

FILED

JUN 08 2012

IN OPEN COURT
JAMES W. McCORMACK, CLERK

BY: _____
DEPUTY CLERK

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
v.) No. 4:11CR00209-21 JMM
)
LESTER MARTIN, aka VALE)

PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Christopher R. Thyer, by and through Julie E. Peters and Benecia B. Moore, Assistant United States Attorneys, and LESTER MARTIN, aka VALE, defendant, represented by the undersigned counsel, hereby agree to the following terms and conditions in connection with the above referenced proceedings.

1. **GUILTY PLEA:** The defendant will enter a plea of guilty to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute a controlled substance, a violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, as set forth in Count One of the Indictment. The United States agrees to move for dismissal of the remaining counts against the defendant in this matter (Counts Fifty-Seven and Fifty-Eight) upon acceptance of the guilty plea. This is a Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(A) plea agreement.

2. **ELEMENTS OF THE CRIME:** The parties agree the elements of the offense to which the defendant will plead guilty are:

A. *One*, two or more persons reached an agreement or came to an understanding to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute a controlled substance;

B. *Two*, the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined the agreement or understanding, either at the time it was first reached or at some later time while it was still in effect; and,

C. *Three*, at the time the defendant joined in the agreement or understanding, he knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding.

The defendant agrees that he is guilty of the offense charged and each of these elements is true.

3. **PENALTIES:**

A. **STATUTORY PENALTIES:** Based on the drug quantity stipulated in Paragraph 5 of this Agreement, the maximum penalty for the charge set forth in Count One is not less than five years imprisonment and not more than forty years imprisonment, not less than four years and up to life supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

B. **SUPERVISED RELEASE:** Supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, the defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.

4. **WAIVERS:** The defendant acknowledges that he has been advised of and fully understands the nature of the charges to which the plea is offered, the mandatory minimum penalty provided by law, if any, and the maximum possible penalty provided by law. The defendant further understands that by entering into this Agreement and Addendum, he is waiving certain constitutional rights, including, without limitation, the following:

A. The right to plead not guilty or to persist in that plea if it has already been made, and the right to a speedy and public trial before a jury;

- B. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the United States to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt;
- C. The right to confront and cross examine witnesses;
- D. The right to testify in his own behalf if the defendant so chooses, or, the right to remain silent and not be compelled to testify, and to have that choice not used against the defendant;
- E. The right to call witnesses and to require those witnesses to appear by issuing subpoenas.

5. **STIPULATIONS:** The United States and the defendant stipulate to the following:

- A. The parties agree that the base offense level is 26 pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(c)(7), because the quantity of cocaine base, more commonly known as crack cocaine, attributable to the defendant is at least 28 grams but less than 112 grams.
- B. The parties agree that the base offense level is increased by two levels pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(b)(1) because a dangerous weapon was possessed.
- C. The defendant is eligible for a 2 point reduction for acceptance of responsibility unless the defendant takes any action between the entry of the guilty plea and imposition of the sentence that is inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility. If the offense level is 16 or greater, the determination of whether the defendant is eligible for a third point reduction for acceptance of responsibility will be made by the United States at the time of sentencing.
- D. The parties stipulate that no other enhancements or reductions under Section 2D1.1 or Chapter 3 of the Guidelines apply.

E. The defendant agrees that the following facts are true: Beginning no later than January 2010, and continuing through no later than October 2011, in Helena-West Helena, Arkansas, defendant LESTER MARTIN purchased crack cocaine for resale from Sedrick Trice and Leon Edwards, totaling no less than 28 grams. For example, on several occasions including March 17, 2011, Call 4953 (FBI TP2); April 1, 2011, Call 13206 (FBI TP2); and April 4, 2011, Call 14912 (FBI TP2); defendant, using 662-313-5488, contacted Leon Edwards at 870-995-9661 and asked to purchase half-ounces of crack cocaine. On other occasions, defendant asked to purchase 3.5 gram quantities of crack cocaine. Defendant frequented AC Customs, where Trice and Edwards conducted their drug trafficking activities, and was aware that Trice carried a firearm and maintained firearms at AC Customs and elsewhere.

The parties understand that the Court is not bound by these stipulations. The defendant further understands that if the Court does not accept the stipulations, the defendant is not entitled to withdraw the guilty plea or otherwise be released from defendant's obligations under this Agreement and Addendum.

6. **SENTENCING GUIDELINES:** It is specifically understood by the defendant that the Sentencing Guidelines are not mandatory but are advisory, and that the Court is to consult them in determining the appropriate sentence. The defendant understands that the determination of the applicability of the Guidelines and of the appropriate sentence will be made by the Court. The defendant is aware that any estimate of the probable sentencing range under the Sentencing Guidelines that the defendant may have received from the defendant's counsel, the United States, or the Probation Office, is merely a prediction, not a promise, and is not binding on the United States, the Probation Office, or the Court. The United States makes no promise or representation concerning what sentence the defendant will receive and the defendant cannot

withdraw a guilty plea, or otherwise avoid the defendant's obligations under this Agreement and Addendum, based upon the actual sentence imposed by the Court. The parties understand and agree that if the guideline range is greater or less than the defendant or the United States expected it to be, and/or the sentence imposed by the Court is greater or lesser than anticipated, neither the defendant nor the United States will be allowed to withdraw, nor request withdrawal of, the guilty plea, nor be excused from any obligation under this Agreement and Addendum.

7. **ALLOCUTION:** The United States reserves the right to bring any and all facts which it believes are appropriate to the attention of the Court.

8. **COOPERATION IN THE SENTENCING PROCESS:**

A. The defendant agrees to truthfully provide all information to the Probation Office as is needed for preparation of the pre-sentence report, including, but not limited to, criminal history information. The defendant shall voluntarily provide a complete and truthful written accounting of the defendant's criminal history to the Probation Office.

B. The defendant agrees to execute all waivers necessary for the preparation of the pre-sentence report.

C. The defendant understands and acknowledges that the defendant's obligation of disclosure regarding criminal history is not limited to arrests and convictions reported in computer databases, but requires the defendant to disclose all arrests and/or convictions, including any juvenile matters, regardless of whether the defendant believes the arrest/conviction counts under the Sentencing Guidelines.

D. The defendant is required to comply with these obligations no later than the expiration of the date on which objections to the pre-sentence report are due.

9. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

A. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The defendant agrees to fully and truthfully complete a Financial Statement provided by the United States Probation Office.

B. FINES: The defendant understands that unless the Court determines that the defendant is financially unable to pay a fine, the Court must impose a fine pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

C. SPECIAL PENALTY ASSESSMENT: The defendant agrees to pay to the United States a special assessment of \$100.00 per count, as required by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013. This special assessment is to be paid by bank cashier's check or money order as directed by the Court. Cashier's checks or money orders should be made payable to "Clerk, United States District Court."

D. RESTITUTION: The parties also state that restitution is not applicable, and that there are not victims who are due restitution from the defendant.

10. DOUBLE JEOPARDY AND SUCCESSIVE PROSECUTION: The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas will bring no further charges against the defendant for any acts or conduct arising out of the events described in the Indictment, which is the subject of this action, unless the defendant breaches this Agreement and Addendum.

11. RECORDS: The defendant hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 552a.

12. CIVIL CLAIMS BY THE GOVERNMENT: Except to the extent otherwise expressly specified herein, this Agreement and Addendum does not bar or compromise any civil

or administrative claim pending or that may be made against the defendant, including but not limited to tax matters.

13. **EFFECT OF DEFENDANT'S BREACH OF PLEA AGREEMENT AND ADDENDUM:**

A. Defendant acknowledges and understands that if the defendant violates any term of this Agreement and Addendum, engages in any further criminal activity prior to sentencing, or fails to appear for any subsequent proceeding including sentencing, the United States shall have, in addition to all other rights and remedies otherwise available, the right to:

- (1) terminate this Agreement and Addendum; or
- (2) proceed with this Agreement and Addendum and
 - (a) deny any and all benefits to which the defendant would otherwise be entitled under the terms of this Agreement and Addendum; and/or
 - (b) advocate for any sentencing enhancement that may be appropriate.

B. In the event the United States elects to terminate this Agreement and Addendum, the United States shall be released from any and all obligations hereunder. The defendant acknowledges and understands that the agreement of the United States to dismiss any charge is conditioned upon final resolution of this matter. If this Agreement and Addendum is terminated or if the defendant's conviction ultimately is overturned, then the United States retains the right to reinstate any and all dismissed charges and to file any and all charges which were not filed because of this Agreement and Addendum.

C. The defendant hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any defense based upon the applicable statute of limitations and/or the Speedy Trial Act, for any charges reinstated or otherwise filed against the defendant as a result of defendant's breach of this Agreement and Addendum, so long as the United States initiates any otherwise time barred action within one year of termination or revocation of this Agreement and Addendum.

D. In the event that the Agreement and Addendum is terminated or if the defendant successfully moves to withdraw their plea, any statement made by the defendant in negotiation of, or in reliance on this Agreement and Addendum:

(1) may be used to cross examine the defendant should he testify in any subsequent proceeding; and/or

(2) any leads derived therefrom may be used by the United States.

The defendant waives any and all rights to the contrary and shall assert no claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, or any rule of procedure or evidence to the contrary.

14. **PARTIES:** This Agreement and Addendum is binding only upon the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Arkansas and the defendant. It does not bind any United States Attorney outside the Eastern District of Arkansas, nor does it bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authority.

15. **MISCELLANEOUS:**

A. **MODIFICATION:** No term or provision contained herein may be modified, amended or waived except by express written agreement signed by the party to be bound thereby.

B. HEADINGS AND CAPTIONS: Subject headings and captions are included herein for convenience purposes only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement and Addendum.

C. WAIVER: No waiver of a breach of any term or provision of this Agreement and Addendum shall operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach or limit or restrict any other right or remedy otherwise available. Any waiver must be expressly stated in writing signed by the party to be bound thereby.

D. RIGHTS AND REMEDIES CUMULATIVE: The rights and remedies of the United States expressed herein upon any breach hereunder by the defendant are cumulative and not exclusive of any rights and remedies otherwise available to the United States in the event of any breach of this Agreement and Addendum by defendant.

E. JOINT NEGOTIATION: This Agreement and Addendum has been mutually negotiated by the parties hereto, and any uncertainty or ambiguity existing herein shall not be interpreted against any party by reason of its drafting of this Agreement and Addendum, but instead shall be interpreted according to the application of the general rules of interpretation for arms length agreements.

16. NO OTHER TERMS: This document and the Addendum completely reflect all promises, agreements and conditions made between the parties, constitute the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes any and all prior agreements or understandings between the parties, oral or written, with respect to the subject matter hereof.

17. APPROVALS AND SIGNATURES:

A. DEFENDANT: The defendant has read this Agreement and Addendum and carefully reviewed every part of it with his attorney. The defendant understands and voluntarily

agrees to the terms and condition of this Agreement and Addendum. Further, the defendant has consulted with his attorney and fully understands his rights with respect to the provisions of the United States Sentencing Guidelines which may apply to this case. No other promises or inducements have been made to the defendant, other than those expressly contained in this Agreement and Addendum. In addition, no one has threatened or forced the defendant in any way to enter into this Agreement and Addendum. Defendant further acknowledges that defendant has entered into this Agreement and Addendum, consciously and deliberately, by defendant's free choice, and without duress, undue influence or otherwise being forced or compelled to do so, and this Agreement and Addendum constitutes the legal, valid and binding obligation of the defendant, fully enforceable against defendant in accordance with its terms. Finally, the defendant is satisfied with the representation of his attorney in this case.

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B. DEFENSE COUNSEL: Defense counsel acknowledges that he is the attorney for the defendant, and that he has fully and carefully discussed every part of this Agreement and Addendum with the defendant. Further, defense counsel has fully and carefully advised the defendant of the defendant's rights, of possible defenses, and of the consequences of entering into this Agreement and Addendum, including the possible consequences of not complying with this Agreement and Addendum. To counsel's knowledge, the defendant's decision to enter into this Agreement and Addendum is an informed and voluntary decision.

DATED this 8 day of June, 2012.

CHRISTOPHER R. THYER
United States Attorney

By: Julie Peters
JULIE E. PETERS
AR Bar No. 2000109
BENECIA B. MOORE
AR Bar No. 2006050
Assistant United States Attorneys
Post Office Box 1229
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
(501) 340-2600
julie.peters@usdoj.gov
benecia.moore@usdoj.gov

Lester Martin
LESTER MARTIN
Defendant

David R. Cannon
DAVID R. CANNON
Attorney for Defendant