

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

CASE NO. 18-20025-CR-SCOLA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MATTHEW BLOCK,

Defendant.

FACTUAL PROFFER

Had the United States proceeded to trial, the government would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about March 21, 2014, in Miami-Dade County, in the Southern District of Florida, the defendant, MATTHEW BLOCK, did intentionally convey false and misleading information, that is, the mailing of a threatening letter addressed to an individual bearing the initials "G.B.," containing a white powder substance implied to be a lethal biological toxin, under circumstances where such information may reasonably be believed and where such information indicated that an activity is taking place that would constitute a violation of Chapter 113B, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1038(a)(1).

Specifically, on March 21, 2014, Special Agent Stephanie Viegas, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator for the FBI Miami Division, along with the Miami Beach Fire Department (MBFD), the Miami Fire Department (MFD), the Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD), and the United States Postal Service (USPS), all responded to 4411 N. Michigan Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida 33140, regarding a threatening letter containing an unknown white powder substance. The

letter was addressed to "G.B.," the deceased mother of MATTHEW BLOCK, a founder of a company that supplies animals to scientists and medical researchers. The letter stated the following:

STOP THE KILLING!!!!
WE'LL BE BACK AND YOU WON'T KNOW WHEN
YOU ARE THE LOWEST PIECE OF CRAP WALKING THE EARTH AND YOU
DESERVE WHAT YOU DO TO HELPESS MONKEYS EVERY DAY!
INHALE AND GO VIVISECT IN HELL
GREETINGS FROM
FLORIDA ANIMAL LIBERATON BRIGADE

When SA Viegas and the first responders arrived, MATTHEW BLOCK was found to be at the scene and claimed that he had been at his deceased mother's residence collecting the U.S. Mail and checking the security system at the house. Upon looking through the mail, BLOCK said that he noticed a bulky substance in an envelope. BLOCK added that he did not open the enclosed letter as it appeared to be leaking an unknown white powdery substance, but that he was able to see a portion of a letter. BLOCK claimed that he immediately contacted 9-1-1 upon this discovery.

Law enforcement then conducted an investigation, and on March 21, 2014, MFD and MDFD HAZMAT conducted field screenings on the recovered envelopes to determine the nature of the white powder and whether it was hazardous, and ultimately lab tests confirmed that the powder was negative for any biological toxins. As a part of the FBI's ongoing investigation, MATTHEW BLOCK provided DNA samples to law enforcement, which were thereafter sent to the lab for comparison to the seized threatening letters. Ultimately, the DNA lab concluded that the male DNA profile obtained from the seal area of the letter sent to "G.B." matched the DNA profile of MATTHEW BLOCK with a frequency of 1 in 813,700,000,000. Law enforcement also later learned that MATTHEW BLOCK had utilized the fact that he had received this threatening letter in support of a petition for injunctive relief in an unrelated civil lawsuit involving animal rights activists.

In total, investigative and response costs totaled \$14,872.26. Moreover, BLOCK is responsible for mailing an additional threatening letter addressed to an individual bearing the initials "J.R.," containing a white powder substance implied to be a lethal biological toxin, on or about March 21, 2014.

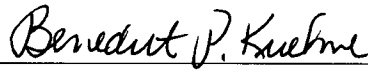
RANDY HUMMEL
Attorney for the United States,
Acting Under Authority Conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 515

Date: 1/24/18

By: 

MARC S. ANTON
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Date: 1/24/2018



BENEDICT P. KUEHNE
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

Date: 1/24/2018



MATTHEW BLOCK
DEFENDANT