

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
AT CHATTANOOGA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	Case No. 1:21-cr-00020
)	
v.)	District Judge Travis R. McDonough
)	
WILLIAM BIRKHEAD)	Magistrate Judge Christopher H. Steger

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge conducted a plea hearing in this case on December 21, 2021. At the hearing, Defendant entered a plea of guilty to Count Eleven of the fifteen count Second Superseding Indictment. On the basis of the record made at the hearing, the Court finds that Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea; the plea is made knowingly and with full understanding of each of the rights waived by Defendant; it is made voluntarily and free from any force, threats, or promises; Defendant understands the nature of the charges and penalties provided by law; and the plea has a sufficient basis in fact. Acceptance of the plea, adjudication of guilt, acceptance of the Plea Agreement, and imposition of sentence are specifically reserved for the District Judge.

I therefore recommend that the Court: (1) grant Defendant's motion to withdraw his not guilty plea to Count Eleven of the fifteen count Second Superseding Indictment; (2) accept Defendant's guilty plea to Count Eleven of the fifteen count Second Superseding Indictment; (3) adjudicate Defendant guilty of possession with intent to distribute a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of heroin in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C); and (4) order that Defendant remain in custody pending sentencing or further order of this Court.

The Defendant's sentencing hearing is scheduled before the District Judge on **May 20, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.**

ENTER.

/s/ Christopher H. Steger

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

NOTICE TO PARTIES

You have the right to *de novo* review by the district judge of the foregoing findings. Any application for review must be in writing; must specify the portions of the findings or proceedings objected to; and must be filed and served no later than fourteen (14) days after the plea hearing. Failure to file objections within fourteen days constitutes a waiver of any further right to challenge the plea of guilty in this matter. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b).