

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SEALED

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

BRANDON STRAKA

Defendant.

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Case No. 21-cr-579 (DLF)

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE
SENTENCING-RELATED PLEADING UNDER SEAL**

NOW INTO COURT comes the United States of America, through the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney, and respectfully moves for leave to have this Honorable Court seal the government's supplemental sentencing memorandum. This Court previously granted the government's request for the sealing of the joint motion to continue the sentencing. The government's previous concerns for the safety of the defendant remain.

The defendant has been contacted by individuals who believe that he is cooperating with the government. Additionally, media outlets have also reported that the defendant is indeed cooperating with the government. The government's supplemental sealed sentencing memorandum contains information detail the defendant's cooperation. This information is necessary for the Court to assess the defendant's level of cooperation with the government prior to fashioning a sentence in this matter. The government is concerned that if this sensitive information is made known to the public, not only may the information potentially jeopardize the defendant's safety, but it may also impact the integrity of ongoing investigations and prosecutions currently being conducted by the United States.

The United States respectfully submits that filing this pleading under seal is therefore necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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

By: /s/ Brittany L. Reed
BRITTANY L. REED
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 13, 2022, I filed the foregoing under seal by emailing to Chambers, U.S. Probation and to counsel for defendant.

/s/ Brittany L. Reed
BRITTANY L. REED
Assistant United States Attorney

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ORDER

Considering the foregoing motion and for the reasons stated in the accompanying sentencing-related pleading;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the government's motion for leave to file the accompanying sentencing-related pleading under seal is hereby **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this motion and order be **SEALED** and that copies of the instant motion and the sentencing-related pleading be provided only to the U.S. Attorney's Office, the defense attorney, and United States Probation.

Filed this 13th day of January, 2022.

HONORABLE DABNEY L. FRIEDRICH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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

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	:	
BRANDON STRAKA,	:	
	:	
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GOVERNMENT’S SEALED SUPPLEMENT TO SENTENCING MEMORANDUM

The United States of America, by and through its attorney, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, respectfully submits this sealed supplement to its Sentencing Memorandum in connection with the above-captioned matter, for the purpose of detailing the assistance provided to the government by defendant Brandon Straka. As noted in the government’s Sentencing Memorandum, defendant Straka assisted the government with information over the course of three separate debriefing meetings with the government. Straka was cooperative at each meeting.

Straka initially met with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, post-arrest, on February 11, 2021. Straka appeared voluntarily and was cooperative, forthcoming when asked questions about his knowledge about events leading up to January 6. and what occurred on January 6. Straka is a social media influence who participated in “Stop the Steal” rallies in swing states following the 2020 presidential election. The “Stop the Steal” effort was formed through a private Twitter group of which Straka was a member. The group was formed “long before” the 2020 election and referred to itself as the “MAGA Verified” group because it was comprised of MAGA followers who were verified on Twitter. The members of the group used Twitter to exchange private direct messages with one another. Straka provided information about an individual, Ali Alexander, who was part of the MAGA Verified group. Straka was invited to speak at a “Stop the Steal” rally that

Alexander organized in Washington D.C. for January 5. Plans for this event were changed, resulting in Straka being asked to speak the following day, January 6, at the U.S. Capitol. Straka was then contacted by “Stop the Steal” prior to traveling to Washington D.C. and asked if he would speak at an event on January 5 at Freedom Plaza.

Straka provided information about “Stop the Steal” members Amy Kremmer, Kylie Kremmer, Cindy Chafian. This information was useful in that it identified members of “Stop the Steal.” Neither the Kremmers nor Chafian are being prosecuted by the government at this time.

Straka provided agents with a thorough explanation of his activities on January 6. The government viewed video footage captured by Straka and confirmed his narrative of events, as they occurred while Straka was at the U.S. Capitol. Straka expressed remorse and explained that he did not initially know the full scope of what occurred on January 6. It was not until he started watching videos of the event that he then understood what truly happened.

Straka also provided information about an individual, Simone Gold. The government has charged Gold in a felony indictment: *United States v. Simone Gold, et al.*, 21-CR-085 (CRC). Straka provided the government with voicemail messages that he received from Gold, whom he met in Washington D.C. on either January 5 or 6. The information contained in the voicemail messages is valuable in the government’s prosecution of Gold and may assist in a plea resolution of the *Gold* prosecution.

On March 5, 2021, Straka was interviewed by the FBI a second time. Sometime after his first interview, Straka recalled that an individual, David Leatherwood, told him that an individual, Elijah Schaffer, was inside of Nancy Pelosi’s office on January 6. This information is being investigated for its accuracy.

Straka also assisted agents by providing additional information to Ali Alexander and his involvement with “Stop the Steal.” Straka was able to provide general information about Alexander.

On December 8, 2021, counsel for Straka provided the government with information regarding a United Capitol rioter who was at the U.S. Capitol. Straka recalled observing the individual while he was standing outside on the steps outside of the East Rotunda Doors. This individual stood nearby as a U.S. Capitol Police Officer’s protective shield was taken away from him. Straka believes that the individual joined in with the crowd yelling “take it, take it,” as rioters struggled with the officer to take his shield. After January 6, the individual, identified by Straka as Gavin Crawl, participated in an interview with insurrectionist advocate, Bobby Powell. Crawl recounted what he observed at the U.S. Capitol. Straka and Crawl reside in Nebraska and live within a short distance of each other. Straka’s information is beneficial in that Crawl was not previously identified by the FBI prior to Straka’s identification of Crawl.

On January 5, 2021, Straka interviewed with the government for a third time. Straka appeared voluntarily and was cooperative. During this interview, Straka answered follow-up questions based on the FBI's previous interviews. Additionally, Straka provided information relative to Cowl. Based in the information provided by Straka, the FBI has opened an investigation into Cowl and his conduct at the U.S. Capitol on January 6.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTHEW M. GRAVES
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