

FILED

AUG 19 2021

**Clerk, U.S. District and
Bankruptcy Courts**

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Case No: 21-cr-00204
	:	
	:	
	:	40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G)
	:	(Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in a Capitol
v.	:	Building)
	:	
D-2 ERIC CHASE TORRENS	:	
	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

STATEMENT OF OFFENSE

1. The Government respectfully submits the following Statement of Offense in support of a plea of guilty by defendant Eric Chase Torrens to Count 5 of the Information in the above-captioned matter.

2. If this case were to go to trial, the government would prove the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

3. The U.S. Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C., is secured 24 hours a day by U.S. Capitol Police. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by U.S. Capitol Police. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol.

4. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the U.S. Capitol was closed to members of the public.

5. On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the United States Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint

session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the United States Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on November 3, 2020. The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m., the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

6. As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and U.S. Capitol Police were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

7. At approximately 2:00 p.m., certain individuals in the crowd forced their way through, up, and over the barricades, and officers of the U.S. Capitol Police, and the crowd advanced to the exterior façade of the building. The crowd was not lawfully authorized to enter or remain in the building and, prior to entering the building, no members of the crowd submitted to security screenings or weapons checks by U.S. Capitol Police Officers or other authorized security officials.

8. At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the U.S. Capitol Police attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol; however, shortly after 2:00 p.m., individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of law enforcement, as others in the

crowd encouraged and assisted those acts. The riot resulted in substantial damage to the U.S. Capitol, requiring the expenditure of more than \$1.4 million dollars for repairs.

9. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m., members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, all proceedings of the United States Congress, including the joint session, were effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. the same day. In light of the dangerous circumstances caused by the unlawful entry to the U.S. Capitol, including the danger posed by individuals who had entered the U.S. Capitol without any security screening or weapons check, Congressional proceedings could not resume until after every unauthorized occupant had left the U.S. Capitol, and the building had been confirmed secured. The proceedings resumed at approximately 8:00 p.m. after the building had been secured. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the session resumed.

10. Defendant Torrens drove from Tennessee to Washington D.C. to attend a rally protesting the election results on January 6, 2021 with Co-Defendant Jack Jesse Griffith as a passenger. Torrens walked to the U.S. Capitol and unlawfully entered the restricted Capitol grounds, arriving near the North West Scaffolding and Stairs at approximately 2:14 to 2:16 p.m. on January 6, 2021. Torrens spent time in the crowd by the inauguration stage on the west side of the U.S. Capitol building observing members of the crowd throwing items at law enforcement. Torrens then went up the northern set of stairs underneath the scaffolding to the north west terrace near the Senate wing of the building.

11. Torrens entered a door to the Capitol which had been broken open. Torrens entered the Capitol with his Co-Defendants Jack Jesse Griffith and Matthew Bledsoe at

approximately 2:18 p.m. The fourth Co-Defendant Blake Reed entered shortly behind Griffith, Torrens and Bledsoe. Torrens' entry appears on surveillance footage and a selfie-style video that his Co-Defendant Matthew Bledsoe shared on social media. The video shows them immediately outside of an exterior door of the Capitol. An alarm can be heard blaring in the background. Torrens said "We're going in!" The camera then panned to Griffith who screamed in excitement.

12. After entering, Torrens and his Co-Defendants went into the Crypt, which is captured on surveillance footage. After some time, he eventually moved toward the same door he entered, and ultimately exited the building.

13. On February 1, 2021, Torrens voluntarily spoke to FBI agents and admitted entering the Capitol building on January 6.

14. Torrens knew at the time he entered the U.S. Capitol Building that that he did not have permission to enter the building and the defendant paraded, demonstrated, or picketed.

Respectfully submitted,

CHANNING D. PHILLIPS
Acting United States Attorney
D.C. Bar No. 415793

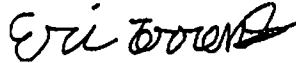
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DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, Eric Chase Torrens, have read this Statement of the Offense and have discussed it with my attorney. I fully understand this Statement of the Offense. I agree and acknowledge by my signature that this Statement of the Offense is true and accurate. I do this voluntarily and of my own free will. No threats have been made to me nor am I under the influence of anything that could impede my ability to understand this Statement of the Offense fully.

Date: 7/28/2021

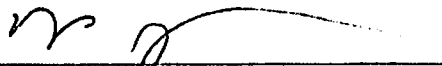


Eric Chase Torrens
Defendant

ATTORNEY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read this Statement of the Offense and have reviewed it with my client fully. I concur in my client's desire to adopt this Statement of the Offense as true and accurate.

Date: 7/28/2021



Edward John Ungvarsky
Attorney for Defendant