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22 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
23 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

24 United States of America,
25
26 Plaintiff,
27
28 vs.
29 TN: Carl Allen Ferrer
30 Carl Ferrer,
31
32 Defendant.

CR-18-464-PHX-DJH

PLEA AGREEMENT

SEALED

33 Plaintiff, United States of America, and the defendant, Carl Ferrer, hereby agree to
34 dispose of this matter on the following terms and conditions:

35 **1. PLEA**

36 The defendant will plead guilty to an Information charging the defendant with a
37 violation of 18 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 371, Conspiracy, a Class D felony offense.
38

1 **2. MAXIMUM PENALTIES**

2 a. A violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 is punishable by a maximum fine of
3 \$250,000 (or, if any person derived pecuniary gain from the offense, or if the offense
4 resulted in pecuniary loss to a person other than the defendant, not more than the greater
5 of twice the gross gain or twice the gross loss), a maximum term of imprisonment of 5
6 years, or both, and a term of supervised release of 3 years. A maximum term of
7 probation is five years.

8 b. According to the Sentencing Guidelines issued pursuant to the Sentencing
9 Reform Act of 1984, the Court shall order the defendant to:

10 (1) make restitution to any victim of the offense pursuant to 18 U.S.C.
11 § 3663 and/or 3663A, unless the Court determines that restitution would not be
12 appropriate;

13 (2) pay a fine pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3572, unless the Court finds that a
14 fine is not appropriate;

15 (3) serve a term of supervised release when required by statute or when
16 a sentence of imprisonment of more than one year is imposed (with the understanding
17 that the Court may impose a term of supervised release in all other cases); and

18 (4) pay upon conviction a \$100 special assessment for each count to
19 which the defendant pleads guilty pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013.

20 c. The Court is required to consider the Sentencing Guidelines in determining
21 the defendant's sentence. However, the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, and the
22 Court is free to exercise its discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to the
23 maximum set by statute for the crime(s) of conviction, unless there are stipulations to the
24 contrary that the Court accepts.

25 **3. AGREEMENTS REGARDING SENTENCING**

26 a. Immediate Shutdown of Backpage Website: The defendant stipulates and
27 agrees that, upon entry of his guilty plea, he will take all steps within his power to
28 immediately shut down the website www.backpage.com ("Backpage") in the United

1 States and all other countries in which the website operates. Such steps shall include, but
2 not be limited to, surrendering to the United States the registration account, including
3 login and password information, for the www.backpage.com domain name necessary to
4 operate the various Backpage websites and providing technical assistance to the United
5 States to effectuate the shutdown. If the defendant fails to take all steps within his power
6 to immediately shut down the website, this plea agreement shall be null and void and the
7 United States shall be free to prosecute the defendant for all crimes of which it then has
8 knowledge. In such event, the defendant waives any and all objections, motions, and
9 defenses based upon the Statute of Limitations, the Speedy Trial Act, or constitutional
10 restrictions in bringing later charges or proceedings.

11 b. Forfeiture Assistance: The defendant stipulates and agrees that, upon entry
12 of his guilty plea, he will take all steps within his power to forfeit to the United States all
13 corporate assets and other property owned or controlled by Website Technologies, LLC
14 (“Website Technologies”), which owns and operates the Backpage website, as well as all
15 corporate assets and other property owned or controlled by Backpage.com, LLC, Posting
16 Solutions LLC, Amstel River Holdings, LLC, Ad Tech BV, and UGC Tech Group CV.
17 Such steps shall include, but not be limited to, agreeing to the forfeiture of the domain
18 names, servers, intellectual property, trademarks, trade secrets, bank accounts,
19 cryptocurrency, and other financial instruments owned or controlled by such entities. If
20 the defendant fails to comply with this agreement, this plea agreement shall be null and
21 void and the United States shall be free to prosecute the defendant for all crimes of which
22 it then has knowledge. In such event, the defendant waives any and all objections,
23 motions, and defenses based upon the Statute of Limitations, the Speedy Trial Act, or
24 constitutional restrictions in bringing later charges or proceedings.

25 c. California And Texas Proceedings: It is the parties’ expectation that,
26 concurrently, or as close in time as is practicable to the time the defendant enters his
27 guilty plea in this case, the defendant also will enter guilty pleas to Backpage-related
28 charges in California and Texas state court. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C), the

1 United States and the defendant stipulate that the defendant's guilty plea in this case is
2 contingent upon the state courts' acceptance of his plea agreements in the California and
3 Nueces County, Texas matters. If either of those plea agreements is rejected, the
4 defendant will be afforded an opportunity to withdraw his guilty plea in this case.

5 d. Concurrency With State Sentences: Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P.
6 11(c)(1)(C), the United States and the defendant stipulate that the anticipated terms of
7 imprisonment in the aforementioned California and Texas proceedings will arise from
8 "relevant conduct to the instant offense of conviction." Accordingly, under U.S.S.G.
9 § 5G1.3(c), the United States and the defendant stipulate that any term of imprisonment
10 imposed in this case shall run concurrently with any terms of imprisonment subsequently
11 imposed in the aforementioned California and Texas proceedings.

12 e. Federal Custody. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C), the United
13 States and the defendant stipulate that, to the extent the defendant is sentenced to
14 concurrent terms of federal and state imprisonment, the defendant will serve all
15 concurrent time in federal custody.

16 f. Ability To Request Downward Departure/Variance: The defendant
17 reserves the right to request a downward departure or a downward variance based on the
18 factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). The defendant understands that the government
19 is free to oppose any such request.

20 g. Restitution. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663 and/or 3663A, the defendant
21 specifically agrees to pay full restitution, regardless of the resulting loss amount but in no
22 event more than \$500 million, to all victims directly or proximately harmed by the
23 defendant's "relevant conduct," including conduct pertaining to any dismissed counts or
24 uncharged conduct, as defined by U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, regardless of whether such conduct
25 constitutes an "offense" under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2259, 3663 or 3663A. The defendant
26 understands that such restitution will be included in the Court's Order of Judgment and
27 that an unanticipated restitution amount will not serve as grounds to withdraw the
28 defendant's guilty plea or to withdraw from this plea agreement.

1 h. Assets and Financial Responsibility. The defendant shall make a full
2 accounting of all assets in which the defendant has any legal or equitable interest. The
3 defendant shall not (and shall not aid or abet any other party to) sell, hide, waste, spend,
4 or transfer more than \$500 of any such assets or property before sentencing, without the
5 prior approval of the United States (provided, however, that no prior approval will be
6 required for routine, day-to-day expenditures). The defendant also expressly authorizes
7 the United States Attorney's Office to immediately obtain a credit report as to the
8 defendant in order to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation
9 imposed by the Court. The defendant also shall make full disclosure of all current and
10 projected assets to the U.S. Probation Office immediately and prior to the termination of
11 the defendant's supervised release or probation, such disclosures to be shared with the
12 U.S. Attorney's Office, including the Financial Litigation Unit, for any purpose. Finally,
13 the defendant shall participate in the Inmate Financial Responsibility Program to fulfill
14 all financial obligations due and owing under this agreement and the law.

15 i. Acceptance of Responsibility. If the defendant makes full and complete
16 disclosure to the U.S. Probation Office of the circumstances surrounding the defendant's
17 commission of the offense, and if the defendant demonstrates an acceptance of
18 responsibility for this offense up to and including the time of sentencing, the United
19 States will recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines
20 offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a). If the defendant has an offense level of 16
21 or more, the United States will move the Court for an additional one-level reduction in
22 the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b).

23 **4. AGREEMENT TO DISMISS OR NOT TO PROSECUTE**

24 a. This office shall not prosecute the defendant for any offenses committed by
25 the defendant, and known by the United States, in connection with the subject matter
26 described in the factual basis of this agreement.

27 b. This agreement does not, in any manner, restrict the actions of the United
28 States in any other district or bind any other United States Attorney's Office.

1 **5. COURT APPROVAL REQUIRED; REINSTITUTION OF PROSECUTION**

2 a. If the Court, after reviewing this plea agreement, concludes that any
3 provision contained herein is inappropriate, it may reject the plea agreement and give the
4 defendant the opportunity to withdraw the guilty plea in accordance with Fed. R. Crim. P.
5 11(c)(5).

6 b. If the defendant's guilty plea or plea agreement is rejected, withdrawn,
7 vacated, or reversed at any time, or if the state courts considering related claims in
8 California and Texas reject the defendant's plea agreements in those states, this
9 agreement shall be null and void, the United States shall be free to prosecute the
10 defendant for all crimes of which it then has knowledge and any charges that have been
11 dismissed because of this plea agreement shall automatically be reinstated. In such event,
12 the defendant waives any and all objections, motions, and defenses based upon the
13 Statute of Limitations, the Speedy Trial Act, or constitutional restrictions in bringing later
14 charges or proceedings, and any statements made by the defendant at the time of his
15 change of plea or sentencing in this case may not be used against him in any subsequent
16 hearing, trial, or proceeding.

17 **6. WAIVER OF DEFENSES AND APPEAL RIGHTS**

18 The defendant waives (1) any and all motions, defenses, probable cause
19 determinations, and objections that the defendant could assert to the indictment or
20 information; and (2) any right to file an appeal, any collateral attack, and any other writ
21 or motion that challenges the conviction, an order of restitution or forfeiture, the entry of
22 judgment against the defendant, or any aspect of the defendant's sentence, including the
23 manner in which the sentence is determined, including but not limited to any appeals
24 under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 (sentencing appeals) and motions under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and
25 2255 (habeas petitions), and any right to file a motion for modification of sentence,
26 including under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c). This waiver shall result in the dismissal of any
27 appeal, collateral attack, or other motion the defendant might file challenging the
28 conviction, order of restitution or forfeiture, or sentence in this case. This waiver shall

1 not be construed to bar an otherwise-preserved claim of ineffective assistance of counsel
2 or of “prosecutorial misconduct” (as that term is defined by Section II.B of Ariz. Ethics
3 Op. 15-01 (2015)).

4 **7. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

5 a. The United States retains the unrestricted right to provide information and
6 make any and all statements it deems appropriate to the U.S. Probation Office and to the
7 Court in connection with the case.

8 b. Any information, statements, documents, and evidence that the defendant
9 provides to the United States pursuant to this agreement may be used against the
10 defendant at any time.

11 c. The defendant shall cooperate fully with the U.S. Probation Office. Such
12 cooperation shall include providing complete and truthful responses to questions posed
13 by the U.S. Probation Office including, but not limited to, questions relating to:

- 14 (1) criminal convictions, history of drug abuse, and mental illness; and
15 (2) financial information, including present financial assets or liabilities
16 that relate to the ability of the defendant to pay a fine or restitution.

17 **8. FORFEITURE, CIVIL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS**

18 a. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), the defendant agrees to forfeit, and
19 hereby forfeits, all interest in any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is
20 derived from proceeds traceable to the offense. Such property includes, but is not limited
21 to, all right, title, and interest in funds held in the following bank accounts:

- 22 (1) Republic Bank of Arizona account number x2912
23 (2) Republic Bank of Arizona account number x2500
24 (3) Green Bank account number x4832
25 (4) Plains Capital Bank account number x1098

26 Such property further includes, but is not limited to, all right, title, and interest in the
27 following domain names:

- 28 (1) atlantabackpage.com

- 1 (2) [backpage.be](#)
- 2 (3) [backpage.com](#)
- 3 (4) [backpage.com.br](#)
- 4 (5) [backpage.cz](#)
- 5 (6) [backpage.dk](#)
- 6 (7) [backpage.ee](#)
- 7 (8) [backpage.es](#)
- 8 (9) [backpage.fi](#)
- 9 (10) [backpage.fr](#)
- 10 (11) [backpage.gr](#)
- 11 (12) [backpage.hu](#)
- 12 (13) [backpage.ie](#)
- 13 (14) [backpage.it](#)
- 14 (15) [backpage.lt](#)
- 15 (16) [backpage.mx](#)
- 16 (17) [backpage.net](#)
- 17 (18) [backpage.no](#)
- 18 (19) [backpage.pl](#)
- 19 (20) [backpage.pt](#)
- 20 (21) [backpage.ro](#)
- 21 (22) [backpage.si](#)
- 22 (23) [backpage.sk](#)
- 23 (24) [backpage.us](#)
- 24 (25) [backpage-insider.com](#)
- 25 (26) [bestofbackpage.com](#)
- 26 (27) [bestofbigcity.com](#)
- 27 (28) [bigcity.com](#)
- 28 (29) [chicagobackpage.com](#)

- 1 (30) denverbackpage.com
- 2 (31) newyorkbackpage.com
- 3 (32) phoenixbackpage.com
- 4 (33) sandiegobackpage.com
- 5 (34) seattlebackpage.com
- 6 (35) tampabackpage.com

7 Such property further includes, but is not limited to, all right, title, and interest in any
8 funds remaining in the following IOLTA bank accounts at the conclusion of litigation
9 (with the understanding that the funds currently deposited in those IOLTA bank accounts
10 may only be withdrawn by counsel based on the provision of legal services):

- 11 (1) First Republic Bank IOLTA Account x6180
- 12 (2) First Republic Bank IOLTA Account x6255
- 13 (3) First Republic Bank IOLTA Account x5978
- 14 (4) All funds previously deposited in Wells Fargo IOLTA Account
15 x7091 to fund the criminal defense of Backpage.com, LLC, Website
16 Technologies, LLC, Posting Solutions LLC, Amstel River Holdings
17 LLC, Ad Tech BV, and/or UGC Tech Group BV

18 Such property further includes, but is not limited to, all right, title, and interest in any
19 funds previously advanced to a bail bond service (with the understanding that, should the
20 defendant not be required to post a bond in this matter, he will take immediate steps to
21 recover any funds previously advanced to a bail bond service and surrender those funds
22 to the United States for forfeiture).

23 b. The United States and the defendant further agree that the following assets
24 are not subject to forfeiture, either in this criminal proceeding or in a future
25 administrative or civil forfeiture proceeding, because the assets were obtained solely with
26 non-Backpage related funds (and, therefore, cannot lawfully be forfeited under the
27 relevant statutes):

- 28 (1) The real property located at 2531 Tumbleweed Way, Frisco, Texas.

1 (2) The defendant's pre-2004 contributions to Millennium Trust IRA
2 account number x2890.

3 c. The defendant further agrees that, other than paragraph 8(b) above, nothing
4 in this agreement shall be construed to protect him from administrative or civil forfeiture
5 proceedings or to prohibit the United States from proceeding with and/or initiating an
6 action for civil forfeiture (either with respect to the property identified above or with
7 respect to additional property that is not subject to forfeiture under 18 U.S.C. §
8 981(a)(1)(C) but may be subject to forfeiture under other provisions).

9 d. The defendant further agrees to waive all interest in all property subject to
10 forfeiture under this agreement in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding,
11 whether criminal or civil, state or federal. The defendant agrees to consent to the entry of
12 orders of forfeiture for such property and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of
13 Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging
14 instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the
15 forfeiture in the judgment. The defendant further understands and agrees that forfeiture
16 of the property is appropriate and in accordance with the applicable forfeiture statutes,
17 which may include Title 8 U.S.C. § 1324(b), Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(d), 981, 982 and
18 2253, Title 21 U.S.C. §§ 853 and 881, and Title 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

19 e. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3613, all monetary penalties, including restitution
20 imposed by the Court, shall be due immediately upon judgment, shall be subject to
21 immediate enforcement by the United States, and shall be submitted to the Treasury
22 Offset Program so that any federal payment or transfer of returned property the defendant
23 receives may be offset and applied to federal debts (which offset will not affect the
24 periodic payment schedule). If the Court imposes a schedule of payments, the schedule
25 of payments shall be merely a schedule of minimum payments and shall not be a
26 limitation on the methods available to the United States to enforce the judgment.

27 f. Forfeiture of the defendant's assets shall not be treated as satisfaction of
28 any fine, restitution, cost of imprisonment, or any other penalty this court may impose

1 upon the defendant in addition to forfeiture. This agreement does not preclude the United
2 States from instituting any civil or administrative forfeiture proceedings as may be
3 appropriate now or in the future.

4 g. The defendant agrees to waive all constitutional and statutory challenges in
5 any manner (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, double jeopardy or any other means)
6 to any forfeiture imposed as a result of this guilty plea or any pending or completed
7 administrative or civil forfeiture actions, including that the forfeiture constitutes an
8 excessive fine or punishment. The defendant agrees to take all steps as requested by the
9 United States to pass clear title to forfeitable assets to the United States, and to testify
10 truthfully in any judicial forfeiture proceeding (including any proceeding to adjudicate
11 the claim of any third party to the forfeited assets). The defendant acknowledges that all
12 property covered by this agreement is subject to forfeiture and that no other person or
13 entity has a legitimate claim to these items listed, other than any community property
14 interest that his wife may have in the forfeited assets under state law.

15 h. The defendant agrees not to file a claim to any of the listed property subject
16 to forfeiture under paragraph 8(a) of this agreement in any civil proceeding,
17 administrative or judicial, which may be initiated. The defendant further agrees that
18 he/she will not contest civil, administrative, or judicial forfeiture of that property. The
19 defendant agrees to waive his/her right to notice of any forfeiture proceeding involving
20 this property, and agrees not to file a claim or assist others in filing a claim in that
21 forfeiture proceeding.

22 i. The government reserves its right to proceed against any remaining assets
23 not identified either in this agreement, other than the assets identified in paragraph 8(b)
24 above, or in any civil actions which are being resolved along with this plea of guilty,
25 including any property in which the defendant has any interest or control, if said assets,
26 real or personal, tangible or intangible were involved in the offense(s).

27 j. The defendant hereby waives, and agrees to hold the government and its
28 agents and employees harmless from any and all claims whatsoever in connection with

1 the seizure, forfeiture, and disposal of the property described above. Without limitation,
2 the defendant understands and agrees that by virtue of this plea of guilty, the defendant
3 will waive any rights or cause of action that the defendant might otherwise have had to
4 claim that he/she is a “substantially prevailing party” for the purpose of recovery of
5 attorney fees and other litigation costs in any related civil forfeiture proceeding pursuant
6 to 28 U.S.C. § 2465(b)(1).

7 **9. ELEMENTS**

8 **Conspiracy**

9 Beginning no later than 2004, and continuing through in or around March 2018, in
10 the District of Arizona and elsewhere:

11 1. There was an agreement between two or more persons to commit one or
12 more of the crimes of Travel Act—Facilitate Prostitution (18 U.S.C. §
13 1952(a)(3)(A)), Concealment Money Laundering (18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)),
14 International Promotional Money Laundering (18 U.S.C.
15 § 1956(a)(2)(A)), Transactional Money Laundering (18 U.S.C. § 1957(a)), and
16 International Concealment Money Laundering (18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(2)(B)(i)).

17 2. The defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of at least one
18 of its objects and intending to help accomplish it; and

19 3. One of the members of the conspiracy performed at least one overt act for
20 the purpose of carrying out the conspiracy.

21 **10. FACTUAL BASIS**

22 a. The defendant admits that the following facts are true and that if this matter
23 were to proceed to trial the United States could prove the following facts beyond a
24 reasonable doubt:

25
26 In 2004, I co-founded the website www.Backpage.com (“Backpage”), along with
27 M.L. and J.L. Backpage eventually became the second-largest classified
28 advertising website in the world and, during its 14 years of existence, has derived

1 the great majority of its revenue from fees charged in return for publishing
2 advertisements for “adult” and “escort” services.

3
4 I have long been aware that the great majority of these advertisements are, in fact,
5 advertisements for prostitution services (which are not protected by the First
6 Amendment and which are illegal in 49 states and in much of Nevada). Acting
7 with this knowledge, I conspired with other Backpage principals (including but not
8 limited to M.L, J.L, S.S., D.H., A.P, and J.V.) to find ways to knowingly facilitate
9 the state-law prostitution crimes being committed by Backpage’s customers. For
10 example, I worked with my co-conspirators to create “moderation” processes
11 through which Backpage would remove terms and pictures that were particularly
12 indicative of prostitution and then publish a revised version of the ad. Such
13 editing did not, of course, change the essential nature of the illegal service being
14 offered in the ad—it was merely intended to create a veneer of deniability for
15 Backpage. These editing practices were only one component of an overall,
16 company-wide culture and policy of concealing and refusing to officially
17 acknowledge the true nature of the services being offered in Backpage’s “escort”
18 and “adult” ads.

19
20 In addition to conspiring to knowingly facilitate the state-law prostitution offenses
21 being committed by Backpage’s customers, I also conspired with other Backpage
22 principals (including but not limited to M.L, J.L, S.S., J.B., and D.H.) to engage in
23 various money laundering offenses. Since 2004, Backpage has earned hundreds of
24 millions of dollars in revenue from publishing “escort” and “adult” ads. Over
25 time, many banks, credit card companies, and other financial institutions refused
26 to do business with Backpage due to the illegal nature of its business. In response,
27 I worked with my co-conspirators to find ways to fool credit card companies into
28 believing that Backpage-associated charges were being incurred on different

1 websites, to route Backpage-related payments and proceeds through bank accounts
2 held in the name of seemingly unconnected entities (including but not limited to
3 Posting Solutions, Website Technologies, and Cereus Properties), and to use
4 cryptocurrency-processing companies (including but not limited to Coinbase,
5 GoCoin, Paxful, Kraken, and Crypto Capital) for similar purposes.
6

7 b. The defendant shall swear under oath to the accuracy of this statement and,
8 if the defendant should be called upon to testify about this matter in the future, any
9 intentional material inconsistencies in the defendant's testimony may subject the
10 defendant to additional penalties for perjury or false swearing, which may be enforced by
11 the United States under this agreement.

12 **APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DEFENDANT**

13 I have read the entire plea agreement with the assistance of my attorney. I
14 understand each of its provisions and I voluntarily agree to it.

15 I have discussed the case and my constitutional and other rights with my attorney.
16 I understand that by entering my plea of guilty I shall waive my rights to plead not guilty,
17 to trial by jury, to confront, cross-examine, and compel the attendance of witnesses, to
18 present evidence in my defense, to remain silent and refuse to be a witness against myself
19 by asserting my privilege against self-incrimination, all with the assistance of counsel,
20 and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

21 I agree to enter my guilty plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions set
22 forth in this agreement.

23 I have been advised by my attorney of the nature of the charges to which I am
24 entering my guilty plea. I have further been advised by my attorney of the nature and
25 range of the possible sentence and that my ultimate sentence shall be determined by the
26 Court after consideration of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines.
27
28

1 My guilty plea is not the result of force, threats, assurances, or promises, other
2 than the promises contained in this agreement. I voluntarily agree to the provisions of
3 this agreement and I agree to be bound according to its provisions.

4 I understand that if I am granted probation or placed on supervised release by the
5 Court, the terms and conditions of such probation/supervised release are subject to
6 modification at any time. I further understand that if I violate any of the conditions of my
7 probation/supervised release, my probation/supervised release may be revoked and upon
8 such revocation, notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, I may be
9 required to serve a term of imprisonment or my sentence otherwise may be altered.


10 This written plea agreement, and any written addenda filed as attachments to this
11 plea agreement, contain all the terms and conditions of the plea. Any additional
12 agreements, if any such agreements exist, shall be recorded in a separate document and
13 may be filed with the Court under seal; accordingly, additional agreements, if any, may
14 not be in the public record.

15 I further agree that promises, including any predictions as to the Sentencing
16 Guideline range or to any Sentencing Guideline factors that will apply, made by anyone
17 (including my attorney) that are not contained within this written plea agreement, are null
18 and void and have no force and effect.

19 I am satisfied that my defense attorney has represented me in a competent manner.

20 I fully understand the terms and conditions of this plea agreement. I am not now
21 using or under the influence of any drug, medication, liquor, or other intoxicant or
22 depressant that would impair my ability to fully understand the terms and conditions of
23 this plea agreement.

24 4-5-18
25 Date

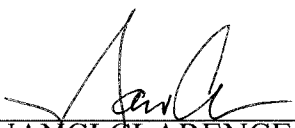

26 _____
27 CARL FERRER
28 Defendant

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APPROVAL OF DEFENSE COUNSEL

I have discussed this case and the plea agreement with my client in detail and have advised the defendant of all matters within the scope of Fed. R. Crim. P. 11, the constitutional and other rights of an accused, the factual basis for and the nature of the offense to which the guilty plea will be entered, possible defenses, and the consequences of the guilty plea including the maximum statutory sentence possible. I have further discussed the concept of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines with the defendant. No assurances, promises, or representations have been given to me or to the defendant by the United States or any of its representatives that are not contained in this written agreement. I concur in the entry of the plea as indicated above and that the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement are in the best interests of my client. I agree to make a bona fide effort to ensure that the guilty plea is entered in accordance with all the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 11.

4-5-18
Date _____



NANCI CLARENCE
JONATHAN BAUM
Attorneys for Defendant

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APPROVAL OF THE UNITED STATES

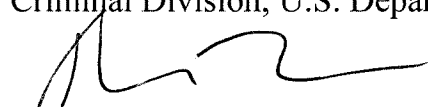
I have reviewed this matter and the plea agreement. I agree on behalf of the United States that the terms and conditions set forth herein are appropriate and are in the best interests of justice.

ELIZABETH A. STRANGE
First Assistant United States Attorney
District of Arizona

JOHN P. CRONAN
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice

4-5-18

Date



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REGINALD JONES
Senior Trial Attorney

ACCEPTANCE BY THE COURT

Date

United States District Judge