt. n. (3)(A)(ii) (2006). Amsini never had the specific intent to cause pecuniary harm by taking a ventilation hood. He gained no economic benefit from doing this. This is not a traditional theft case, where one deprives another of their property for their own financial gain. Here, Amsini never intended to cause pecuniary harm to any individual. He did not steal diamonds, gold, or valuable artifacts which could be resold at high value. To be clear and put into perspective, he took a ventilation hood.

The United States Sentencing Commission deliberately chose, except in the least serious cases of these white-collar crimes (level '6' or less), to require some minimum

form of confinement of one to six months--either intermittent confinement, community confinement, or imprisonment. *See* Stephen Breyer, *The Federal Sentencing Guidelines and the Key Compromises Upon Which They Rest*, 17 Hofstra L. Rev. 1, 22 (1998). Amsini's base level offense without any adjustments was 6, the least serious. As the Sentencing Commission only required prison time for crimes above a level 6, it is within this Court's authority to sentence Amsini to probation, without any incarceration time. This would coincide with the Sentencing Commission's intent.

IV. CONCLUSION

Amsini respectfully requests this court to impose a sentence of one-year probation and 0 months of prison time. The Sentencing Guidelines recommended a 0–6-month prison sentence. Amsini reminds this Court that sentencing guideline recommending 0 months, he has no prior criminal record, and that he had no intent to personally cause anybody financial harm.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ John Pierce
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