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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2024 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY,
aka "Craney,"

Defendant.

CR No. 2:24-CR-00553-MWF

I N D I C T M E N T

[21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1),
(b)(1)(C): Distribution of
Fentanyl Resulting in Death and
Serious Bodily Injury; 49 U.S.C.
§§ 46306(b)(6)(A), (c)(2)(A):
Knowingly Operating an
Unregistered Aircraft in
Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking
Crime; 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1),
(b)(1)(B)(viii): Possession with
Intent to Distribute
Methamphetamine; 21 U.S.C.
§§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C):
Possession with Intent to
Distribute Fentanyl; 18 U.S.C.
§ 924(c)(1)(A)(i): Possession of
Firearms in Furtherance of a Drug
Trafficking Crime; 21 U.S.C.
§ 853, 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1),
28 U.S.C. § 2461(c): Criminal
Forfeiture]

The Grand Jury charges:

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COUNT ONE

[21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C)]

On or about January 17, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," knowingly and intentionally distributed fentanyl, a Schedule II narcotic drug controlled substance, the use of which resulted in the death and serious bodily injury of J.K.

COUNT TWO

[49 U.S.C. §§ 46306(b)(6)(A), (c)(2)(A)]

On or about January 17, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," while transporting a controlled substance by aircraft, and aiding and facilitating a controlled substance violation, each an offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than one year, namely, distribution of fentanyl, a Schedule II narcotic controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), knowingly and willfully operated an aircraft eligible for registration with the Federal Aviation Administration under Title 49, United States Code, Section 44102, namely, a DJI FPV unmanned aerial vehicle with serial number 37QBJ5FBD10232, knowing that the aircraft was not registered under Title 49, United States Code, Section 44103.

COUNT THREE

[49 U.S.C. §§ 46306(b)(6)(A), (c)(2)(A)]

On or about December 31, 2022, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," while transporting a controlled substance by aircraft, and aiding and facilitating a controlled substance violation, each an offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than one year, namely, distribution of a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), knowingly and willfully operated an aircraft eligible for registration with the Federal Aviation Administration under Title 49, United States Code, Section 44102, namely, a DJI FPV unmanned aerial vehicle with serial number 37QBJ5FBD10232, knowing that the aircraft was not registered under Title 49, United States Code, Section 44103.

COUNT FOUR

[49 U.S.C. §§ 46306(b)(6)(A), (c)(2)(A)]

On or about January 3, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," while transporting a controlled substance by aircraft, and aiding and facilitating a controlled substance violation, each an offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than one year, namely, distribution of a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), knowingly and willfully operated an aircraft eligible for registration with the Federal Aviation Administration under Title 49, United States Code, Section 44102, namely, a DJI FPV unmanned aerial vehicle with serial number 37QBJ5FBD10232, knowing that the aircraft was not registered under Title 49, United States Code, Section 44103.

COUNT FIVE

[49 U.S.C. §§ 46306(b)(6)(A), (c)(2)(A)]

On or about January 6, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," while transporting a controlled substance by aircraft, and aiding and facilitating a controlled substance violation, each an offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than one year, namely, distribution of a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), knowingly and willfully operated an aircraft eligible for registration with the Federal Aviation Administration under Title 49, United States Code, Section 44102, namely, a DJI FPV unmanned aerial vehicle with serial number 37QBJ5FBD10232, knowing that the aircraft was not registered under Title 49, United States Code, Section 44103.

COUNT SIX

[21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(B)(viii)]

On or about February 7, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute at least five grams, that is, approximately 6.61 grams, of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance.

COUNT SEVEN

[21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C)]

On or about February 7, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute approximately 16.15 grams of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule II narcotic controlled substance.

COUNT EIGHT

[21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C)]

On or about February 7, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute approximately 2.21 grams of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl, a Schedule II narcotic controlled substance, and methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance.

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COUNT NINE

[18 U.S.C. § 924(c) (1) (A) (i)]

On or about February 7, 2023, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant CHRISTOPHER PATRICK LANEY, also known as "Craney," knowingly possessed firearms, namely, a .223 caliber AR-15 style rifle, bearing no serial number, commonly referred to as a ghost gun, a 9mm Polymer 80, model PF940V2, semiautomatic ghost gun pistol, and a 9mm Polymer 80, model PF940C, semiautomatic ghost gun pistol, in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes, namely: (1) possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a) (1), (b) (1) (B) (viii), as charged in Count Six of this Indictment; (2) possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a) (1), (b) (1) (C), as charged in Count Seven of this Indictment; and (3) possession with intent to distribute fentanyl and methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a) (1), (b) (1) (C), as charged in Count Eight of this Indictment.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION ONE

[21 U.S.C. § 853; 18 U.S.C. § 924; 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

1 Pursuant to Rule 32.2(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal
2 Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America
3 will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 21,
4 United States Code, Section 853, Title 18, United States Code,
5 Section 924, and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), in
6 the event of the defendant's conviction of the offenses set forth in
7 any of Counts One, Six, Seven, or Eight of this Indictment.
8

9
10 2. The defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the United
11 States of America the following:

12 (a) All right, title and interest in any and all property,
13 real or personal, constituting or derived from, any proceeds which
14 the defendant obtained, directly or indirectly, from any such
15 offense;

16 (b) All right, title and interest in any and all property,
17 real or personal, used, or intended to be used, in any manner or
18 part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of any such offense;

19 (c) All right, title, and interest in any firearm or
20 ammunition involved in or used in any such offense; and

21 (d) To the extent such property is not available for
22 forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property
23 described in subparagraphs (a), (b), and (c).

24 3. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p),
25 any defendant so convicted, shall forfeit substitute property if, by
26 any act or omission of said defendant, the property described in the
27 preceding paragraph, or any portion thereof: (a) cannot be located
28 upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred, sold

1 to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the
2 jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been substantially diminished in
3 value; or (e) has been commingled with other property that cannot be
4 divided without difficulty.

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FORFEITURE ALLEGATION TWO

[18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

1 Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal
2 Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America
3 will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18,
4 United States Code, Section 924(d)(1), and Title 28, United States
5 Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of the defendant's conviction of
6 the offense set forth in Count Nine of this Indictment.
7

8
9 2. The defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the United
10 States of America the following:

11 (a) All right, title, and interest in any firearm or
12 ammunition involved in or used in such offense; and

13 (b) To the extent such property is not available for
14 forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property
15 described in subparagraph (a).

16 3. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p),
17 as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), the
18 convicted defendant shall forfeit substitute property, up to the
19 value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if, as the
20 result of any act or omission of said defendant, the property
21 described in the preceding paragraph or any portion thereof (a)
22 cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been
23 transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been
24 placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been

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1 substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with
2 other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

3 A TRUE BILL

4
5 /s/
6 _____
Foreperson

7 E. MARTIN ESTRADA
8 United States Attorney

9 

10
11 MACK E. JENKINS
12 Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Criminal Division

13 J. MARK CHILDS
14 Assistant United States Attorney
15 Chief, International Narcotics,
Money Laundering, and
Racketeering Section

16 BRITTNEY M. HARRIS
17 Assistant United States Attorney
18 Deputy Chief, International
Narcotics, Money Laundering, and
Racketeering Section

19 KYLE W. KAHAN
20 Assistant United States Attorney
21 International Narcotics, Money
22 Laundering, and Racketeering
23 Section